



# **Katherine Warrington School**

## **Preventing Radicalisation Policy - October 2023**

**Approved - 4th October 2023**

### **Education Committee**

#### **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 students 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 Katherine Warrington School we ensure that through our school vision, values, behaviour policy, diverse curriculum and teaching we promote respect for people of all cultures, faiths and lifestyles. The governing body also ensures that this ethos is reflected and implemented effectively in school policy and practice in order to safeguard and promote students' welfare. We have a duty to prepare our children for life in modern Britain and to keep them safe. Students 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. We promote and develop students' communication and critical thinking skills to aid debate, consider a plurality of views, challenge extremist narratives and prejudices and promote universal rights. These skills are also used to consider drug use, sexual exploitation, gender discrimination and other spiritual, moral, cultural and social issues.

## **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 (2020)
- Prevent Duty Guidance (2015)
- Working Together to Safeguard Children (2015)

## **Non-statutory Guidance**

- Improving the spiritual, moral, social and cultural (SMSC) development of pupils: supplementary information (DfE 2014)

## **Related Policies**

- Acceptable Use (ICT) Policy
- Student Discipline (Behaviour for Learning) Policy
- Child Protection Policy
- Single Equality Scheme
- Lettings Policy
- Staff Code of Conduct
- Curriculum policy
- Whistle-blowing Policy
- Safer recruitment Policy

## **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 who will liaise with the Headteacher and other staff about issues to do with protecting children from radicalisation.

The named trustee is Mrs. Sally Pearson

### **Role of the Headteacher**

It is the role of the Headteacher 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 for Child Protection**

**Our DSL and Lead staff member for PREVENT is Mrs Grace Aikman.**

It is the role of the designated senior person for child protection 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 students are offered a broad and balanced curriculum

### **We aim to:**

- teach material which emphasises the strengths and weaknesses of democracy in contrast to other forms of government in other countries and how democracy works in Britain
- ensure that all learners within the school are consulted on a regular basis on their safety and well-being
- ensure staff have high levels of safeguarding training
- have high expectations for all of our students in terms of behaviour and progress
- develop softer skills through our enrichment programme
- use teaching resources from a wide variety of sources to help learners to understand a wide range of faiths and beliefs
- explore and promote diversity and shared values between communities

These values support the development of the whole child as a reflective learner 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.

## **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, including extremist content.

Searches and web addresses are monitored and the IT technicians will alert senior staff where there are concerns and prevent further access when new sites that are unblocked are found.

Where staff, students or visitors find unblocked extremist content they must report it to a senior member of staff.

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

The ICT Acceptable Use Policy refers to preventing radicalisation and related extremist content. Students and staff are asked to confirm they have read and understood the ICT Acceptable Use Policy by electronically agreeing to it on a termly basis.

Students 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. Staff are updated as necessary.

## **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 (2023)*. Vetting and barring checks are undertaken on relevant people, including governors and volunteers.

## **Risk reduction**

The school governors, the Headteacher and the designated senior person will assess the level of risk within the school and put actions in place to reduce that risk. Risk assessment may include consideration of the school's RE curriculum, SEND policy, assembly content, E Safety policy, visiting speakers, the use of school premises by external agencies, anti-bullying policy and other issues specific to the school's profile, community and philosophy.

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 students will be informed about our preventing extremism policy. 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 without a member of staff being present.

Staff must not invite speakers into school without first obtaining permission from the Headteacher or delegated persons

## **'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 knowingly 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 identity
- 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 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

We also acknowledge that there may be occasions where extreme behavior is exhibited without warning. It is important that staff know the students they teach and through effective systems in school are able to convey any concerns about a child to either parents or relevant staff in school.

## **Referral Process**

Staff and visitors to the school must refer all concerns about children and young people who show signs of vulnerability or radicalisation to the Designated Senior Person for Safeguarding using the usual methods for reporting other safeguarding concerns.

***DSL: Mrs Grace Aikman***

***Deputy DSLs: Mr David Martin, Mr Garry Jones, Mr James Ellershaw, Miss Jo Bifulco, Mr Christopher Laing***

***Link governor for Safeguarding: Mrs Sally Pearson***

When there are significant concerns about a student the DSL in liaison with the Headteacher may decide to make a Prevent referral. Katherine Warington School may choose to gain advice or information from the Local Authority as part of this decision process.

**HCC Prevent Programme Manager: Sophie Lawrence**  
**([sophie.lawrence@hertfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:sophie.lawrence@hertfordshire.gov.uk))**

**Hertfordshire Children's Services: 0300 123 4043**

Signed (Headteacher)

Signed (Chair of Governors)

Date