



Cyberbullying Parent Advice

Cyberbullying is the use of technology to bully a person or group with the intent to hurt them socially, psychologically or even physically. The purpose of this document is to inform you of the policies and procedures surrounding incidents of cyberbullying.

The [Australian Government's Public Policy](#) advises the following actions if cyberbullying becomes an issue for your child or family member:

- Do not retaliate or respond to the bullying as this may be used against you;
- Collect evidence of the bullying by taking screen shots, printing conversations etc.;
- Report the cyberbullying to the responsible social media site (e.g. Facebook, Twitter, Snapchat etc.);
- Block the user and update privacy settings;
- Report the bullying to www.esafety.gov.au/cyberbullying-complaint

The **Queensland State Department of Education and Training** [Code of School Behaviour](#) policy provides guidelines on acceptable behaviour in school - including the online learning environment. If an online incident affects the good order and management of your school, the Principal may apply disciplinary action, such as: detention, suspension, exclusion, or cancellation of enrolment.

If you have concerns for your child's safety, **report the incident to your local police**. Serious instances of cyberbullying and inappropriate online behaviour may constitute a criminal offence and become a police matter. For example, online content may substantiate the offence of '**using a carriage service to menace, harass or cause offence**' ([Criminal Code Act 1995](#)). The taking, distributing or possessing of inappropriate photographs may also constitute offences against the Queensland Criminal Code. School staff may also report incidents of this nature to the police in accordance with Departmental procedures.

If you feel that the online content seriously impacts your child's reputation you may like to seek personal legal advice. Defamatory online content may give rise to litigation under the [Defamation Act 2005](#).

Please share this information with your children and follow the advice outlined in the above policies should this issue affect you or your family in the future.