

Preventing Extremism and Radicalisation Policy



Introduction

Radicalisation refers to the process by which a person comes to support terrorism and forms of extremism leading to terrorism.

Extremism is defined by the Government in the Prevent Strategy as:

Vocal or active opposition to fundamental British values, including democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs. We also include in our definition of extremism calls for the death of members of our armed forces, whether in this country or overseas.

Extremism is defined by the Crown Prosecution Service as:

The demonstration of unacceptable behaviour by using any means or medium to express views which:

- Encourage, justify or glorify terrorist violence in furtherance of particular beliefs;
- Seek to provoke others to terrorist acts;
- Encourage other serious criminal activity or seek to provoke others to serious criminal acts; or
- Foster hatred which might lead to inter-community violence in the UK.

1. Students who attend the School and Training Centre have the right to learn in an open, tolerant and safe environment.
2. The School currently assesses the risk of radicalisation to be [low/medium/high]. The School carries out annual risk assessments to measure the nature and level of risks associated with radicalisation.
3. The School will implement prevention measures such as applying appropriate restrictions to internet sites likely to promote terrorist materials and discussing these dangers with Students.
4. All concerns relating to radicalisation should be referred to the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) or in their absence to the Deputy DSL.
5. The DSL will discuss all concerns relating to the radicalisation of a student with the Principal and the LSCB so that appropriate action can be taken to and appropriate referrals, including to the Channel programme, can be made.
6. Where a child is at risk of immediate serious harm a referral will be made to children/young people's social care immediately.
7. The DSL will work in partnership with the LSCB over all matters covered in this policy, including those relating to the prevention and identification of risk and to the handling of concerns.

1. Purpose

- 1.1. This "Preventing Radicalisation Policy" is part of our commitment to keeping young people safe. Since the "Education and Inspections Act 2006", schools have a duty to promote community cohesion. Over the last few years, global events have led to a growth of extremist viewpoints, including advocacy of violent extremism.
- 1.2. Schools/Training Providers have an important part to play in both educating children/young people and young people about extremism and recognising when individuals start to become radicalised. From 1 July 2015, schools became subject to a duty under section 26 of the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 ("CTSA 2015") in exercising their functions "to have due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism."
- 1.3. Safeguarding children/young people from all risks of harm is an important part of our work and protecting them from extremism is one aspect of that.
- 1.4. The duty to prevent children/young people and young people being radicalised is set out in the following documents:
 - Counter Terrorism & Security Act (2015)
 - Keeping Children/young people Safe in Education (September 2016)
 - Working Together to Safeguard Children/young people (March 2015)
 - Prevent Duty Guidance: for England and Wales (March 2015)
 - The Prevent duty: Departmental advice for schools and childminders (June 2015)
 - The use of social media for on-line radicalisation (July 2015)
- 1.5. Non-statutory guidance
 - Promoting fundamental British values as part of SMSC in schools: Departmental advice for maintained schools (DfE 2014)
 - Improving the spiritual, moral, social and cultural (SMSC) development of students: supplementary information (DfE 2014)
 - How Social Media is used to encourage travel to Syria and Iraq (Home Office)

2. Ethos

- 2.1 We ensure that through our school vision, values, rules, diverse curriculum and teaching, we promote tolerance and respect for all cultures, faiths and lifestyles.

3. Risk Assessment

- 3.1. We assess the risk of radicalisation to be [low/medium/high].
- 3.2. We will carry out an annual risk assessment which will identify the risk of students being drawn into terrorism or extremism. This risk assessment will look at the general risks affecting children/young people and young people in the local area and the specific risks which may affect groups or individuals within the school and it will propose measures to mitigate and manage these risks.

4. Responsibilities and Training

The DSL will:

- 4.1. be the single point of contact to oversee and coordinate the school's implementation of the Prevent duty;
- 4.2. undertake prevent awareness training, such as the on-line general awareness training module on Channel - WRAP (Workshop to Raise Awareness of Prevent);
- 4.3. undertake higher level training in the LSCB's Prevent strategy to be able to assess the risk of children/young people being drawn into terrorism, including being drawn into support for the extremist ideas that are part of terrorist ideology;
- 4.4. provide Prevent duty training to all staff so that they (a) understand the general risks affecting students at the School; (b) are able to identify individual children/young people and young people who might be at risk of radicalisation; and (c) know what to do to support these children/young people/Young people;
- 4.5. provide advice and support to other members of staff on protecting individuals from the risk of radicalisation;
- 4.6. liaise with local partners, including the police and the LCSB (Local Children/young people's Safeguarding Board), including to establish what advice and support they can provide and to seek guidance on the general levels of risk within the local area;
- 4.7. have responsibility for ensuring that any visiting speakers whether invited by staff or students are suitable and are appropriately supervised (see below);
- 4.8. receive safeguarding concerns about children/young people and young people who may be vulnerable;
- 4.9. work in partnership with the LSCB on all matters covered by this policy and the School will follow any locally agreed procedures which are set out by the LSCB.
- 4.10. report termly to the Principal on these matters.

All staff will:

- 4.11. undergo regular Prevent duty training (including Channel online awareness training and additional training provided by the school) so that staff have the knowledge and confidence to be able to (a) understand the general risks of radicalisation affecting students at the School; (b) identify individual children/young people/young people who might be at risk of radicalisation (see Paragraph 8 below) and spot signs of extremism (see paragraph 9 below); (c) challenge extremist views; and (d) provide appropriate advice to children/young people who are at risk of radicalisation.
- 4.12. be alert to changes in children/young people's behaviour which could indicate that they may be in need of help or protection.
- 4.13. use their professional judgement in identifying children/young people who might be at risk of radicalisation and act proportionately

5. Referral Process

- 5.1. All staff and visitors to the School must refer all concerns about children/young people/young people and young people who show signs of vulnerability to radicalisation to the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) or in their absence to the Deputy Safeguarding Lead (Deputy DSL). For further details about safeguarding referrals please see the School's separate policy on Safeguarding.
- 5.2. If the DSL becomes aware of a concern relating to the radicalisation of an individual he or she will discuss this with the Principal and the LSCB so that appropriate actions can be taken to safeguard the student and appropriate referrals, including to the Channel programme, can be made.

6. Curriculum

- 6.1. We are committed to ensuring that our young people are offered a broad and balanced curriculum that aims to prepare them for life in modern Britain. We encourage our students to be inquisitive students who are open to new experiences and are tolerant of others.
- 6.2. Our values support the development of the whole individual as a reflective student within a calm, caring, happy and purposeful atmosphere. Teaching the school's core values alongside the fundamental British Values supports quality teaching and learning, whilst making a positive contribution to the development of a fair, just and civil society;
- 6.3. We aim to provide a safe space in which students can understand the risks associated with terrorism and develop the knowledge, skills and confidence to be able to challenge extremist views.
- 6.4. We will include opportunities in the curriculum for students to build resilience to pressure and to develop the skills they need to recognise and stay safe from abuse and radicalisation. In particular:
- 6.4.1. PSHE lessons will be used along with tutor periods/form periods to teach students to understand and manage risks associated with terrorism and radicalisation, resist pressure, make safer choices and seek help if necessary.
- 6.4.2. By promoting British values such as tolerance and respect as indicated above;
- 6.4.3. Through citizenship, religious education and other relevant subject syllabus with focus on democracy, diversity, mutual respect and managing debates around contentious issues.

7. Internet Safety

- 7.1. The internet provides children and young people with access to a wide- range of content, some of which is harmful. Extremists use the internet, including social media, to share their messages. The filtering systems used in our school blocks inappropriate content, including extremist content.
- 7.2. Individuals will be taught how to stay safe online, both in school and outside school. They will be taught to understand the risks posed by adults or young people who use the internet

and social media to groom, abuse or radicalise other people, especially children/young people, young people and vulnerable adults.

7.3. We also filter out social media, such as Facebook. Searches and web addresses are monitored and the ICT technicians will alert the DSL and Principal where there are concerns and prevent further access when new sites that are unblocked are found.

7.4. Where staff, students or visitors find unblocked extremist content they must report it to the DSL who will in turn discuss it with the Principal

7.5. We are aware that children/young people have access to unfiltered internet when using their mobile phones and staff are alert to the need for vigilance when individuals are using their phones.

8. Visitors and visiting Speakers

8.1. The DSL has responsibility for ensuring that all visitors and visiting speakers, whether invited by staff or students, are suitable and appropriately supervised. Where appropriate the DSL will make enquiries of the agency/person who introduced the individual to the School and/or will conduct an internet search against the individual's name.

8.2. On the rare occasion that a visitor or visiting speaker will have unsupervised access to individuals they will need to be DBS checked.

9. Signs of Vulnerability

There is no such thing as a "typical extremist": those who become involved in extremist actions come from a range of backgrounds and experiences, and most individuals, even those who hold radical views, do not become involved in violent extremist activity.

Students may become susceptible to radicalisation through a range of social, personal and environmental factors - it is known that violent extremists exploit vulnerabilities in individuals to drive a wedge between them and their families and communities. It is vital that school staff are able to recognise those vulnerabilities.

9.1. There are a number of signs that together increase the risk. Signs of vulnerability include:

9.2. underachievement;

9.3. being in possession of extremist literature;

9.4. poverty;

9.5. social exclusion;

9.6. traumatic events;

9.7. global or national events;

9.8. religious conversion;

9.9. change in behaviour;

9.10. extremist influences;

9.11. conflict with family over lifestyle;

9.12. confused identity;

9.13. victim or witness to race or hate crimes, and

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9.14. rejection by peers, family, social groups or faith.

10. Recognising Extremism

A part of our wider safeguarding responsibilities to identify signs of abuse we will be alert to early indicators of radicalisation or extremism which may include:

- 10.1. showing sympathy for extremist causes;
- 10.2. glorifying violence, especially to other faiths or cultures;
- 10.3. making remarks or comments about being at extremist events or rallies outside school;
- 10.4. evidence of possession illegal or extremist literature;
- 10.5. advocating messages similar to illegal organisations or other extremist groups;
- 10.6. out of character changes in dress, behaviour and peer relationships (but there are also very powerful narratives, programmes and networks that young people can come across online so involvement with particular groups may not be apparent);
- 10.7. secretive behaviour;
- 10.8. online searches or sharing extremist messages or social profiles;
- 10.9. intolerance of difference, including faith, culture, gender, race or sexuality;
- 10.10. graffiti, art work or writing that displays extremist themes;
- 10.11. attempts to impose extremist views or practices on others;
- 10.12. verbalising anti-Western or anti-British views;
- 10.13. advocating violence towards others.

11. Contact details

- 11.1. Contact details of local partners and organisations which offer support and advice about extremism will be displayed prominently in the School.
- 11.2. These will include the local authority Prevent lead, the local Channel panel and the local police force, 101 and the DfE dedicated telephone helpline and mailbox for non-emergency advice for staff:
020 73407264 and counter-extremism@education.gsi.gov.uk

Local Police non- emergency	101	
Nominated local Police Officer	0121 787 1687 0778985718	Noddy Holder
National Bullying Helpline	0845 22 55 787	
NSPCC 24/7 Helpline/textline	0808 800 5000/88858 help@nspcc.org.uk	

12. Channel

- 12.1. Channel is a programme which focuses on providing support at an early stage to people who are identified as being vulnerable to being drawn into terrorism. It provides a mechanism for schools to make referrals if they are concerned that an individual might be vulnerable to radicalisation. An individual's engagement with the programme is entirely voluntary at all stages.

12.2. Section 36 of the CTSA 2015 places a duty on local authorities to ensure Channel panels are in place. The panel must be chaired by the local authority and include the police for the relevant local authority area. Following a referral the panel will assess the extent to which identified individuals are vulnerable to being drawn into terrorism, and, where considered appropriate and necessary consent is obtained, arrange for support to be provided to those individuals.

12.3. Section 38 of the CTSA 2015 requires partners of Channel panels (including proprietors of independent schools) to co-operate with the panel in the carrying out of its functions and with the police in providing information about a referred individual.

12.4. Guidance issued under section 36(7) and section 38 (6) of the CTSA 2015 in respect of Channel is available at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/channel-guidance>

13. Monitoring and Review

13.1. This Policy will be reviewed by the Principal and the DSL annually, in consultation with the Head of Human Resources at Cognita Head Office.

13.2. The effectiveness and implementation of this policy will be monitored by the [Assistant Director of Education] who will carry out an annual review for this purpose. For further information see the School's separate policy entitled Safeguarding: Child Protection Procedures.

Related Policies, Guidelines, Templates and Forms

Anti-Bullying Policy

Attendance and Punctuality Policy

Equality & Diversity Policy Behaviour Policy

Safeguarding Policy Missing

Child Procedure Staff Conduct

Policy Whistleblowing Policy

Date: September 2020

Review Date: September 2021

Sandwell Valley School