

# Cyber-bullying Policy

## Al Makassed Omar Bin Al Khattab College

Technology is essential for the future and plays a positive role in everyone's life, academically and socially. OBK integrates the use of technology in teaching and learning across subjects.

All members of the school community must understand both the benefits and the risks of using technology, and equip children with the knowledge and skills they need to use technology safely and responsibly. Cyber bullying, like all other forms of bullying, should be taken very seriously. It is our responsibility to safeguard students in the real and virtual world especially during pandemics, where students use online sessions via several platforms.

Cyberbullying involves the use of information and communication technologies to support deliberate, repeated, and aggressive behavior by an individual or group of individuals intending to harm others.

Cyberbullying can involve social networking sites, emails, phone calls, SMS messages, and cameras. Different forms of bullying can take place such as threats, cyber talking, peer rejection, and even circulation of private information or images. Moreover, cyberbullying can take place across all age groups, where students, school staff and other adults can be targeted as well.

### Policy Procedure

School staff has the responsibility to:

- prevent the misuse of equipment devices related to cyberbullying
- report any case or suspect to the child protection committee
- refer to procedures and actions taken under the guidelines of child protection policy in case of cyber-bullying
- raise students' awareness and encourage them to report any suspicions about cyberbullying
- offer social emotional support for victims of cyberbullying

Students' roles and responsibilities for using internet safely:

Students of all grade levels at OBK should:

- follow the school's code of conduct / behavior policy, even if they are studying online
- be tolerant and accept others' opinions respectfully
- consider what is inappropriate in the classroom as inappropriate online
- speak to an adult/advocate as soon as possible if they believe someone is a victim of cyberbullying
- cease answering abusive messages
- share abusive messages and report them to the counselor or any member of the child protection committee
- consider any material, no matter how upsetting, as important evidence to prove cyberbullying
- refuse to share personal IT details
- avoid replying to strangers