



Beatitudes of Our Lord School
13021 S. Santa Gertrudes Avenue
La Mirada, CA 90638

Rev. Anthony Page, Pastor
Mrs. Maria Watson, Principal

For Your Awareness:

Cyberbullying is one of the challenging problems our students face today. We know that pervasive harassment can impact not only a student's psychological and emotional security, but their academic performance, as well.

There is a social media app that has been gaining popularity among teens. Diocesan schools, as well as, public schools have been feeling the sting. Ogle is an app that allows people to post comments, photos, and videos for others to view and respond to. Ogle users post and comment anonymously which makes it an appealing platform for cyberbullying. As you might expect—and as the app creators had hoped to increase their traffic—schools have become popular hubs for the app's use. It is actually marketed as a campus-life-enhancing application.

The app is free to use, but is expected to generate somewhere between \$50,000 and \$75,000. The income generated from Ogle (and other such social media apps) comes not from advertising, but any information that is collected from you or your phone sold to advertisers, marketing firms, and a list of other companies. If you are paying for your child's phone use, your information may be subject to this agreement.

As you already know, schools do not have jurisdiction over the Internet. There is not a lot we can do to actively prevent our students from using this app. However, as parents, YOU can please partner with us to keep all of our students safe.

Talk to your child. Ask your child if they know about Ogle, and/or similar apps and websites. Find out their thoughts on social media and cyberbullying. Help your child understand the seriousness of this issue.

Remove Ogle from your child's phone. The best way to be unaffected by Ogle is to be disconnected from it. Remove the app, and you have solved a great deal of the problem.

Report harassment. We will continue to follow up on credible matters that are reported to us involving student-to-student harassment. When you report, include as much information as you can. When possible, take screenshots of the offending material and include those. The more information we have, the better we can respond.

Contact the company. The app itself is supposed to have a "report" function that allows users to report abusive activity. The company, in turn, can remove the offending user ("for any or no reason") according to their terms of service.) If that doesn't work, you can always call the company directly at 949-413-3280.

By working together, we can educate and empower our children to take ownership of what they choose to do, say, and respond to.

"Train up a child in the way he should go, And when he is old he will not depart from it." Proverbs 22:6

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