

# Cyber-Bullying Policy 2025-26

Date: September 2025

Review Date: **September 2026**

Policy Contact: William Yates, Deputy Head

## Cyber-Bullying Policy

### Introduction

1. Seaford College is committed to providing a caring, friendly and safe environment for all pupils so that they can learn in a relaxed and secure atmosphere, without feeling in any way intimidated by the behaviour of others. Bullying of any kind is unacceptable and all staff should seek at all times to confront bullying behaviour. Bullying of any kind is unacceptable at our school. If bullying does occur, all pupils should be able to tell and know that incidents will be dealt with promptly and effectively. We are a telling school. This means that anyone who knows that bullying is happening is expected to tell staff.

2. All staff (September 2025) have been issued with a copy of the DfE booklet *Preventing and Tackling Bullying (July 2017)*. Seaford College complies with the Equality Duty, part of the Equalities Act (2010).

### What is Cyber-Bullying?

3. Cyber-bullying is defined as the use of information and communications technology (ICT), particularly email, mobile phones and the internet, to deliberately upset someone else. It can take many forms, including threats, intimidation, harassment or cyber-stalking by, for example, repeatedly sending unwanted messages or texts.

It differs from other forms of bullying as it may take place at any time of day, the potential audience is huge and the bullying can take place at home and away from College. This policy should be read in conjunction with other College policies:

- Anti-Bullying Policy
- Internet Access Acceptable Use Policy
- Acceptable Use Policy for Mobile Devices
- Safeguarding Policy

4. In cases of cyber-bullying bystanders, or 'accessories' to the bullying, often have a more active role, e.g. forwarding messages or contributing to chat room discussions. Therefore, although they may not have started the bullying they are active participants and often make the matter worse.

The College makes it clear to all pupils that bystanders have a key responsibility to the College community and to anyone they see being bullied or victimised. They are encouraged not to tolerate such behaviour and to stand up for what they know to be right, for example by telling a member of staff what they have seen or heard.

Access to the College's ICT resources is a privilege and continuance of this facility requires pupils to behave appropriately and to display a responsible attitude at all times, both within and outside the College.

5. Cyber-bullying may consist of threats, harassment, embarrassment, humiliation, defamation or impersonation. It may take the form of general insults, or prejudice-based bullying, for example homophobic, sexist, racist or other forms of discrimination via the misuse of:

- Virtual Learning Environments

- Chat rooms
- Websites
- Social networking sites, e.g. Facebook, Twitter etc
- Mobile and fixed-point phones
- Digital cameras and video conference calls (including Zoom and Teams)
- Games and virtual world sites

6. What should a pupil do if they are being cyber-bullied?

Where appropriate, students should keep any potential evidence, for example: emails, photographs, text messages and screen captures. They should inform a member of staff, or another trusted adult. Any cyber-bullying will be dealt with in the same way as other bullying concerns, as detailed in the College's Anti-Bullying Policy.

7. Perpetrators risk immediate exclusion, either fixed term or permanent.

8. Pupils are frequently reminded via PSHE, assemblies and Internet Awareness days on how to use the internet in a positive way. The College also has a comprehensive Internet Access Acceptable Use Policy (AUP), which is frequently reviewed, and also refers specifically to online learning.