



Dubai International Private School (Al-Quoz)

DIPS, in partnership with parents and community, strives to ensure all students are digitally literate, lifelong learners, productive citizens and nurture their well-being in an inclusive learning environment.



"Empowering Minds, Inspiring Hearts, Shaping the Future"

"تمكين العقول، إلهام القلوب، تشكيل المستقبل"

Dubai International Private School (DIPS) – Cyber Bullying & Digital Safety Policy

Reviewed: September 2025

1. Rationale

Dubai International Private School (DIPS) recognizes the importance of technology for students' learning, achievement, and career development, while also acknowledging the potential risks of misuse. Central to this policy is the belief that all students have the right to be protected from bullying in all forms, including cyberbullying. This policy aligns with UAE Federal Law No. 5 of 2012 on combating cybercrimes, KHDA guidelines, and the DIPS Anti-Bullying Policy.

2. Definition of Cyberbullying

Cyberbullying is an aggressive, intentional act carried out by an individual or group using digital technologies repeatedly over time against a victim who cannot easily defend themselves. Forms of cyberbullying include:

- Sending abusive, threatening, or humiliating texts, calls, or messages on mobile phones.
- Sharing images or videos with the intent to embarrass or harm.
- Posting abusive or defamatory material on websites, blogs, or social networking sites.
- Using email to harass or impersonate others.
- Hijacking or cloning accounts to cause harm.
- Making offensive or defamatory remarks in chat rooms or online forums.

3. Legal Framework

Cyberbullying is considered a serious offense under UAE law. Federal Law No. 5 of 2012 (Cybercrime Law) prohibits spreading defamatory information, sharing offensive content, or engaging in harassment online. Offenders may face fines, imprisonment, or referral to law

enforcement agencies. DIPS reserves the right to take disciplinary and legal action against students engaging in such behavior.

4. Prevention and Education

- Cyber safety awareness is integrated into the curriculum, ICT lessons, and assemblies.
- Staff receive training on identifying and addressing cyberbullying.
- Students are taught about responsible digital citizenship and online behavior.
- The school uses firewalls, antivirus protection, and filtering systems to block inappropriate websites.
- ICT communications may be audited to ensure compliance with safety standards.

5. Responding to Cyberbullying

- All incidents of cyberbullying must be reported immediately to staff.
- Incidents are recorded in the school's incident log and investigated by the Child Protection Team.
- Victims are supported with counseling, wellbeing interventions, and restorative practices.
- Parents of both the victim and the perpetrator are informed and engaged in the resolution process.
- Where necessary, serious cases are reported to KHDA and/or UAE law enforcement authorities.

6. Consequences of Cyberbullying

Consequences will be proportionate to the severity of the incident and aligned with UAE laws and KHDA guidelines. They may include:

- Verbal warning and counseling on digital responsibility.
- Written warning and documentation in the student's record.
- Loss of digital privileges (internet/device restrictions).
- Parent meeting to agree on corrective actions.
- Behavioral contract focused on online conduct.
- Internal suspension or exclusion from certain digital activities.
- External suspension for repeated or severe offenses.
- Expulsion in extreme cases, subject to KHDA approval.
- Referral to external authorities (KHDA, DHA, Police) for criminal offenses.

7. Guidance for Students

Students should:

- Report cyberbullying to a trusted adult immediately.
- Save and show evidence of abusive messages before deleting them.
- Never respond to abusive messages or emails.
- Avoid sharing personal details or passwords online.
- Interact respectfully and responsibly in all digital spaces.

8. Guidance for Parents

Parents play a vital role in supporting safe digital practices. They should:

- Be familiar with the school's Cyberbullying & Digital Safety Policy.
- Educate children on the consequences of unsafe online behavior.
- Save evidence of suspected cyberbullying before deleting content.
- Contact school leadership immediately if their child is involved in or affected by cyberbullying.
- Monitor children's online activity and promote safe practices at home.

9. Digital Safety During Blended Learning

During blended and distance learning, all community members must adhere to the following expectations:

Teachers: Ensure lessons are safe, respectful, and free of offensive material; report suspected incidents immediately.

Students: Join sessions on time, participate respectfully, submit original work, avoid recording/sharing without consent, and use technology responsibly.

Parents: Monitor children's online activity, encourage respectful behavior, and support the school in reinforcing digital safety expectations.

10. Monitoring and Review

This policy is reviewed annually by the Health & Safety Committee and Leadership Team to ensure compliance with UAE law, KHDA guidelines, and international best practices. Updates are shared with staff, students, and parents to ensure ongoing awareness.