



Cyberbullying Policy

Protecting dignity, safety, and belonging in every digital interaction

Sawyer STREAM Academy responds to cyberbullying through its Culture of Care, which requires empathy, respect, accountability, restoration, and protection of every student's right to learn in a safe online environment.

1. Purpose

This policy establishes the expectations, reporting procedures, response measures, and restorative practices Sawyer STREAM Academy uses to prevent and address cyberbullying. The policy applies to conduct that affects a student's safety, dignity, participation, academic progress, or sense of belonging in the Academy's virtual learning community.

2. Scope

This policy applies to students, employees, contractors, volunteers, parents or guardians, and any other authorized participants in Sawyer STREAM Academy programs. It covers conduct occurring through the Academy's learning management system, student information system, school email, video conferencing, messaging tools, discussion boards, shared documents, school-sponsored social media, and other digital platforms used for instruction or school activities. It may also apply to off-platform conduct when that conduct creates a substantial disruption to learning, threatens a student, or affects the safety and well-being of members of the school community.

3. Definition of Cyberbullying

Cyberbullying is the use of digital technology or electronic communication to intimidate, threaten, humiliate, harass, exclude, impersonate, target, or repeatedly harm another person. Cyberbullying may involve a single severe act or a pattern of conduct. It can occur publicly or privately and may include text, audio, images, video, altered media, group messages, comments, reactions, posts, files, account misuse, or other electronic content.

Examples include

- Sending threatening, degrading, insulting, or persistently hostile messages.
- Posting or sharing embarrassing, private, altered, or false information about another person.
- Creating fake accounts, impersonating another person, or accessing another person's account without permission.
- Deliberately excluding a student from online academic or social spaces in order to humiliate or isolate the student.
- Encouraging others to target, ridicule, threaten, or harass a student.
- Sharing images, recordings, screenshots, or personal information without consent.
- Using discriminatory, sexual, violent, or hateful language or content.



- Retaliating against a person who reports cyberbullying or participates in an investigation.

4. Culture of Care

Sawyer STREAM Academy's Culture of Care guides both prevention and response. Every student is expected to contribute to a learning environment in which people are treated with dignity, fairness, empathy, and respect. Staff members respond to concerns promptly, protect affected students, and seek solutions that restore safety and accountability. When appropriate and safe, restorative practices may be used to help students understand harm, accept responsibility, repair relationships, and make better choices. Restorative practices do not replace protective action, disciplinary consequences, or referral to local authorities when the circumstances require them.

5. Student Responsibilities

Students must communicate respectfully, protect the privacy of others, use school systems only for legitimate educational purposes, and report cyberbullying or threatening conduct. Students must not forward, repost, react to, or otherwise amplify harmful content. A student who receives or witnesses cyberbullying should preserve relevant evidence, avoid retaliating, and report the concern to a teacher, administrator, or other designated school representative as soon as possible.

6. Staff Responsibilities

Employees and authorized school representatives who observe, receive, or reasonably suspect cyberbullying must take the report seriously and forward it promptly to the appropriate administrator. Staff members must preserve relevant records, maintain confidentiality to the extent reasonably possible, avoid promising absolute secrecy, and act immediately when a student may be in danger. Staff must not attempt informal mediation when there is a significant power imbalance, a safety threat, sexual exploitation, extortion, stalking, or other serious misconduct.

7. Parent and Guardian Responsibilities

Parents and guardians are expected to support respectful technology use, review school expectations with their children, monitor age-appropriate online activity, preserve evidence of concerning conduct, and communicate promptly with the Academy. Families should not contact or confront another student directly. Concerns should be reported through school channels so that the Academy can respond fairly, protect confidentiality, and coordinate any necessary action with local authorities or service providers.

8. Reporting Cyberbullying

A report may be made by a student, parent or guardian, employee, or other person with relevant information. Reports may be made verbally or in writing to a teacher, administrator, counselor, or designated school contact. Reports should include the names of the persons involved, a description of what occurred, the dates and platforms involved, and any available screenshots, messages, links, recordings, or witness information. Anonymous reports may be considered, although anonymity can limit the Academy's ability to investigate fully.



9. Immediate Safety Response

If a report includes a credible threat of violence, self-harm, sexual exploitation, stalking, extortion, doxxing, or other immediate danger, school personnel will follow the Student Crisis Response Policy and contact the student's parent or guardian, local emergency services, law enforcement, child protection authorities, or other appropriate resources based on the student's location and the seriousness of the concern. Because Sawyer STREAM Academy serves students in multiple jurisdictions, local emergency response must be coordinated according to where the student is physically located.

10. Investigation and Review

The Academy will review reports promptly and impartially. The review may include interviews, examination of digital records, consultation with families, preservation of screenshots or system logs, and coordination with service providers or authorities. The Academy will give involved students an opportunity to share relevant information. Findings will be based on the available evidence and the effect of the conduct on safety, participation, learning, and school operations.

11. Protective and Corrective Measures

The Academy may take interim or final measures to protect students and restore a safe learning environment. Measures may include changes to digital access, communication restrictions, increased supervision, safety planning, parent conferences, counseling or support referrals, restorative conferences when appropriate, required digital citizenship instruction, removal from an activity, academic or behavioral intervention, suspension, or termination of enrollment. Consequences will reflect the seriousness, frequency, intent, impact, age of the students, prior conduct, and willingness to accept responsibility.

12. False Reports and Retaliation

Knowingly making a false report, fabricating evidence, or retaliating against a person who reports a concern is prohibited. A report made in good faith will not result in discipline merely because the concern is not substantiated. Retaliation may result in separate corrective or disciplinary action.

13. Confidentiality and Records

Information related to a cyberbullying report will be shared only with persons who need the information to protect students, investigate the concern, provide support, comply with law, or implement corrective action. Records will be maintained in accordance with the Academy's Student Data Privacy Policy, Digital Safeguarding Policy, and records procedures.

14. Prevention and Education

Sawyer STREAM Academy integrates cyberbullying prevention into student orientation, digital citizenship expectations, staff training, family communication, and the Culture of Care. Prevention efforts emphasize empathy, responsible online behavior, privacy, bystander responsibility, respectful disagreement, source verification, safe use of technology, and the importance of seeking help early.



15. Related Policies

- Digital Safeguarding Policy
- Student Conduct and Respectful Communication Policy
- Technology Acceptable Use Policy
- Cybersecurity Policy
- Student Data Privacy Policy
- Student Crisis Response Policy
- Academic Integrity Policy

16. Policy Review and Acknowledgment

This policy is reviewed periodically by Sawyer STREAM Academy leadership and may be revised to reflect changes in technology, student needs, legal requirements, or school practice. Students and families may be required to acknowledge the policy during enrollment, orientation, or annual policy review.

Document Control

Policy Owner: Executive Director **Approved By:** Sawyer Scholastics, LLC

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