



Prevent Policy

2022

Policy Leader / DSL / DHT	Lisa Gaskell
Prevent Governor /Chair of Governors	Patricia Jones
Last Updated	September 2022
To be approved by the Governing Body	Autumn 2022
Date of Review	September 2023

Penwortham Primary School is fully committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all its pupils. Exposure of children/young people to extremist ideologies can hinder their social development and educational attainment alongside posing a very real risk that they could support or partake in an act of violence. Every member of staff recognises that safeguarding against radicalisation and extremism is no different to safeguarding against any other vulnerability in today's society.

This 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.

AIMS AND PRINCIPLES

This policy is intended to provide a framework for dealing with issues relating to vulnerability, radicalisation and exposure to extreme views. 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. The objectives are that:

- All governors, teachers, teaching assistants and non-teaching staff will understand what radicalisation and extremism is and why we need to be vigilant in school.
- All governors, teachers, teaching assistants and non-teaching staff will know what the school policy is on tackling extremism and radicalisation and will follow the policy guidance swiftly when issues arise.
- All pupils will understand the dangers of radicalisation and exposure to extremist views; building resilience against these and knowing what to do if they experience them.
- All parents/carers and pupils will know that the school has policies in place to keep pupils safe from harm and that the school regularly reviews its systems to ensure they are appropriate and effective.

The main aims of this policy are to ensure that staff are fully engaged in being vigilant about radicalisation; that they overcome professional disbelief that such issues will not happen here and ensure that we work alongside other professional bodies and agencies to ensure that our pupils are safe from harm.

DEFINITIONS AND INDICATORS

Extremism is the vocal or active opposition to our fundamental values, including democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and the mutual respect and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs. We also regard calls for the death of members of our Armed forces as extremist.

Source: Counter Extremism Strategy – October 2015

Terrorism is defined as action designed to influence the government, intimidate the public. Its purpose is to advance a political, religious or ideological cause, that endangers or causes serious violence or harm to people, property, or seriously disrupts or interferes with an electronic system.

Source: Terrorism Act 2006

Since the publication of the 'Prevent Strategy', there has been an awareness of the specific need to safeguard children, young people and families from violent extremism. There have attempts to radicalise vulnerable children and young people to hold extreme views including views justifying political, religious, sexist or racist violence, or to steer them into a narrow and rigid ideology that is intolerant of diversity and leaves them vulnerable to future radicalisation. Children and young people should be protected from messages of all violent extremism.

'Prevent' in the context of counter terrorism is intervention before any criminal offence has been committed and is with the intention of preventing individuals or groups from committing crimes.

There are a number of behaviours which may indicate a child is at risk of being radicalised or exposed to extreme views. These include:

- Spending increasing time in the company of other suspected extremists.
- Changing their style of dress or personal appearance to accord with the group.
- Day-to-day behaviour becoming increasingly centred on an extremist ideology, group or cause.
- Loss of interest in other friends and activities not associated with the extremist ideology, group or cause.
- Possession of materials or symbols associated with an extremist cause.
- Attempts to recruit others to the group/cause.
- Communications with others that suggests identification with a group, cause or ideology.
- Using insulting to derogatory names for another group.
- Increase in prejudice-related incidents committed by that person – these may include:
 - physical or verbal assault
 - provocative behaviour
 - damage to property
 - derogatory name calling
 - possession of prejudice-related materials
 - prejudice related ridicule or name calling
 - inappropriate forms of address
 - refusal to co-operate
 - attempts to recruit to prejudice-related organisations
 - condoning or supporting violence towards others.

PROCEDURES FOR REFERRALS

Staff are 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. We believe that it is possible to intervene to protect people who are vulnerable. Early intervention is vital and staff are 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 practise. At Penwortham Primary School the Deputy Headteacher is trained as the Designated Senior Lead for Child Protection and Safeguarding (DSL) and is supported by two further back up DSLs who have been fully trained. They will deal swiftly with any referrals made by staff or with concerns reported by staff. The Head Teacher and DSLs 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). In the unlikely event that the Head Teacher and DSLs are not available, all staff know the channels by which to make referrals and have the support of a DSL at Broad Oak Primary School. Staff will be fully briefed about what to do if they are concerned about the possibility of radicalisation relating to a pupil, or if they need to discuss specific children whom they consider to be vulnerable to radicalisation or extremist views. The DSL will work in conjunction with the Head Teacher, the Learning Mentor and external agencies to decide the best course of action to address concerns which arise.

THE ROLE OF THE CURRICULUM

Identifying those children/young people who may be at risk is difficult, Children/young people today have open and unrestricted access to extensive information so we need to teach skills of critical thinking, and questioning the validity of sources.

We need to ensure that they know they have a voice; that they can have differing beliefs and views to others, that they are valued members of society who can make an impact on society and bring about change for the better. Most Prevent work happens in the universal provision tier. Our curriculum is broad and balanced and promotes respect, tolerance and diversity. Children 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. Our SMSC provision is embedded across the curriculum, including in PSHE, RE and Computing. It directs our assemblies and underpins the ethos and values of our 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. Children are regularly taught about how to stay safe online 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 online.

STAFF TRAINING

Through annual training in school, we will ensure that our staff are fully aware of the threats, risks and vulnerabilities that are linked to radicalisation; are aware of the process of radicalisation and how this might be identified early on and are aware of how we can provide support as a school to ensure that our children are resilient and able to resist involvement in radical or extreme activities.

VISITORS AND THE USE OF SCHOOL PREMISES

If any member of staff wishes to invite a visitor in the school, they must get agreement from the Head Teacher and then they will be subject to Safeguarding Checks including DBS checks and photo identification prior to the visit. Children are NEVER left unsupervised with external visitors, regardless of safeguarding check outcomes. If any agreement is made to allow non-school groups or organisations to use the premises, appropriate checks will be made before agreeing the contract. Usage will be monitored and in the event of any behaviour not in-keeping with the Tackling Extremism and Radicalisation Policy, the school will contact the police and terminate the contract.

This policy should be read with the following policies:

- Child Protection & Safeguarding Policy
- Behaviour & Anti Bullying Policy
- Online Safety Policy
- PREVENT Strategy
- Keeping Children Safe in Education 2022
- Working Together to Safeguard Children

Prevent & Channel Referral Process

Prevent is one of the elements of CONTEST, the UK government's counter- terrorism strategy and aims to stop people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism.

Prevent initiatives tackle both the causes and risk factors that can lead someone to become radicalised. It directly supports those who are at risk through early intervention, is resourced to risk and addresses **all forms of terrorism and extremism**. Prevent works in a similar way to other safeguarding processes designed to protect individuals whereby the level of intervention increases with the level of risk.

Radicalisation is the process by which a person comes to support terrorism and in some cases may then participate in terrorist activity. There is no single process or indicator of when a person might move to adopt violence in support of extremist ideas. The process is different for each individual and can take place over an extended period or a short time frame.

Extremism is defined as, vocal or active opposition to British values, including democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs. It also includes calls for the death of members of the armed forces here or abroad.

- If you **notice** a change in an individual that concerns you, in that they may be vulnerable to radicalisation, follow your organisation's safeguarding policy/ Prevent & Channel referral process.
- **Check** your concern with a manager or designated safeguarding lead and contact the Prevent team for advice.
- **Share** the concern with the police by completing the Prevent referral form.

Referrals will be screened for suitability through a preliminary assessment by the police. If suitable for multi-agency consideration, it will be passed to the local authority **Channel** team.



