



## **Anti-Cyberbullying Policy**

**Current Review Date: November, 2023**

**Next Review Date: November, 2024**

## **Start-Rite Schools Anti-Cyberbullying Policy**

### **Policy Statement**

Start-Rite Schools Abuja is committed to maintaining a safe and respectful learning environment for all students. Cyberbullying, defined as the use of electronic communication tools to harass, intimidate, or harm others, is strictly prohibited. This policy aims to prevent cyberbullying incidents, address such incidents promptly and effectively, and promote a positive online culture within our school community.

### **Policy Guidelines**

#### ***Definition of Cyberbullying***

Cyberbullying refers to any form of harassment, intimidation, or mistreatment that occurs through electronic communication platforms, including but not limited to social media, messaging apps, emails, and online forums. It encompasses activities such as spreading rumors, making derogatory comments, sharing inappropriate content, impersonating others, or engaging in any other harmful behaviour online.

### **Education and Awareness**

Start-Rite Schools Abuja will provide comprehensive education and awareness programs to students, parents, and staff members on the risks and consequences of cyberbullying. These programs will emphasise responsible online behaviour, digital citizenship, and the importance of maintaining respectful online interactions.

### **Prevention Strategies**

- a. **Establish clear expectations:** Students will be informed about the school's policy on cyberbullying, including the consequences of engaging in such behaviour.
- b. **Promote digital citizenship:** Students will be educated about their rights and responsibilities as digital citizens and the ethical use of technology.
- c. **Encourage reporting:** Students, parents, and staff members will be encouraged to promptly report any incidents of cyberbullying to designated school authorities.

### **Prevention of Bystander Behaviour**

Start-Rite Schools, Abuja recognises the critical role that bystanders play in preventing and mitigating such incidents. Students (and staff) are strongly encouraged to be proactive and act as upstanders rather than bystanders. An upstander is someone who actively intervenes or reports incidents of cyberbullying, contributing to the creation of a positive and supportive online community. By fostering a culture where students take responsibility for the well-being of their peers, we aim to not only prevent cyberbullying but also empower students to be ethical digital citizens. It is the collective responsibility of our school community to uphold these values and create an inclusive online environment for all.

### **Investigation and Response**

- a. Reports of cyberbullying will be thoroughly investigated by school authorities in a fair and impartial manner.
- b. Appropriate disciplinary measures will be taken against individuals found guilty of engaging in cyberbullying, in accordance with the school's disciplinary policy.
- c. Support and counselling will be provided to victims of cyberbullying to ensure their well-being and facilitate their recovery.

### **Collaboration with Parents and Guardians**

Start-Rite Schools Abuja will maintain open lines of communication with parents and guardians to address cyberbullying incidents promptly. Parents will be encouraged to monitor their child's online activities and engage in discussions about responsible internet usage.

### **Regular Review and Updating**

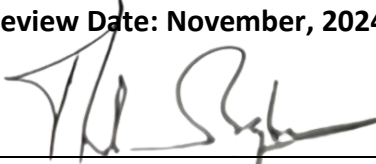
This policy will be reviewed periodically to ensure its effectiveness and relevance in addressing the evolving challenges of cyberbullying. Any necessary updates or revisions will be made in consultation with relevant stakeholders.

**Conclusion**

Start-Rite Schools Abuja is dedicated to fostering a safe and inclusive environment where every student can thrive academically, socially, and emotionally. By implementing this anti-cyberbullying policy, we aim to prevent and address cyberbullying incidents, promote responsible online behavior, and uphold the well-being and dignity of all members of our school community.

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**Senator Victor Ndoma-Egba** *OFR, CON, SAN*  
*Chairman, Advisory Board*



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**Femi Akinlade**  
*Principal*