

COUNCIL: 8 DECEMBER 2021

RESPONSE TO REQUEST FOR SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

Please find below some supplementary information provided in relation to a matter raised at the 8 December 2021 Council meeting. The information is shown in red font.

14. Questions

(6) a question by Councillor Ferguson to the Cabinet Member for Education:

As a supplementary question, Councillor Ferguson referred to a report from School Leaders Scotland about some concerning TikTok videos which had been reported to Police Scotland, and asked whether the Cabinet Member would have a discussion with Education about reminding students about the dangers of TikTok and its appropriate use.

Councillor Bell responded by confirming that he would ask Education to provide more information to pupils about the dangers of social media to seek to ensure that it was used with respect for others.

Response

Andrew McClelland, Head of Service (Education) has provided the undernoted in response:

“Cyber Resilience and Internet Safety is part of the ‘Technologies’ curriculum in the Broad General Education. From ‘I can explore, play and communicate using digital technologies safely and securely’ at Early level (Early Years Class - P1 approx) to ‘I can keep myself safe and secure in online environments and I am aware of the importance and consequences of doing this for myself and others’ (Third level – S1/2 approx) – planned lessons are taught to address these experiences and outcomes in a variety of innovative and creative ways. These high level messages re social media are cascaded at whole school assemblies (virtually), Morning Meetings and as part of the technology curriculum for all stages within our schools.

Schools are encouraged to apply for the ‘Cyber Resilience and Internet Safety’ award from Digital Schools Scotland. Some NAC schools already have been awarded this. Resources for schools to support this will be located on the new NACED Inform (education intranet) – where there is a focus on the dangers of social media and where resources can be accessed to support this.

NAC schools have the ‘Safer School App’. This app helps the school community to better protect themselves in a digital world through delivering contemporary and relevant safeguarding information to teachers, pupils, parents and carers. The app provides an ‘Online Safety Centre’ which covers how to block, report and set safety

settings across each social media platform. This content is revised each time an app is updated, or a noteworthy app is created.

‘Campus Police Officers’ also support the importance of using social media correctly, sharing this message across schools in their locality.”