



Preventing Radicalisation Policy

2021

Background

This 'Preventing Radicalisation Policy' is part of our commitment to keeping children safe. 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.

Since the 'Education and Inspections Act 2006' schools have a duty to promote community cohesion. 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. Section 26 of the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 places a duty on all schools to have due regard to "the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism". This duty is known as the Prevent Duty. Paragraphs 57-76 of the act are concerned specifically with schools and childcare providers.

The key aim of Prevent is to stop people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism or violent extremism. A child or young person may be vulnerable to radicalisation or violent extremism.

Prevent is part of Contest (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/counter-terrorism-strategy-contest-2018>), the government's strategy to address terrorism.

Channel is the name for the process of identifying and referring a person for early intervention and support – the word refers to channelling a person through the process.

Definitions

The UK's definition of **extremism** in their Prevent guidance 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. We also include in our definition of extremism calls for the death of members of the armed forces."

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.

Ethos

At Highfield and Brookham Schools 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 Directors 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.

Risk assessment

Schools and childcare providers are expected to assess the risk of children being drawn into terrorism, including support for extremist ideas that are part of terrorist ideology. This should be based on an understanding, shared with partners of the potential risk in the local area.

The school has carefully considered the Prevent guidance provided by the Sussex Prevent board, and has consequently deemed the risk to our pupils to be low. The school is aware that some of our boarders will live in home areas that have different risks and will be mindful of this.

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 – updated April 2021)
- Keeping Children Safe in Education (September 2021)
- Prevent Duty Guidance (2015)
- Working Together to Safeguard Children (2018)

Non-statutory Guidance

- Improving the spiritual, moral, social and cultural (SMSC) development of pupils: supplementary information (DfE 2014)
- Promoting fundamental British values as part of SMSC in schools: Departmental advice for maintained schools (DfE 2014)

Related Policies

- IT Acceptable Use Policy (AUP)
- Behaviour Policy
- Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy and Procedures
- Equal Opportunities Policy
- Personal, Social And Health Education (PSHE) Policy
- Spiritual, Moral, Social, Cultural (SMSC) Policy
- Staff Code of Conduct
- Teaching and Learning Policy
- Whistleblowing Policy

Roles and Responsibilities

Role of the Directors

It is the role of the Directors to ensure that the schools meet their statutory duties with regard to preventing radicalisation.

The Directors have a nominated person, **Charlotte Lumsden**, who will work alongside the schools' Prevent Lead and safeguarding team about issues to do with protecting children from radicalisation.

Role of the Heads

It is the role of the Heads 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 Prevent Lead – Andy Baker

It is the role of the Designated Prevent 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 alongside the DSL with regard to concerns about radicalisation
- liaise with partners, including the local authority and the police
- report to the Directors on these matters

Role of Staff

It is the role of staff to understand the issues of radicalisation, to be 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. These values support 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 schools blocks inappropriate content, including extremist content.

We also filter out social media, such as Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat. Searches and web addresses are monitored, with instant notifications to the DSL, IT Manager and Head of ICT when any attempt is made to access blocked sites. The IT Manager will alert senior staff where there are concerns and prevent further access when new sites that are unblocked are found.

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

We are aware that children and young people will have access to unfiltered internet when using their mobile phones out of school. This has been brought to the attention of all parents through our communication with them and iPad Familiarisation Training for parents. Parents are reminded of the need for vigilance when their children are using their phones out of school.

The IT Acceptable Use Policy (AUP) refers to preventing radicalisation and related extremist content. Pupils sign the AUP annually to confirm they have understood what is acceptable and staff sign when they join.

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. **All staff** will also complete Prevent training via the ihasco online training provider as well as an online test on general awareness of the Prevent Duty.

This information also forms part of induction safeguarding training. Staff are updated as necessary in regular safeguarding briefings.

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 (September 2021)*. Vetting and barring checks are undertaken on relevant people, including directors 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 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 without a member of staff being present.

Staff must not invite speakers into school without first obtaining permission from their Head and seeking appraisals/recommendations from similar institutions who may have invited the speaker previously.

Parents

Where necessary and appropriate, the school engages openly with parents about issues relating to preventing radicalisation.

'No platform for extremists'

The school would never provide a platform for individuals or organisations that are extremist in their views and would not accept bookings, e.g. for the astroturf or swimming pool, 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/identified SEND
- 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 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 views that do not reflect fundamental British values
- 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.

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

Sussex Police Prevent Team

Tony Cook

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Local Channel Panel Chairs for West Sussex

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Monitoring and Review

This policy will be monitored by the Directors at least annually by receiving a report from the Designated Safeguarding Lead/Prevent Lead.

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

Reviewed by Safeguarding Team: (ADJB/AK/EG/OS): April 2021

Reviewed & amended: ADJB: September 2021