

Preventing Radicalisation Policy

This Policy was adopted by:

The Directors of the Primary Academies Trust

On 16th December 2015

Signed by..........Chair of Directors

Review Date Signed

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Linked Policies: Child Protection Policy; E-Safety Policy; Acceptable User Policy; Behaviour Policy; Equality Policy; Visitors Policy; Whistle-blowing Policy.

Preventing Radicalisation Policy

1. Rationale

All schools within the Primary Academies Trust are committed to providing a full and effective educational experience for all students. We are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expect all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. We believe that if students are to benefit from education, good attendance is crucial. Irregular attendance undermines the educational process and can lead to educational and social disadvantage. As a Trust we do all that we can to ensure maximum attendance for all students. Any problems that prevent full attendance will be identified and addressed as speedily as possible in line with procedures agreed by the local governing bodies.

2. Background

2.1 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.

2.2 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.

2.3 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.

3. Ethos

3.1 At the schools within The Primary Academies Trust we ensure that through our schools' vision, values, rules, diverse curriculum and teaching we promote tolerance and respect for all cultures, faiths and lifestyles.

3.2 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.

3.3 Children who attend our schools have the right to learn in safety. We do not tolerate bullying of any kind and will challenge derogatory language and behaviour towards others.

4. 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)

5. Definitions

5.1 **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.

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

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

6. Roles and Responsibilities

6.1 Role of the Governing Body

It is the role of the governing body of The Primary Academies Trust to ensure that its schools meets its statutory duties with regard to preventing radicalisation. Each local governing body has a Named Safeguarding Governor who will liaise with the Head of School and other staff about issues to do with protecting children from radicalisation.

6.2 Role of the Heads of School

It is the role of the Head of School 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

6.3 Role of Designated Safeguarding Lead

It is the role of the designated safeguarding lead within each school 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

6.4 Role of staff

It is the role of staff within schools to understand the issues of radicalisation, are able to recognise the signs of vulnerability or radicalisation and know how to refer their concerns.

7. Curriculum

7.1 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.

7.2 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.

8. Online Safety

8.1 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.

8.2 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.

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

8.4 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 pupils are using their phones.

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

9. 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 in weekly staff meetings.

10. 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 (2015). Vetting and barring checks are undertaken on relevant people, including governors and volunteers.

11. Visitors

11.1 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.

11.2 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 with a member of staff being present.

11.3 Staff must not invite speakers into school without first obtaining permission from the Head of School.

12. '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.

13. 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

14. 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
- advocating violence towards others

15. Referral Process

15.1 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.

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

16. Monitoring and Review

16.1 This policy will be monitored by the governing body, the Board of Directors of The Primary Academies Trust, at least annually.

16.2 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.

