

Cyberbullying

Te Kura o Kutarerel has strategies in place to prevent cyberbullying where possible and respond to it if it occurs.

Prevention

- Ensure a whole-school focus on an inclusive and supportive environment.
- Promote **good digital citizenship** both inside and outside the classroom. For example:
 - Teach students about safe and responsible technology use
 - Develop class contracts about appropriate use of technology, included if, how, and when mobile devices may be used at school
 - Have students, staff, and/or parents sign ICT digital technology use agreements
 - Provide ongoing education and advice to parents and whānau about how to protect their children online, and inform parents and whānau about any cyberbullying incidents at the school.
- Ensure teachers understand the **surrender and retention of digital devices** guidelines.
- Engage teachers in ongoing professional development about technology in learning environments.
- Provide guidance to students about how to stay safe online. For example:
 - Activate privacy settings on social media sites
 - Only give personal information to people they know and trust
 - Use available online safety options (e.g. website blockers and email/spam filters)
 - Avoid sharing images of themselves they wouldn't want to be distributed further
 - Know how to contact a service provider to report abuse or problems.

Response

- Get offensive or inappropriate online material removed if possible:
 - Ask the person responsible to take down the offending website, page, or information
 - Request the service provider or website owner to remove the page or information
 - Seek further advice from NetSafe.
- Emphasise to students that they can talk to an adult they trust (parent, teacher, etc.) if they feel bullied, without worrying about negative consequences (such as having their phone taken away).
- Report inappropriate text messages to the student's service provider, or support the student in doing so.
- Use "report abuse" buttons or other feedback methods on websites to report abuse or bullying.
- Use the behaviour management policy to deal with incidents of cyberbullying.

Resources

For developing an inclusive school environment:

- Wellbeing@School: **Inclusive Toolkit**
- NZ Police: **School Community Officer**
- NetSafe: **Kit for Schools**
- NetSafe: **Learn, Guide, Protect**

For students:

- NetSafe: **Cyberbullying**
- NetSafe: **Reporting Advice for Young People**
- Ministry of Justice: **What to Do if You're Being Cyberbullied** (flowchart)

For teachers:

- NetSafe: **OWLS – Wise words on privacy**
- NetSafe: **Digital Technology: Safe and Responsible Use in Schools**
- Teaching Council: **Teachers and Social Media**
- TKI: **Digital Citizenship Modules**

For parents:

- NetSafe: **Parenting**
- NetSafe: **Cyberbullying**

General resources:

- **The Orb** (for reporting concerns)
- Harmful Digital Communications Act 2015 – **10 communication principles**
- **Staying Safe Online: Cyber-safety Tips from New Zealand's Leading Online Companies** (PDF – includes specific tips for sites such as YouTube, Facebook, and Google)