



FULL COUNCIL REPORT

Date Written	5 th August 2020 *
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Service Area	Learning
Exempt/Non Exempt	Non Exempt
Committee Date	9 th September 2020

To: Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen

Anti-Bullying Statutory Guidance for Schools

1.0 SUMMARY OF THE REPORT

1.1 This report provides an update on the anti-bullying guidance for schools which has been reviewed and revised in light of the suite of statutory anti-bullying guidance produced by Welsh Government in November 2019 – see Appendix 1.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 The contents of this report are noted and Councillors agree to promote the guidance.

2.2 An update is provided in a year's time detailing the impact of the marketing of this guidance.

3.0 INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

3.1 Councillors will be aware that an Anti-bullying Strategy for schools has been in existence in Merthyr Tydfil since 2009. The strategy emphasises the importance, and benefits of having high standards of anti-bullying practice and ethos, that are clearly understood by all in every school.

4.0 CURRENT POSITION

4.1 Schools and officers in the department have continued to be committed to ensuring that all children and young people have the opportunities they need to fulfil their potential, including the right to learn in a healthy, safe and protective environment, free from racism, bullying or discrimination of any kind.

- 4.2 Student conferences have been used to discuss support and advice with young people who may be subject to bullying in school.
- 4.3 The Youth Cabinet continue to undertake activities to promote strategies that ensure young people feel safe in schools and within the community.
- 4.4 The purpose of this guidance is to promote a consistent message that bullying is taken very seriously and can have long term harmful effects. It sets out the critical issues to be addressed with regards to bullying over the next five years in Merthyr Tydfil and its key partners in the community. This document has been written to provide a comprehensive overview of bullying and to highlight the roles and responsibilities of all agencies and departments, including schools, governing bodies, parents and pupils in achieving improved wellbeing. This partnership is crucial to raising levels of wellbeing, by reducing the number of bullying incidents and therefore enabling pupils to access their learning and ultimately to raise standards.
- 4.5 This guidance has been reviewed in light of the suite of statutory anti-bullying guidance produced by Welsh government in November 2019. These have been created to challenge bullying in schools in Wales and as such the new “Rights, respect and equality” document is now statutory guidance.
- 4.6 There have been some changes in respect of terminology; bullies are now referred to as perpetrators and targets as victims. Information on safeguarding and counterterrorism has been added, while the information around online bullying has been updated and there is a new reporting form to be completed. The updated guidance is available as Appendix 1.
- 4.7 We are to be part of the Welsh Local Government Association (WLGA) Hate Crime in Schools Project. The project will be funded through the Welsh Government European Transition Fund and is part of a suite of additional support being provided over the coming 18 months to help to prevent incidences and mitigate the effects of hate crime in Wales. This project will provide workshops for pupils delivered by Show Racism the Red Card and training for staff by Sapere. The delivery date has had to be postponed due to COVID 19, but the funding remains in place for this project.

5.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 There are no financial implications associated with the implementation of this statutory guidance.

6.0 INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT

	Positive Impacts	Negative Impacts	Not Applicable
1. Merthyr Tydfil Well-being Objectives	3 of 4	0 of 4	1 of 4
2. Sustainable Development Principles - How have you considered the five ways of working: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Long term • Prevention • Integration • Collaboration • Involvement 	5 of 5	0 of 5	0 of 5
3. Protected Characteristics <i>(including Welsh Language)</i>	10 of 10	0 of 10	0 of 10
4. Biodiversity	1 of 1	0 of 1	0 of 1
<p>Summary:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Well-being Objectives are that the proposal would enable children getting the best start to life and for them to be equipped with the skills that they need to be ethical, ambitious and confident individuals. • The Sustainable Development Principles are that the proposal would safeguard the long-term educational needs of children, young people and adults to maximise their capabilities and have control over their lives. • The Protected Characteristics and Welsh language are that the proposal would enhance the outcomes for all pupils including those learning through the medium of Welsh. • Biodiversity are that the proposal would encourage increased awareness of respect for others and the environment. 			

SUE WALKER
CHIEF OFFICER (LEARNING)

COUNCILLOR LISA MYTTON
CABINET MEMBER FOR LEARNING

BACKGROUND PAPERS		
Title of Document(s)	Document(s) Date	Document Location
Merthyr Tydfil Anti-bullying Strategy	2015-17	Learning Department
Rights, respect, equality guidance Welsh Government	November 2019	Learning Department
Does the report contain any issue that may impact the Council's Constitution?		No

Consultation has been undertaken with the Corporate Management Team in respect of each proposal(s) and recommendation(s) set out in this report.