



Inspiring Primaries Academy Trust

Policy for Preventing Extremism (M9)

The Board of Trustees adopted this policy on: 04 March 2021

To be reviewed: Spring 2024 or earlier if required

Introduction

Our Trust is committed to providing secure environments for pupils, where children feel safe and are kept safe. All adults employed or volunteering at our Trust schools recognise that safeguarding is everyone's responsibility irrespective of the role they undertake or whether their role has direct contact or responsibility for children or not. This policy is one element within our overall Trust arrangements to Safeguard and Promote the Welfare of all Children in line with our statutory duties set out at s175 of the Education Act 2002 (s157 of the Education Act 2002).

Safeguarding pupils who are vulnerable to extremism and radicalisation

Our Trust recognises the duties placed on us by the Counter Terrorism Bill (February 2015) to prevent our pupils being drawn into terrorism. These include:

- Assessing the risk of pupils being drawn into terrorism.
- Working in partnership with relevant agencies as Safeguarding Partners.
- Appropriate staff training.
- Appropriate online filtering.

Our Trust schools are committed to actively promoting the fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs. Children are encouraged to develop and demonstrate skills and attitudes that will allow them to participate fully in and contribute positively to life in modern Britain.

Our Trust uses the following accepted government definition of extremism which 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*'.

There is no place for extremist views of any kind in our schools, whether from internal sources – children, staff, volunteers, governors or trustees - or external sources - school community, external agencies or individuals.

Our pupils see our schools as safe places where they can explore controversial issues safely and where our teachers encourage and facilitate this – we have a duty to ensure this happens. As a Trust we recognise that extremism and exposure to extremist materials and influences can lead to poor outcomes for children and so should be addressed as a safeguarding concern as set out in this policy. We also recognise that if we fail to challenge extremist views we are failing to protect our pupils. Extremists of all persuasions aim to develop destructive relationships between different communities by promoting division, fear and mistrust of others based on ignorance or prejudice and thereby limiting the life chances of young people. Education is a powerful weapon against this; equipping young people with the knowledge, skills and critical thinking, to challenge and debate in an informed way. Therefore, our schools will provide a broad and balanced curriculum, delivered by skilled professionals, so that our pupils are enriched, understand and become tolerant of difference and diversity and also to ensure that they thrive, feel valued and not marginalized. Furthermore, we are aware that young people can be exposed to extremist influences or prejudiced views from an early age which emanate from a variety of sources and media, including via the internet, and at times pupils may themselves reflect or display views that may be discriminatory, prejudiced

or extremist, including using derogatory language. 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 behaviour policies, staff policies and codes of conduct. Where misconduct by a teacher is proven, the matter will be referred for consideration as to whether a Prohibition Order is warranted.

As part of wider safeguarding responsibilities school staff will be alert to:

- Disclosures by pupils of their exposure to the extremist actions, views or materials of others outside of school, such as in their homes or community groups, especially where pupils have not actively sought these out.
- Graffiti symbols, writing or art work promoting extremist messages or images.
- Pupils accessing extremist material online, including through social networking sites.
- Parental reports of changes in behaviour, friendship or actions and requests for assistance.
- Partner schools, local authority services, and police reports of issues affecting pupils in other schools or settings.
- Pupils voicing opinions drawn from extremist ideologies and narratives.
- Use of extremist or 'hate' terms to exclude others or incite violence.
- Intolerance of difference, whether secular or religious or, in line with our equalities policy, views based on, but not exclusive to, gender, disability, homophobia, race, colour or culture.
- Attempts to impose extremist views or practices on others.

Teaching approaches

We will all strive to eradicate the myths and assumptions that can lead to some young people becoming alienated and disempowered, especially where the narrow approaches children may experience elsewhere may make it harder for them to challenge or question these radical influences. In our schools this will be achieved by good teaching, primarily via Personal, Social, Health and Relationships Education. We will ensure that all of our teaching approaches help our pupils build resilience to extremism and give pupils a positive sense of identity through the development of critical thinking skills. We will ensure that all of our staff are equipped to recognise extremism and are skilled and confident enough to challenge it.

The 'Route to Resilience' is embedded within the ethos of our schools so that pupils know and understand what safe and acceptable behaviour is, including in the context of extremism and radicalisation. This will work in conjunction with our schools' approaches to the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils and will include the use of assemblies to help further promote this rounded development of our pupils. Our goal is to build mutual respect and understanding and to promote the use of dialogue not violence as a form of conflict resolution.

We will also work with local partners, families and communities in our efforts to ensure our schools understand and embrace our local contexts and values in challenging extremist views and to assist in the broadening of our pupils' experiences and horizons. We will help support pupils who may be vulnerable to such influences as part of our wider safeguarding responsibilities and where we believe a pupil is being directly affected by extremist materials or influences we will ensure that that pupil is offered mentoring. Additionally in such instances our school will seek external support from working to prevent extremism.

We encourage the use of external agencies or speakers to enrich the experiences of our pupils, however we will positively vet those external agencies, individuals or speakers who we engage to provide such learning opportunities or experiences for our pupils. We will ensure that:

- Any messages communicated to pupils are consistent with the values of the Trust and ethos of the school and do not marginalise any communities, groups or individuals.
- Any messages do not seek to glorify criminal activity or violent extremism or seek to radicalise pupils through extreme or narrow views of faith, religion or culture or other ideologies.
- Activities are properly embedded in the curriculum and clearly mapped to schemes of work to avoid contradictory messages or duplication.
- Activities are matched to the needs of pupils.
- Activities are carefully evaluated by schools to ensure that they are effective.

We recognise, however, the importance of encouraging pupils to understand opposing views and ideologies, appropriate to their age, understanding and abilities, and to be able to actively engage with them in informed debate, and we may use external agencies or speakers to facilitate and support this.

Therefore by delivering a broad and balanced curriculum, augmented by the use of external sources where appropriate, we will strive to ensure our pupils recognise risk and build resilience to manage any such risk themselves where appropriate to their age and ability but also to help pupils develop the critical thinking skills needed to engage in informed debate.

Reporting concerns

Where there are concerns of extremism or radicalisation, pupils and staff will be encouraged to make use of our internal systems to raise and report concerns in confidence as soon as possible. Concerns should be raised in writing, as per our child protection procedures, with a Designated Senior Leader (DSL). Prevent referrals can be made using the contact details below.

Safer recruitment

The arrangements for recruiting all staff, permanent and volunteers, to our schools will follow the guidance for safer recruitment best practice in education settings, including, but not limited to, ensuring that DBS checks are always made at the appropriate level, that references are always received and checked and that we complete and maintain a single central record of such vetting checks. We will apply safer recruitment best practice principles and sound employment practice in general and in doing so will deny opportunities for inappropriate recruitment or advancement. We will be alert to the possibility that persons may seek to gain positions within our Trust so as to unduly influence our schools' characters and ethos. We are aware that such persons seek to limit the opportunities for our pupils thereby rendering them vulnerable to extremist views and radicalisation as a consequence. Therefore, by adhering to safer recruitment best practice techniques and by ensuring that there is an ongoing culture of vigilance within our schools, we will minimise the opportunities for extremist views to prevail.

Staff training

Safeguarding and child protection training is delivered annually to all staff and as part of induction procedures. Additionally DSLs attend full training every two years. All safeguarding and child protection training will, in part, include training on extremism and radicalisation and its safeguarding implications.

On-line training is available on <https://www.elearning.prevent.homeoffice.gov.uk/> and http://course.ncalt.com/Channel_General_Awareness/01/index.html

Role of the local governing body and trust board

The local governing bodies of our schools will undertake appropriate training to ensure that they are clear about their role and the parameters of their responsibilities as governors. They will support the values of our Trust and will support their school in tackling extremism and radicalisation. The trust board will challenge each school's leadership on the delivery of this policy as part of the annual safeguarding audit. The trust board will review this policy every three years and may amend and adopt it outside of this timeframe in accordance with any new legislation or guidance or in response to any quality assurance recommendations pertaining to the delivery of this policy and the overall safeguarding arrangements made.

CONTACTS

Sean Arbuthnot is Leicester's Prevent Coordinator, based at the St Philip's Centre in Evington. He reports to the Home Office and to the Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Prevent Steering Group.

<http://www.stphilipscentre.co.uk/community/prevent/>

Email: prevent@stphilipscentre.co.uk ; preventengagement.team@leicestershirepnn.police.uk

Telephone: 07403 727727 101 Ext Prevent Engagement Team or 0116 248 6726

To refer a young person to the LCSB -

http://llrscb.proceduresonline.com/chapters/p_viol_extrem.html#referral

To refer an adult to the LCSB - <http://www.llradultsafeguarding.co.uk/contact/local-contacts/>

For other local authorities, use the referral details found on the relevant LCSB.

Additionally, if radicalisation is a factor of concerns, an individual can be referred to the Channel Panel, a multi-agency partnership which arranges support for people at risk of radicalisation. Channel is a national programme which offers help and guidance to people who may be at risk of becoming involved in extremism. Like child protection, Channel is a multi-agency safeguarding programme run in every Local Authority in England and Wales. It is about early intervention to protect vulnerable people from being drawn into committing extremist-related activity and addresses all types of extremism.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/channel-guidance> Participation in Channel is voluntary. It is up to an individual, or their parents for children aged 17 and under, to decide whether to take up the support it offers. Channel does not lead to a criminal record. Leicestershire's Channel Panel meetings are held on a monthly basis.

RESOURCES

http://www.preventforschools.org/index.php?category_id=62

The NSPCC has launched a free 24-hour service to support adults who have concerns about children and young people being radicalised or who need advice on how to talk to their children about issues related to terrorism. NSPCC helpline practitioners have been trained to spot the warning signs of radicalisation so they can advise adults who are worried about a child being groomed. Call the NSPCC helpline on 0808 800 5000.