Protecting intellectual property (IP) is crucial for SMEs in England and Wales, as it safeguards their valuable innovations, creations, and competitive advantages. Boardify's Intellectual Property Checklist provides a comprehensive guide for organisations to develop and implement effective IP management and protection strategies. By providing these essential resources, Boardify aims to empower organisations to strengthen their cybersecurity, workplace health and safety, and intellectual property practices, contributing to their long-term success and growth.

## **Policy Development**

- Develop a comprehensive intellectual property (IP) policy
- Ensure compliance with applicable laws, regulations, and industry standards
- Regularly review and update policies to reflect changes in legislation and best practices

# **IP Identification and Protection**

- Identify and maintain an inventory of the organisation's IP assets, including patents, trademarks, copyrights, and trade secrets
- Register and protect IP assets as appropriate
  - Implement measures to safeguard trade secrets and confidential information

### Licensing and IP Agreements

- Establish processes for managing IP licensing agreements and collaborations
- Ensure compliance with licensing terms and conditions
- Regularly review and update agreements as needed

### **Monitoring and Enforcement**

- Monitor the market for potential infringement of the organisation's IP rights
- Address infringement issues promptly and take appropriate enforcement actions
- Defend the organisation's IP rights in legal disputes as necessary

#### **Employee Training and Awareness**

- Provide regular IP training for employees
- Communicate the importance of IP protection and employee responsibilities

#### **Continuous Improvement**

- Assess the effectiveness of IP management and protection efforts
- ldentify areas for improvement and implement changes
- Foster a culture of innovation, transparency, and accountability