

Peel Hall Primary School

Tackling Extremism and Preventing Radicalisation Policy

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.

Policy Statement

Peel Hall Primary School is fully committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all its pupils. Every member of staff recognises that safeguarding against radicalisation and extremism is no different to safeguarding against any other vulnerability in today's society. The Tackling Extremism and Preventing Radicalisation Policy sets out our beliefs, strategies and procedures to protect vulnerable individuals from being radicalised or exposed to extremist views, by identifying who they are and promptly providing them with support.

We recognise that we are well placed to be able to identify safeguarding issues and this policy clearly sets out how the school will deal with such incidents and identifies how the curriculum and ethos underpins our actions.

Ethos

At Peel Hall Primary School 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 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 pupils' welfare.

We have a duty to prepare our pupils 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)

Related Policies

- Acceptable Use / E-Safety Policy
- Anti-Bullying Policy
- Attendance and Punctuality Policy
- Behaviour Policy
- Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy
- Equality Policy
- Health and Safety Policy
- Health and Safety Summary for Visitors
- Lettings' Policy
- Personal, Social And Health Education (PSHE) Policy
- Racial Equality Policy

- Safer Recruitment Policy
- Teaching and Learning Policy
- Whistle-blowing 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. This could involve a person having their vulnerabilities or susceptibilities exploited towards terrorism or crime, most often by a third party with their own agenda.

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.

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

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, be able to recognise the signs of vulnerability or radicalisation and know how to refer their concerns.

Procedures for Referrals

Although serious incidents involving radicalisation have not occurred at Peel Hall Primary School to date, it is important for us to be constantly vigilant and remain fully informed about the issues which affect the local area, city and society in which we teach. Staff are to be reminded to suspend any 'professional disbelief' that instances of radicalisation 'could not happen here' and to be 'professionally inquisitive' where concerns arise, referring any concerns through the appropriate channels. (see Appendix 1 - Dealing with referrals)

At Peel Hall Primary School we believe that it is possible to intervene to protect people who are vulnerable. Early intervention is vital and staff must be aware of the established processes for front line professionals to refer concerns about individuals and/or groups. We must have the confidence to challenge, the confidence to intervene and ensure that we have strong safeguarding practices based on the most up-to-date guidance and best practice.

The Headteacher and Designated Safeguarding Lead will discuss the most appropriate course of action on a case-by-case basis and will decide when a referral to external agencies is needed. (see Appendix 1 - Dealing with referrals)

As with any Child Protection referral, staff must be made aware that if they do not agree with a decision not to refer, they can make the referral themselves and will be given the contact details to do this from the school office.

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. It promotes respect, tolerance and diversity. We encourage our pupils to be inquisitive learners who are open to new experiences and are tolerant of others. Pupils are encouraged to share their views and recognise that they are entitled to have their own different beliefs which should not be used to influence 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.

Our PSHE provision is embedded across the curriculum, it directs our assemblies and underpins the ethos of the school. It is recognised that children with low aspirations are more vulnerable to radicalisation and therefore we strive to equip our pupils with confidence, self-belief, respect and tolerance as well as setting high standards and expectations for themselves.

Pupils are regularly taught about how to stay safe when using the Internet and are encouraged to recognise that people are not always who they say they are online. They are taught to seek adult help if they are upset or concerned about anything they read or see on the internet.

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.

We also filter out social media, such as Facebook. Searches and web addresses are monitored and the ICT 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 pupils are using their phones.

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

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, be 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 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 (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 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 the Headteacher.

'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.

Signs of vulnerability

There are no known definitive indicators that a young person is vulnerable to radicalisation, but there are a 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 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
- 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
- use of extremist language

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 Headteacher will make a referral to the appropriate body.

Monitoring and Review

This policy will be monitored by the Governing Body at least annually by receiving a report from the Designated Safeguarding Lead.

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.

Signed (Headteacher) - **M.D.Hallam**

Signed (Chair of Governors) - **CLLr H.Barrett**

Appendix 1 - Dealing with Referrals

We are aware of the potential indicating factors that a child is vulnerable to being radicalised or exposed to extreme views, including peer pressure, influence from other people or the Internet, bullying, crime and anti-social behaviour, family tensions, race/hate crime, lack of self-esteem or identify, prejudicial behaviour and personal or political grievances.

In the event of prejudicial behaviour the following system will be followed;

- All incidents of prejudicial behaviour will be reported to the Headteacher, the Designated Safeguarding Lead or another member of the SLT in their absence.
- All incidents will be fully investigated and recorded in line with our Behaviour Policy and Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy and records will be kept in line with procedures for any other safeguarding incident.
- Parents/carers will be contacted and the incident discussed in detail, aiming to identify motivating factors, any changes in circumstances at home, parental views of the incident and to assess whether the incident is serious enough to warrant a further referral. A record of this meeting is to be kept alongside the initial referral in the Safeguarding file.
- The SLT follow-up any referrals for a period of four weeks after the incident to assess whether there is a change in behaviour and/or attitude. A further meeting with parents/carers would be held if there is not a significant positive change in behaviour.
- If deemed necessary, serious incident will be discussed and referred to Channel or to Manchester Children's Services on 0161 219 2889.
- In the event of a referral relating to a serious concern about political radicalisation or extremism, the school will contact the GMP Prevent Engagement Team on 0161 856 6345, email address: CT.Awareness@gmp.pnn.police.uk or North West Police Counter Terrorism Unit (NW CPU) on 0800 789 321.