



Thistly Meadow Primary School

PREVENTING EXTREMISM AND RADICALISATION POLICY

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Introduction

This 'Preventing Extremism and Radicalisation Policy' is part of our commitment to keeping children 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. Schools have an important part to play in both educating children and young people about extremism and recognising when pupils start to become radicalised.

In March 2015, new statutory duties were placed on schools by the Counter Terrorism and Security Act (2015) which means they must work to prevent children being drawn into extremism. Safeguarding children from all risks of harm is an important part of a school's work and protecting them from extremism is one aspect of that.

Ethos

At Thistly Meadow Primary School we ensure that through our school vision, values, rules, diverse curriculum and teaching we promote tolerance and respect for all cultures, faiths and lifestyles. The governing body also ensures that this ethos is reflected and implemented effectively in school policy and practice and that there are effective risk assessments in place to safeguard and promote children's welfare. We have a duty to prepare our children for life in modern Britain and to keep them safe. Children who attend our school have the right to learn in safety. Any prejudice, discrimination or extremist views, including derogatory language, displayed by pupils or staff will always be challenged and where appropriate dealt with in line with our Overarching Behaviour policy and the Code of Conduct for staff.

Statutory Duties

The duty to prevent children and young people being radicalised is set out in the following documents:

- Counter Terrorism and Security Act (2015)
- Keeping Children Safe in Education (2015)
- Prevent Duty Guidance (2015)
- Working Together to Safeguard Children (2015)

Non-statutory

Promoting fundamental British values as part of SMSC in schools: Departmental advice for maintained schools (DfE 2014) and The Prevent Duty (DfE 2015).

Related Policies

- Authorised Acceptable Use Policy
- Safeguarding Policy
- Equality Opportunities Policy
- Overarching Behaviour policy, including Anti-bullying
- Code of Conduct for Employees
- Online Safety policy
- Parent and Visitor Code of Conduct
- ICT policy

Definitions

The definition of extremism is:

'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; and/or calls for the death of members of our armed forces, whether in this country or overseas.'

Roles and Responsibilities

Role of the Governing Body

It is the role of the governing body to ensure that the school meets its statutory duties with regard to preventing extremism and radicalisation. The governing body has a nominated Safeguarding Governor who will liaise with the Head teacher and other staff regarding extremism and radicalisation.

Role of the Head teacher

It is the role of the Head teacher to:

- Ensure that the school and its staff respond to preventing extremism and radicalisation on a day-to-day basis
- Ensure that the school's curriculum addresses the issues involved in extremism and radicalisation
- Ensure that staff conduct is consistent with preventing extremism and radicalisation

Role of Designated Safeguarding Lead

It is the role of the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) to:

- Ensure that staff understand the issues of extremism and radicalisation, are able to recognise the signs of vulnerability or radicalisation and know how to refer their concerns
- Receive safeguarding concerns about children and young people who may be vulnerable to the risk of or are showing signs of extremism and radicalisation.

- Make referrals to appropriate agencies with regard to concerns about extremism and radicalisation
- Liaise with partners, including the local authority and the police
- Report to the governing body on these matters

Role of staff

It is the role of staff to understand the issues of extremism and radicalisation, to recognise the signs of vulnerability, extremism and radicalisation and know how to refer their concerns.

Curriculum

British Values

British values are defined as:

- Democracy
- The rule of law
- Individual liberty
- Mutual respect
- Tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs

We are committed to ensuring that our pupils are offered a broad and balanced curriculum that aims to prepare them for life in modern Britain. We encourage our pupils to develop enquiring minds, creativity and a spirit of curiosity in a tolerant, caring, supportive environment which promotes equality and mutual respect, awareness of world events and supports British values.

These values support the development of the whole child who develops self-confidence, self-esteem, self-reliance and respects themselves, others, and the world in which they live.

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.

Online Safety

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. We also filter out social media, such as Facebook.

Searches and web addresses are monitored and the ICT technician will alert senior staff where there are concerns and prevent further access when new sites that are unblocked are found. Where staff, children or visitors find unblocked extremist content they must report it to a senior member of staff immediately.

The Authorised Acceptable Use policy and e-Safety policy are signed by all staff and volunteers. Pupils and parents sign the Internet consent form and pupils and staff know how to report internet content that is inappropriate or of concern.

We are aware that children and young people have access to unfiltered internet when using their mobile phones. Mobile phones that may be brought to school by pupils MUST be left at the school office and collected at home time. Any breaches to this will be dealt with in line with the school's Overarching Behaviour policy.

Staff and Governor Training

Staff will be given training to help them understand the issues of extremism and radicalisation, how to recognise the signs of vulnerability or extremism and radicalisation and know how to refer their concerns. This information also forms part of induction safeguarding training. Staff are updated as necessary in staff meetings.

Staff and Governors will be required to complete an online Channel awareness training module provided by the National Counter-Terrorism Policing Headquarters at:

http://course.ncalt.com/Channel_General_Awareness/01/index.html

This is an online course to raise awareness of the Channel process and how Prevent works to provide a proportionate response to support vulnerable people within the non-criminal space. The course is aimed at frontline and strategic/safeguarding staff across public sector organisations such as police, social services, probation, education and health staff, as well as the community. The course should enable staff to:

- Explain how Channel links to the Governments Counter-Terrorism Strategy (CONTEST);
- Describe the Channel process and its purpose;
- Identify factors that can make people vulnerable to radicalisation; and
- Define safeguarding and risk ownership of the Channel process.

Safer Recruitment

We ensure that the staff we appoint to the school are suitable, our recruitment procedures are rigorous and we follow the statutory guidance published in part 3 of Keeping Children Safe in Education (2021). Vetting and barring checks are undertaken on relevant people, including governors and volunteers.

Visitors

Visitors to the school are made aware of our safeguarding and child protection policies on arrival at the school and are given information about what to do if they are concerned about any aspect of child welfare. Visitors who are invited to speak to pupils will be informed about our Preventing Extremism and Radicalisation policy and relevant vetting checks are undertaken. We undertake due diligence to ensure that visiting speakers are appropriate. Speakers will be supervised at all times and will not be allowed to speak to children with a member of staff being present. Staff must not invite speakers into school without first obtaining permission from the head teacher.

'No platform for extremists'

The school is vigilant to the possibility that out-of-hours hire of the school premises may be requested by people wishing to run an extremist event. The school does not accept bookings from

individuals or organisations that are extremist in their views.

Signs of vulnerability

There are no known definitive indicators that a young person is vulnerable to extremism and radicalisation, but there are number of signs that together increase the risk. Signs of vulnerability include:

- underachievement
- being in possession of extremist literature
- poverty
- social exclusion
- traumatic events
- global or national events
- religious conversion
- change in behaviour
- extremist influences
- conflict with family over lifestyle
- confused identify
- victim or witness to race or hate crimes
- ejection by peers, family, social groups or faith

Recognising Extremism

Early indicators of extremism and radicalisation may include:

- showing sympathy for extremist causes
- glorifying violence, especially to other faiths or cultures
- making remarks or comments about being at extremist events or rallies outside school
- evidence of possessing illegal or extremist literature
- advocating messages similar to illegal organisations or other extremist groups
- 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)
- secretive behaviour
- online searches or sharing extremist messages or social profiles
- intolerance of difference, including faith, culture, gender, race or sexuality
- graffiti, art work or writing that displays extremist themes
- attempts to impose extremist views or practices on others
- verbalising anti-Western or anti-British views
- advocating violence towards others

Referral Process

Staff and visitors to the school must refer all concerns about children and young people who show signs of vulnerability or extremism and radicalisation to the DSL using the usual methods for reporting other safeguarding concerns. When there are significant concerns about a pupil, the DSL in liaison with the Head teacher will make a referral to the local authority using the Prevent referral form (Appendix A).

Staff can also contact their local police force or dial 101 (the non-emergency number). They can talk in confidence about concerns and help gain access to support and advice. Staff should not be worried that they will get a child into trouble by doing this. If the child has not committed a criminal offence, the police and local authority will discuss any concerns, suggest how they can best protect the child, and help you gain access to support and advice.

The local authority or police might suggest a referral to the Channel programme. Channel is a voluntary government-funded programme which aims to safeguard children and adults from being drawn into terrorist activity. Channel can provide a support plan and specific interventions to protect people at risk, including mentoring support or an ideological or theological intervention.

The Department for Education also has a counter-extremism helpline which staff can call for advice on 020 7340 7264.

If staff think someone is in immediate danger; may be planning to travel to join an extremist group, either alone or as part of a family unit or friendship group; or if they hear something that may be terrorist related, they should call 999 or the confidential Anti-Terrorist Hotline on 0800 789 321.

Monitoring and Review

This policy will be reviewed every three years, or prior if any significant changes and will be monitored by the governing body by report from the Head teacher. The Head teacher and DSL will review the Radicalisation and Extremism Risk Assessment within the annual review of the Safeguarding policy.

Appendix A

**East Midlands
Prevent Referral Form**

Information will be kept secure and confidential and will only be disclosed to those parties who have a legal and legitimate need to know.

<u>Please complete the below details and email this form to:</u> emsou-sb-leics@leicestershire.pnn.police.uk		This will be dealt with by individual Police Force Prevent Teams.	
<i>Please complete to the best of your knowledge. Leave blank if unknown.</i>			
<u>Your details:</u>			
Surname		D.O.B	
Forenames		Relationship to individual	
Contact no.			
email			
Professional role (if applicable)			
Address			

<u>Individuals details and summary of concerns:</u>			
<i>Please include as much detail as possible.</i>			
Surname		D.O.B	
Forenames		Gender	
Contact no.			
email			
Social Media Username			
Ethnicity		Nationality	
		Place of Birth	

Address			
Languages Spoken		English spoken?	
School or Educational Establishment			
Occupation			
Occupation Address			
Is the person aware of the referral?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>		
Has anyone been consulted about this referral (safeguarding agency etc.)?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>		
If yes please give details			
Additional Info			

<u>Summary of Concerns</u>	
Framed around Engagement, Intent and Capability	

Version	Date	Comment
V2	Date created: 25.5.2022 Review date: May 2025	A Gordon