

CYBERBULLYING – DEFINITION

Mr Bill Belsey, the creator of the web site: <http://www.cyberbullying.org/> defined this unpleasant phenomenon in the following terms:

“Cyberbullying involves the use of information and communication technologies to support deliberate, repeated, and hostile behaviour by an individual or group that is intended to harm others.”

Cyberbullying can involve Social Networking Sites, like FaceBook, Bebo and Myspace, emails and mobile phones, used for SMS messages and as cameras.

CYBERBULLYING – PREVENTATIVE MEASURES

In addition to the preventative measures described above, Holmwood House School:

- Expects all pupils to adhere to its rules for the safe use of the computer and the internet. Certain sites are blocked by our filtering system and our ICT Department monitors pupils’ use.
- May impose sanctions for the misuse, or attempted misuse of the internet.
- Issues all pupils with their own personal school email address. Access to sites such as ‘hotmail’ is not allowed.
- Access to social networking sites is not allowed.
- Adheres to the BECTA guidelines regarding E-teaching and the internet.
- Offers guidance on cyberbullying in ICT and PSHE lessons, which covers blocking and removing contacts and how to report abuse.
- Offers guidance on keeping names, addresses, passwords, mobile phone numbers and other personal details safe.
- Mobile phones are only allowed by boarders during boarding time.
- The use of cameras on mobile phones is not allowed in washing and changing areas, or in the bedrooms of boarding houses.