

Title: Cyberbullying

Control Information

Control Item	Details
Owner/Curator	BCS Board Secretary/BCS Administrator
Policy #	0036
Supersedes	None
File Location	www.bethanycharter.org
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Revision History

Revision	Date	Revision Description	Originator
A	Nov 2007	draft presented	Karyn Buchheit

1.0 “Cyberbullying”

Bethany Charter School is committed to providing a positive and productive learning and working environment. Any form of harassment using electronic devices, commonly known as “cyberbullying,” by students, staff or third parties is prohibited and will not be tolerated in the school. “Cyberbullying” is the use of any electronic communication device to convey a message or inappropriate material in any form (text, image, audio or video) that defames, intimidates, harasses or is otherwise intended to harm, insult or humiliate another in a deliberate, repeated or hostile and unwanted manner under a person’s true or false identity. In addition, any communication of this form which disrupts or prevents a safe and positive educational or working environment may also be considered cyberbullying. Students and staff will refrain from using personal communication devices or district property to harass or stalk another.

Should “cyberbullying” in any form come to or be extended to school or a school-activity from a home situation, appropriate action will be taken to deal with the situation.

BCS will take any report of cyberbullying seriously and will investigate credible reports promptly.

Students are encouraged to report an incident immediately to a teacher or school administrator, who will take appropriate action. Students who make a report are expected, but not required, to preserve evidence of cyberbullying. For example, a student may save or bring a copy of an email, text message, picture or other electronic transmission that the student believes was intended harm, insult or humiliate.

BCS may revoke the privilege of a student or third party, who uses school equipment or electronic communication system to engage in cyberbullying, to use any school electronic equipment. BCS may revoke the privilege of a student or third party, who uses a personal communication device to engage in cyberbullying, to bring any personal communication device on school property or school-sponsored activities.

Students whose behavior is found to be in violation of this policy will be subject to loss of privileges, discipline, up to and including expulsion. Staff whose behavior is found to be in violation of this policy will be subject to discipline, up to and including dismissal. Third parties whose behavior is found to be in violation of this policy will be subject to appropriate sanctions as determined and imposed by the administrator or Board. The school may also report individuals to law enforcement if necessary.

Definitions.

1. "Inappropriate matter" as defined by BCS means material that is inconsistent with general public education purposes, the school's mission and goals. This can be considered as part or all of the following:

Harassment, intimidation, menacing, threatening or constitutes insulting or fighting words, the very expression of which injures or harasses others.

A likelihood that, either because of its content or the manner of distribution, it will cause a material or substantial disruption of the proper and orderly operation of the school or school activity.

Defamatory, libelous, reckless or maliciously false, potentially giving rise to civil liability, constituting or promoting discrimination, a criminal offense or otherwise violates any law, rule, regulation, Board policy and/or administrative regulation.