

# FRANKSTON SPECIAL DEVELOPMENTAL SCHOOL CYBER-BULLYING POLICY

## **Rationale:**

Frankston SDS values a caring, respectful environment where students are challenged to be the best they can be. A safe environment in school is necessary for students to learn and achieve to their best ability. Cyber-bullying by a student/staff member in the school directed toward another school student or staff member is conduct that disrupts both a student's ability to learn and a school's ability to educate its students in a safe environment.

## **Aim:**

Frankston SDS aims to provide a safe, healthy environment to ensure the educational, social and emotional well-being of staff and students.

## **Definitions:**

Cyber bullying is direct verbal or indirect bullying behaviours using digital technologies. This includes harassment via a mobile phone, setting up a defamatory personal website or deliberately excluding someone from social networking spaces that:

- Deliberately threatens, harasses, intimidates an individual or group of individuals
- Places an individual in reasonable fear of harm to the individual or damage to the individual's property
- Has the effect of substantially disrupting the orderly operation of the school.

## **Implementation:**

Frankston SDS will promote and support safe and respectful learning environments where bullying is not tolerated. Frankston SDS will be pro-active in preventing cyber bullying through explicit teaching of appropriate use of social networking technologies.

### *Reporting Procedure and Investigation*

Any student or school staff member who believes he/she has is being subjected to cyber-bullying, as well as any person who has reason to believe a student, or school staff member has knowledge or reason to believe another student or school staff member is being subjected to or has been subjected to cyber-bullying shall immediately make a report to the Principal.

The Principal will investigate all reports of such conduct. In the event the investigation indicates cyber-bullying was committed by a school student using non-school technologies away from school grounds, the Principal may report the investigation results to child protection.

### *Consequences*

Some acts of cyber-bullying may be isolated incidents requiring the school to respond appropriately to the individual committing the acts. Other acts may be so serious, or part of a larger pattern of cyber-bullying that they require a more in-depth response. This response could include one, more or all of the following:

- Exclusion from activities
- Counselling

- A positive behaviour plan
- Mandatory report to child protection
- Suspension /Expulsion

*Reprisal or Retaliation*

The school prohibits reprisal or retaliation against any person who reports an act of cyber-bullying. The consequence and appropriate remedial action for a person who engages in reprisal or retaliation shall be determined by the Principal after consideration of the nature and circumstances of the act, in accordance with DEECD policies and guidelines

**Evaluation:**

This policy will be reviewed triennially as part of the school's cycle of policy review, or as deemed necessary.

This policy was ratified by School Council in....	NOT FINISHED- 2013
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