

Preventing Radicalisation Policy



Bishop Road Primary School

Adopted by: Chair of Teaching & Learning Committee

Adopted: January 2020

Review: November 2021

This policy has been written with consideration of with the following school policies:

Safeguarding Policy, Behaviour Policy, Data Protection Policy, Lettings Policy, Whistle Blowing Policy, Staff Code of Conduct, Spiritual, Moral, Social, Cultural (SMSC) Policy, SEND Policy, E- safety Policy and the school Equalities Plan

Background

This 'Preventing 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 Bishop Road we ensure that through our school vision, values, rules, 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 students' welfare.

We have a duty to prepare our children for life in modern Britain and to keep them safe. Pupils who attend our school have the right to learn in safety. We do not tolerate bullying of any kind and will challenge derogatory language and behaviour towards others.

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 (2019)
- Prevent Duty Guidance (2015)
- Working Together to Safeguard Children (2018)

Non-statutory Guidance

- Promoting fundamental British values as part of SMSC in schools: Departmental advice for maintained schools (DfE 2014)

Definitions

Extremism is defined in the 2011 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.

Radicalisation refers to the process by which a person comes to support terrorism and extremist ideologies associated with terrorist groups.

British Values are democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs.

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 radicalisation.

The governing body has a nominated person (the Safeguarding Governor) who will liaise with the Head Teacher and other staff about issues to do with protecting children from 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 radicalisation on a day-to-day basis,
- ensure that the school's curriculum addresses the issues involved in radicalisation
- ensure that staff conduct is consistent with preventing radicalisation

Role of Designated Safeguarding Lead

It is the role of the designated safeguarding lead to:

- ensure that staff understand the issues of 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 radicalisation or are showing signs of radicalisation
- make referrals to appropriate agencies with regard to concerns about 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 radicalisation, are able to recognise the signs of vulnerability or radicalisation and know how to refer their concerns.

Curriculum

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 be inquisitive learners who are open to new experiences and are tolerant of others.

Through our core commitment to SMSC and PSHE we develop and nurture a culture of understanding and acceptance, encouraging all pupils to recognise the values which unite us and bring harmony and strength to our community. We have central school messages that focus on accepting and valuing one another and learning to be people that contribute to the world. These are achieved through key stage and class assemblies, school value of the month, picture book discussions and circle time. These values and broader aspects of the British Values appear in other areas of the wider curriculum and are also explored and given prominence as appropriate in History, Geography and RE.

Our school approach supports the development of the whole child as a reflective learner within a calm, caring, happy and purposeful atmosphere. Teaching the schools 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.

Internet 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.

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

Pupils and staff know how to report internet content that is inappropriate or of concern.

Staff Training

Staff will be given training to help them understand the issues of radicalisation, are able to recognise the signs of vulnerability or radicalisation and know how to refer their concerns.

This information also forms part of induction safeguarding training and is included in the annual 'Staying Safe' document signed by all staff. Staff are updated of any safeguarding developments as necessary in regular staff meetings.

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 Keeping Children Safe in Education 2019. Vetting and barring checks are undertaken on relevant people, including governors and volunteers.

Visitors

Visitors to the school are made aware of our safeguarding policy 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 policy and relevant vetting checks are undertaken. We ensure that visiting speakers are appropriate and are supervised at all times. Speakers are not allowed to speak to children without a member of staff being present. Staff obtaining permission from the Head Teacher or Deputy Head prior to inviting speakers into school.

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 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
- rejection by peers, family, social groups or faith

Recognising Extremism

Early indicators of radicalisation or extremism may include:

- showing sympathy for extremist causes
- glorifying violence, especially to other faiths or cultures
- making remarks or comments about being at extremist events/rallies
- 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 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 radicalisation must be passed to the Designated Safeguarding Lead using the usual methods for reporting other safeguarding concerns (Cause for Concern Tracking Form/ report directly onto school safeguarding monitoring system).

When there are significant concerns about a pupil, the Designated Safeguarding Lead in liaison with the Head Teacher will make a referral to the appropriate body.

Monitoring and Review

This policy will be monitored by the Designated Safeguarding Governor as part of the annual audit process (Spring Term LA Audit).

This is not a statutory policy and will be reviewed at an appropriate time not later than two years after ratification by the governing body.