Cyber-Bullying Policy

1.   Rationale

1.1   Children have fully embraced the use of information and communication technologies to maintain contact with friends and make new ones. They send e-mails, access websites, post intimate personal news in blogs (online interactive diaries), send text messages and images via cell phones, message each other through IMs (instant messages), chat in chatrooms, post to discussion boards and seek out new friends in teen 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.

2   Definition

1.2   ***Cyber bullying*** is when someone is tormented, threatened, harassed, humiliated, embarrassed, or otherwise targeted by another child, pre-teen or teen using the Internet, interactive and digital technologies or mobile phones. It has to be a minor on both sides, or at least have been instigated by a minor against another minor.

- *www.stopcyberbullying.org* Warmington School is committed to developing a safe environment where the students act respectfully and positively towards each other in acceptable and non-threatening ways.

2   Procedures

2.1   Staff at Warmington 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 pupils
- pupils are aware of the consequences of cyber bullying
- a code of conduct is in use for technology, including computers and mobile phones, whilst on the school premises (see e-safety policy)
- all cases of cyber bullying are reported to the Executive Headteacher and responded to promptly
- there is supervision of technology that is effective for monitoring and deterring cyber bullying

2.2   Pupils at Warmington 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 curriculum.
- do not breach the privacy of students and staff through any unauthorised recording or filming

- do not disseminate inappropriate information through digital media or other means
- report incidents of cyber bullying to a member of staff
- advise other pupils 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

Review

This Policy was reviewed by teaching staff, and the Policy Review Committee in June 2014 and adopted by the Governors at their meeting on 06.06.14

It will be reviewed in three years time in Summer 2017, unless circumstances are such that earlier review becomes essential.

Signed: ………………………………………….. Date: …………………………………

This policy is supported by the following policies:

- Anti-Bullying Policy
- E-safety Policy