Anti Cyber Bullying Policy

RATIONALE:
Young people have fully embraced the use of information and communication technologies to maintain contact with friends and make new ones. They send emails, create their own websites, post personal news in blogs (online interactive diaries), send text messages and images via cell phones, message each other through instant messaging, chat in chatrooms, post to discussion boards, and seek out new friends in community sites.

While most interactions are positive, there are increasing reports of these technologies being used to harass and intimidate others. This has become known as cyber bullying.

Definition
Cyber bullying is when someone is tormented, threatened, harassed, humiliated, embarrassed, or otherwise targeted repeatedly by another person using e-technology. It is the use of an internet service or mobile technologies – such as email, chat room discussion groups, instant messaging, webpages or SMS (text messaging) with the intention of harming another person.

GUIDELINES:
To reinforce with students safe behaviour with regard to preventing cyber bullying e.g. privacy with regard to log-in, passwords and phone numbers and receipt of unsolicited messages. This will include teachers’ duty of care when using the Ultranet.

IMPLEMENTATION:
Staff at Milgate Primary School have the responsibility to ensure that:
- all forms of cyber bullying are prohibited
- staff are aware of cyber bullying and are able to identify and look for signs of occurrence among the students
- approved programs and software are available to maximise student learning
- students are supervised when using technology in order to monitor and deter cyber bullying
- students participate in Cyber Safety programs
- all cases of cyber bullying are reported to a teacher/Assistant Principal/Principal and responded to promptly

Students at Milgate Primary School have a responsibility to ensure that they:
- do not participate in cyber bullying
- do not use mobile phones, cameras or other digital devices to record audio and visual material that is not authorised as part of the school curriculum program
- do not breach the privacy of students, staff and members of the school community through any unauthorised recording or filming
- do not forward, repeat or send inappropriate information through digital media or other means
- do not give anyone access to their passwords
- are careful what personal information is put on websites
- report incidents of cyber bullying to a member of staff
- save original evidence with dates and times if cyber bullying occurs
- advise students being victimised by cyber bullying to talk to an adult
- offer to speak to an adult on behalf of the student who is being victimised by cyber bullying.

Milgate Primary School does the following to avoid cyber bullying:
- **Provide guidelines** - Clear guidelines about student behaviour such as cyber bullying, internet access and the use of iPod touches and mobile phones.
- **Use filters** - Use filters to guard against students accessing inappropriate material. As filters are not 100% effective, we also block additional sites as necessary.
- **Develop policy and programs** - Provide an anti cyber bullying policy which is consistent throughout the school and made known to students, staff and parents/guardians. Cyberquoll and Wall E are used in Years 3-6 to teach the students about Internet and Cyber safety. Harold’s Heroes is used in Years P-2.

EVALUATION:
This policy will be reviewed as part of the school’s three-year review cycle.