Executive Committee and Council only
Date signed off by the Monitoring Officer: N/A
Date signed off by the Section 151 Officer: N/A

Committee:	**Joint Education and Learning and Social Services Scrutiny Committee**
Date of meeting:	**23rd March 2020**
Report Subject:	**360 Degree Safe Cymru Online Safety Policy for Schools**
Portfolio Holder:	**Cllr J Collins, Executive Member for Education**
Report Submitted by:	**Lynette Jones, Corporate Director of Education** **Sarah Dixon, Safeguarding in Education Manager**

Reporting Pathway								
Directorate Management Team	**Corporate Leadership Team**	**Portfolio Holder / Chair**	**Audit Committee**	**Democratic Services Committee**	**Scrutiny Committee**	**Executive Committee**	**Council**	**Other (please state)**
✔	25.02.2020	07.03.20			23.03.2020	22.04.20		

1. **Purpose of the Report**

1.1 This report presents the 360 Degree Safe Cymru Online Safety Policy for schools in order to seek members' views on the policy template and adoption of such by the Council as the model policy for schools.

1.2 The 360 Degree Safe Cymru Online Safety Policy is provided by South West Grid for Learning (SWGfL) in partnership with Welsh Government. The Online Safety Policy is intended to help schools produce a suitable online safety policy document, which will consider all current and relevant issues in a whole school context.

2. **Scope and Background**

2.1 The requirement to ensure that learners are able to use the internet and related communications technologies appropriately and safely is part of the Council and schools' wider duty of care.

2.2 Since April 2014, South West Grid for Learning has worked in partnership with the Welsh Government to raise awareness of online safety issues and to improve online safety policy and practice for schools and colleges in Wales. The 360 Degree Safe Cymru Online Safety policy has been developed by South West Grid for Learning and a range of individuals and organisations have contributed to the development of this policy.

2.3 The 360 Degree Safe Cymru Online Safety Policy suggests policy statements which would be essential in any school online safety policy, based on good practice. There are a range of alternative statements that schools should consider and choose those that are most suitable, given their particular circumstances.

2.4 Adoption of the 360 Degree Safe Cymru Online Safety policy as the Council's online safety policy for schools will provide clarity and consistency across schools and the Council.

2.5 The 360 Degree Safe Cymru Online Safety policy is compliant with the Estyn recommendation as set out in the Prevent Thematic Review that was published in February 2020, which is to ensure that ICT and Online Safety policies cover the management of risks to pupils from radical and extremist ideologies.

3. **Options for Recommendation**

3.1 **Option 1**

Members are requested to scrutinise the information detailed within the report and contribute to the continuous assessment of effectiveness by making appropriate recommendations to the Executive Committee.

Option 2

Accept the report as provided.

4. **Evidence of how does this topic supports the achievement of the Corporate Plan / Statutory Responsibilities / Blaenau Gwent Well-being Plan**

This report is in line with the following objectives as set out in the Blaenau Gwent Wellbeing Plan of:
- Blaenau Gwent wants everyone to have the best start in life.
- Blaenau Gwent wants safe and friendly communities.

5. **Supporting Evidence**

51 *Performance Information and Data*

Local Authority policies have previously been distributed to governing bodies for adoption by schools and all schools have policies for internet safety and acceptable use agreements in place.

The proposed 360 Degree Safe Cymru Online Safety Policy consists of an online safety policy and a series of appendices containing more detailed templates and forms. They have been developed with support by Online Safety professionals through the South West Grid for Learning (SWGfL), in partnership with Welsh Government.

The policy provides guidance and an indication of what should be included. It allows each school to ensure that the content will be relevant for the individual circumstances of each school.

The latest data shows that there are presently 22 schools registered in Blaenau Gwent to use the 360 Degree Safe Cymru assessment tool and 20 schools have presently used it.

5.2 *Expected outcome for the public*

The proposed policy template provides a framework to support schools in developing confident, digital citizens who know how to stay safe online.

5.3 *Involvement (consultation, engagement, participation)*

The proposed policy demonstrates an integrated approach to online safety across schools.

School views have been sought through the Designated Safeguarding Persons meetings. There were no objections to this approach.

The copyright of the policy is held by South West Grid for Learning. Schools/colleges and other educational institutions are permitted free use of the policy templates for the purposes of policy review and development. A range of individuals and organisations have contributed to the development of the policy and appendices:

- Members of the SWGfL online safety group;
- Representatives of Welsh local authorities;
- Representatives from a range of Welsh schools/colleges involved in consultation and pilot groups;
- Plymouth University online safety.

South West Grid for Learning and the Education Achievement Service are in agreement with the Council plan to adopt this policy.

5.4 *Thinking for the Long term (forward planning)*

Welsh Government encourages schools to make full use of social technologies to engage learners and improve learner outcomes. The proposed policy supports this.

5.5 *Preventative focus*

In order to become confident digital citizens, children need to know how to stay safe online, both under supervision and independently. The proposed policy supports this.

5.6 *Collaboration / partnership working*

The Council collaborates with a range of services to discharge its Local Government Education Service functions.

This policy has been developed by South West Grid for Learning, working in partnership with Welsh Government. A range of individual and organisations have contributed to the development of the policy and appendices.

South West Grid for Learning and Education Achievement Service are in agreement with the Council proposal to adopt this policy.

5.7 *Integration (across service areas)*

The proposed policy is for all schools. The proposed policy template would cover other pre-existing LA policies that will be superseded upon the implementation of this policy

5.8 *EqIA (screening and identifying if full impact assessment is needed)*

An EQIA for the online safety policy template has been undertaken and no adverse impact has been identified.

6. **Monitoring Arrangements**

6.1 Adoption of the policy templates will be monitored on a termly basis through the Safeguarding Matrix which is part of the embedded approach within the Directorates.

7. **Background Documents / Electronic Links**

Appendix 1 – 360 Degree Safe Cymru Online Safety Policy Template

- 360 Degree Safe Cymru: updated template policies and acceptable use guidance:

REF: 360DSOLSPFS.212