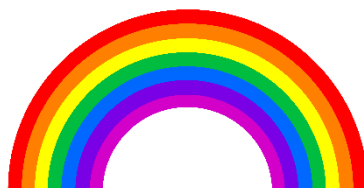


The Village Nursery Bellingdon



'Building Firm Foundation'

Anti-Cyber Bullying Policy

Please also see Safeguarding & Promoting Children's Welfare Policy.

With more of us using email, mobile phones and other electronic devices, bullying doesn't always happen in person now. Silent phone calls or abusive messages through email or social networking sites can be just as distressing as being bullied face to face.

Here are some examples of cyber bullying:

- Text messages – sending unwelcome messages that are threatening or cause discomfort
- Picture/video clip bullying via mobile phone cameras – images or videos sent to others to make a person feel threatened or embarrassed. 'Happy Slapping' involves filming and sharing physical attacks.
- Phone call bullying via mobile phone – silent calls or abusive messages.
- Email bullying – sending bullying or threatening messages via email, using a pseudonym for anonymity or using someone else's name to pin the blame on them.
- Chat room bullying – sending menacing or upsetting messages to children or young people when they are in a web-based chat room.
- Bullying through Instant Messaging (IM) – Internet based form of bullying. Children and young people are sent unpleasant messages as they conduct real-time conversations (Facebook, Instagram, SnapChat, Twitter, etc).

At The Village Nursery, we take any instances of cyberbullying very serious and here are our procedures to deal with any incidents:

Staff – all instances of cyberbullying should be reported to the Manager (Karen Suckling) or the deputy manager (Olivia Beton). This will ensure that the person being bullied is being supported properly. The Manager / deputy manager must take responsibility to manage the incident by contacting the social networking site or Local Authority if appropriate. If the comments are threatening or abusive, sexist, of a sexual nature or constitutes a hate crime, then a representative of the Nursery may consider contacting the local police. Online harassment is a crime.

If the staff member wants additional support they can contact other professional associations. Also consider your own conduct online could breach your employment code of conduct.

Children – procedures will be followed in line with the Nursery's Bullying Policy, Local Authority and DfE guidelines.

Advice for Parents

- Don't wait for something to happen. Make sure your children understand the safe way to use mobile phones, email and social media. They must also understand the risks and consequences of misusing them.
- Make sure your children know what to do if they or someone they know is being cyber bullied.
- Encourage your children to talk to you if they have any problems with cyber bullying. If a problem occurs, make sure to contact the Nursery, mobile network provider or Internet Service Provider (ISP)
- Parental control software can limit who your child sends emails to or who they receive messages from. It can also block them from accessing some chat rooms.
- Moderated chat rooms are supervised by trained adults. Your ISP will tell you whether the chat rooms are moderated.
- Make it your business to know what your child is doing online and who your child's online friends are.
- It is your responsibility as a parent to ensure your children are engaging in safe and responsible behaviour while online.

This policy was adopted by the Village Nursery on 1st May 2025 and will be reviewed every 12 months.

Signed on behalf of the nursery

This policy was reviewed on: