

# LIKILENG INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

## Cyberbullying Policy

### Policy statement

Both on school premise and online, Likileng International School is committed to sustaining a conducive and safe environment for students. Cyberbullying will not be tolerated and is completely forbidden. This policy seeks to safeguard students' mental and emotional health, prevent and combat cyberbullying, and offer assistance to those who are impacted. On campus, the policy is enforced through regular orientations and trainings that educate students about the consequences of cyberbullying and how to report incidents. Online, the school monitors digital platforms for inappropriate behavior and provides a secure channel for students to report any instances of cyberbullying confidentially. Additionally, trained teachers are available to offer support and guidance to affected students, ensuring a comprehensive approach to maintaining a respectful community.

### Purpose

The goals of this policy are to:

- ❖ Define cyberbullying and provide examples of prohibited behaviors.
- ❖ Guide students on responsible online conduct.
- ❖ Outline reporting, investigation, and response processes for cyberbullying incidents.

- ❖ Offer support to victims and resources for students, parents, and guardians.

### **Definition of Cyberbullying**

Any online conduct intended to cause harm, intimidation, or harassment to another individual is known as cyberbullying. Victims of cyberbullying often experience emotional distress, including feelings of anxiety, depression, and low self-esteem. This can lead to a decline in academic performance, social withdrawal, and even physical health issues. In severe cases, the relentless nature of cyberbullying can lead individuals to develop suicidal thoughts or engage in self-harm.

This may include:

- ❖ Harassment: Repeatedly sending offensive, threatening, or hurtful messages.
- ❖ Impersonation: Pretending to be someone else to cause harm.
- ❖ Outing: Sharing personal or embarrassing information or images without consent.
- ❖ Exclusion: Intentionally excluding someone from an online group to cause emotional harm.

- ❖ Cyberstalking: Using digital means to continuously harass or intimidate someone.

### **Examples of Prohibited Behaviors**

To help students recognize cyberbullying, the following are examples of behaviors that violate this policy:

- ❖ Posting mean or threatening messages on social media, forums, or group chats.
- ❖ Sharing unflattering or private photos or videos of others without their permission.
- ❖ Spreading rumors or false information to damage someone's reputation.
- ❖ Creating fake profiles to ridicule or bully someone.
- ❖ Sending abusive messages through texts, emails, or other messaging apps.

### **Reporting Procedures**

Reporting suspected cyberbullying is encouraged for all staff, and students. Reports can be submitted anonymously, online, or in person:

- ❖ In-Person Reports: Speak directly to a delegated staff members, deputy principal, or school principal.
- ❖ Anonymous Reporting: Submit an anonymous report via the school's online platform or designated drop-box.
- ❖ Digital Reporting: Use the online reporting form or email provided by the school.

It is important to note that every report will be treated in confidence, respecting the privacy of all parties. Each report will be securely stored and only accessible to authorized personnel. Investigations will be conducted discreetly to ensure that sensitive information is protected. Throughout the process, communication will be maintained with the involved parties to keep them informed of any developments.

### **Investigation and Response**

The school will look into allegations of cyberbullying in a timely and comprehensive manner, including:

- ❖ Gathering information from the victim, perpetrator, and witnesses.
- ❖ Reviewing relevant digital evidence (messages, social media posts, etc.).
- ❖ Ensuring the investigation remains impartial and fair.
- ❖ Parents or guardians of involved students may be informed at the discretion of school administration .

## **Disciplinary Actions**

If cyberbullying is confirmed, the school may impose disciplinary actions, such as:

- ❖ **Warning or Counseling:** For minor incidents or first-time offenses.
- ❖ **Loss of Digital Privileges:** Limiting access to school internet or devices.
- ❖ **Detention or Suspension:** Depending on the severity of the incident.
- ❖ **Expulsion or Legal Action:** In cases of severe or repeated bullying, especially those involving threats or criminal behavior such as LMPS.

**NB:Law enforcement may be contacted if the cyberbullying behavior violates any laws.**

## **Support and Resources for Likileng community.**

The school is committed to supporting students affected by cyberbullying.

### **Support options may include:**

- ❖ **Counseling Services:** Students involved in or affected by cyberbullying can seek help from the school's counseling staff, in our case, delegated members of the staff.

- ❖ Peer Support Groups: Opportunities to share experiences and receive peer support.
- ❖ Educational Resources: Workshops and materials on managing online safety, responding to bullying, and building digital resilience.

### **Guidelines for Parents and Guardians**

In order to stop and deal with cyberbullying, parents are essential.

To assist parents in supporting their children, our responsibility as Likileng International School is to offer the following resources:

- ❖ Educational Workshops: Regular sessions on online safety, digital citizenship, and signs of cyberbullying.
- ❖ Parent Guides: Written materials with tips on fostering healthy online habits.
- ❖ Communication Tools: Information on who to contact at the school if they suspect their child is involved in cyberbullying, either as a victim or perpetrator.

#### **1. Preventative Education**

To reduce cyberbullying incidents, the school will incorporate digital citizenship and online safety education into the curriculum.

This education will:

- ❖ Teach students the importance of respectful online behavior.
- ❖ Inform students about the consequences of cyberbullying.
- ❖ Provide guidance on protecting personal information and staying safe online.

## **Monitoring and Review**

Every year, a deligated team,teachers, and school administration will evaluate the cyberbullying policy. Feedback, technological advancements, and student needs will all be taken into consideration when making adjustments.

## **Conclusion**

Our school is committed to creating a secure online learning environment where each and every student is treated with respect and worth. Together, we can build a welcoming community that actively combats and eliminates cyberbullying. Teachers play a crucial role in preventing cyberbullying by monitoring online interactions and fostering open communication with students. They can educate students about responsible internet use and the importance of empathy and respect in digital spaces. Additionally, teachers should promptly address any

incidents of cyberbullying and collaborate with parents and administrators to ensure a supportive and safe learning environment.