Statement on Cyber Bullying 2016

Code of conduct for Loreto Normanhurst students
Students at Loreto Normanhurst are expected to understand and live out our values as a Loreto school and strive to demonstrate qualities such as compassion, kindness, reconciliation, tolerance, respect and justice. Students have the right to:

- be treated with respect and dignity and the responsibility to treat others with respect and dignity;
- live within the school community free of hurtful behaviours, verbal, physical and emotional hurt;
- work in a positive learning environment.

Students develop a culture of caring for one another and acknowledge the worth and contribution of others and which help to develop empathy.

Students enrolled at Loreto Normanhurst will observe the Anti-Bullying Policy at all times of their enrolment. Students who are found to have used digital technologies to bully or harass another student at any time, may face any or all of the consequences outlined in this statement, at the discretion of the Principal. It is an expectation of the school that parents will support the school in such situations.

Definition
Cyberbullying is the use of technology to harass a person or group. Bullying is repeated behaviour by an individual or group with the intent to harm another person or group. Cyberbullying can be conducted in many ways, using different media to:

- send any abusive communication, especially texts, emails or Instagram posts
- take and/or share unflattering or private images or video
- post unkind messages or inappropriate images on social networking sites
- impersonate another online and representing them in a negative manner or manner that may damage their relationship with others

While Cyberbullying is similar to real life bullying it also differs in the following ways:

- it can be difficult to escape and invasive—it can occur 24/7 and a person can be targeted while at home
- it can involve harmful material being widely and rapidly disseminated to a large audience, for example, rumours and images can be posted on public forums or sent to many people at once
- it can provide the bully with a sense of relative anonymity and distance from the victim, so there is a lack of immediate feedback or consequences

Being bullied can lower self-esteem and a student may feel alone, sad, angry and scared. It may also result in public humiliation given the scope of social networking sites, acceptance of the lack of privacy and the ease with which information can be forwarded.

If you are being bullied it is not your fault. Don’t be afraid to let someone know that you are being bullied; they may be able to help you.

Who to speak to when concerned about cyber bullying
- Parents, older sibling, grandparent or trusted friend, classroom teacher (Primary School); Tutor, Advisor, Head of House, trusted member of day or boarding staff or the School Counsellors
- Ring the Youth Liaison Office or the School Liaison Officer at your local Police Station

Reporting cyber bullying
The school’s response to incidents of bullying is overseen by the Director of Pastoral Care. You or your parents may wish to contact her directly, or

- speak to your Classroom Teacher (Primary School); a trusted member of staff or family; or email your Head of House or speak to the school counsellor

Procedures for dealing with an incident of cyber bullying will be as stated in Anti-Bullying policy
Prevention – what you can do to remain safe
Cyber bullying is everyone’s business and can be experienced by people of all ages. The best response is a proactive or preventative one.
To be proactive you can:
- guard your username and password;
- be aware of the possible dangers of the indiscriminate use of webcam and other forms of digital photography;
- Guard your contact information; only give your mobile phone number, instant messaging name or e-mail address to trusted friends, and keep a note of who you’ve given it to. Consider using caller ID blocking to hide your phone number when making some calls. Similarly, don’t leave your name on your voicemail. Don’t give your details to people you don’t know – or don’t want to know;
- Take a stand against cyber bullying; speak out whenever you see someone being mean to another person online.

Prevention – what the school will do
- Provide education programs for students, parents and staff;
- Filter for language, virus, malware, inappropriate content on websites; and
- Monitor student activity logs;
- Involve the police if necessary.

Action
If you are being cyber bullied it is possible that you’re feeling powerless and isolated, take the following actions immediately:
- Tell an adult you trust. This can be a teacher, parent, older sibling or grandparent – someone who can help you to do something about it.
- Stop the activity or leave the area. People who bully get their kicks from knowing they’ve upset their target. Don’t let them know they’ve upset you, and you’ve taken away half their “fun”.
- Block the sender’s messages if you are being bullied through e-mail or instant messaging.
- Don’t reply to bullying messages. Often if you don’t reply the bully will leave you alone.
- Keep a record. Save any harassing messages, record the time and date, then tell someone you trust
- Report any sustained threats to police or the eSafety Commissioner. Most can be traced and it’s a criminal offence to use a mobile phone or any form of communication to menace or harass or offend another person.
- Change your contact details. Get a new user name for the Internet, a new e-mail account, a new mobile phone number and only give them out to your closest friends.
- Keep your username and passwords secret. Keep your personal information private so it doesn’t fall into the hands of someone who will mis-use it.

Possible consequences for students imposed by Loreto Normanhurst
Many incidents of cyber bullying are initiated in the home, and therefore, contact with the parents of all the students involved is necessary. Any student found to have engaged in bullying behaviour will be expected to acknowledge her responsibility and take action to make reparation and an apology.

Where the balance of evidence suggests that an incident of cyber bullying has occurred, any of the following consequences may apply:

- Access to the external web at school may be limited or terminated
- Email usage and access to the web may be monitored
- Community service
- Counselling
- Detention
- Suspension
- At the discretion of the Principal, a student may be asked to leave the school
- The police may be involved and criminal charges may result

When accepting a place at Loreto Normanhurst parents are deemed to have accepted the School’s values and expectations and are expected to continue to endorse and support them.