



Cyberbullying

Board Received: September 26, 2016

Review Date: October 2020

Policy Statement:

The Grand Erie District School Board is committed to providing a positive, safe, and inclusive learning environment which supports the personal dignity and self-esteem of students and is free from cyberbullying. The Grand Erie District School Board does not condone cyberbullying and will respond to these actions using educational interventions and progressive discipline.

Accountability:

1. Frequency of Reports – As needed
2. Criteria for Success – Enhanced student safety
– Increased opportunity for students to continue their education

Definition of Cyberbullying:

Cyberbullying is the use of information and communication technologies such as e-mail, text messages, instant messaging, personal web sites, and social media - whether on or off school property - to engage in deliberate, typically repeated, and harmful behaviour by an individual or group, which causes emotional distress to an individual student or an identifiable group.

Cyberbullying adversely affects:

1. a student’s ability to learn and emotional well-being
2. healthy relationships and the school climate; and
3. a school’s ability to educate its students.

The Board recognizes that cyberbullying can be particularly devastating to young people because those who engage in cyberbullying can:

1. hide behind the anonymity that the internet provides;
2. spread their hateful and hurtful messages to a very wide audience with remarkable speed; and
3. disown their actions, as it is often difficult to identify cyberbullies because of anonymity, so they do not fear being punished for their actions.

References: SO10 – “Bullying Prevention and Intervention”