AL ZUHOUR PRIVATE SCHOOL

Cyber Bullying Policy

JUNE, 2026

ICT & IT DEPARTMENTS

Al Zuhour Private School (AZPS)
Sharjah

Cyberbullying Policy

Al Zuhour Vision:

"**AZPS** is a community of lifelong learners that strives for academic excellence, prepares students for the global challenges, and maintains cultural identity."

Purpose of the policy:

The digital world is helping us connect and learn more, it is also a space where we can encounter harmful behavior. It is critical that we **engage** our children in dialogue to keep them **safe** and encourage them to be responsible with what they share online.

To better **protect** your child, we urge you to learn more about digital awareness, monitor your child's screen time and online activities, understand and set privacy settings, and establish rules with your child.

Definition of Cyberbullying:

Bullying is hurtful behavior that is unwanted, aggressive, and repeated. This can be physical, verbal, social, or online. They are acts of power and can immediately cause shame, guilt, sadness, and anger. Bullying is not limited to children; adults can also bully children or other adults.

"Cyber bullying" is bullying that takes place online and over digital devices.
Examples of cyber bullying include hateful or mean texts, social media posts intended to spread rumors, embarrassing or fake images, or sexually explicit or threatening direct messages.

It is important to take cyber bullying, and bullying of any kind, seriously. Bullying can have a long-term impact on a child's mental health, confidence, and relationships. It can affect their ability to concentrate on academics and extracurricular activities. And it can also cause a child to turn to bullying others, to get power back and feel like they have control again.

AZPS trains its staff to **respond effectively** to reports of cyberbullying or harassment and has systems in place to respond to it. The IT department blocks access to inappropriate web sites, using firewalls, antivirus protection and filtering systems.

- All bullying is damaging but cyberbullying and harassment can always be invasive of privacy. These acts may also be criminal acts.
- The school will use, as appropriate, the full range of sanctions to correct, punish or remove students who bully the others or harass staff. (**Following the school behavior policy as per SPEA instructions**)
- All AZPS teachers are aware they have a duty to report any example of cyberbullying that they knowabout to the school administration.

Guidance for Students:

If you believe you or someone else is the victim of cyberbullying, you must speak to an adult as soon aspossible. This person could be a parent/guardian, teacher or Head of section.

1- Do not answer abusive messages but log and report them.
2- Do not delete anything until it has been shown to your teacher/ parent/ head of section (even if upsetting, the material is important evidence, used later as proof of cyberbullying).
3- Do not give out personal ID details.
4- Never reply to abusive e-mails.
5- Never reply to someone you do not know.
6- Stay in public areas in chatrooms.
7- Do not engage, respond, or encourage behavior.

Guidance for Parents:

It is vital that parents and the schoolwork together to ensure that all students` are aware of the seriousconsequences of getting involved in anything that might be seen to be cyber bullying:

1- Parents can help by making their child understand the school`s policy and above all how theschool takes incidents of cyberbullying.
2- Parents should also explain to their sons or daughters about the legal issues relating to cyberbullying(**Refer to UAE regarding digital crimes**).
3- If parents believe their child is the victim of cyberbullying, they should save the offendingmaterial and make sure they have all the relevant information before deleting anything.
4- Parents should contact the teacher / Head of section/ supervisor as soon as possible to take quickaction.