



Thomas Bewick School Preventing Radicalisation Policy 2019-2021

Background

The Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015 places a duty on schools to prevent people being drawn into terrorism. This duty is known as the Prevent duty. The Department for Education has published advice for schools on the Prevent duty and this advice is intended to complement Prevent guidance and signpost other sources of advice and support.

Aims and Principles

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.

The principal objectives are that:

- all governors, teachers, teaching and learning assistants and support staff will have an understanding of what radicalisation and extremism are and why we need to be vigilant in school;
- all governors, teachers, teaching and learning assistants and support staff will know what the school policy is on anti-radicalisation and extremism and will follow the procedures when issues arise;
- all parents 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.

Definitions and Indicators

Definitions

Radicalisation is defined as the act or process of making a person more radical or favouring of extreme or fundamental changes in political, economic or social conditions, institutions or habits of the mind. Extremism is defined as the holding of extreme political or religious views, and in Britain, a vocal or active opposition to fundamental British values. These include democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs.

Indicators

- Disclosures by students of their exposure to the extremist actions, views or materials of others outside of school, such as in their homes or community groups, especially where students have not actively sought these out.
- Graffiti symbols, writing or art work promoting extremist messages or images.

- Students accessing extremist material online, including through social networking sites.
- Parental reports of changes in behaviour, friendship or actions and requests for assistance.
- Compass Trust schools, Local Authority services, and police reports of issues affecting students in other schools or settings.
- Students voicing opinions drawn from extremist ideologies and narratives.
- Use of extremist or “hate” terms to exclude others or incite violence.
- Intolerance of difference, whether secular or religious or, in line with our equalities policy, views based on, but not exclusive to, gender, disability, homophobia, race, colour or attempts to impose extremist views or practices on others’ anti-western or anti-British views.

Policy statement

Thomas Bewick School is fully committed to providing a secure environment for students, where children feel safe and are kept safe. As a school we recognise that safeguarding against radicalisation is no different to safeguarding against any other vulnerability. The Anti-Radicalisation Policy sets out our beliefs, strategies and procedures to protect vulnerable individuals from being radicalised and exposed to extremist views. At Thomas Bewick School all staff take responsibility for upholding and promoting the fundamental principles of British values, including democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs.

Procedures for referrals

It is important for us to be constantly vigilant and remain fully informed about these issues. Staff are reminded to suspend any professional disbelief that instances of radicalisation ‘could not happen here’ and to refer any concerns through the appropriate channels.

In the event of concerns related to radicalised behaviour:

- all incidents will be reported directly to the Head Teacher or in her absence to a member of the Senior Leadership Team;
- all incidents will be fully investigated and recorded on safeguarding referral forms (yellow forms). Blank copies of yellow forms are stored in class template folders. Once completed the referral will be filed in the Head Teacher’s safeguarding file;
- parent/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 note of this meeting will be kept with the initial referral form;
- the Head Teacher will 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 in the event of a referral relating to serious concerns about

potential radicalisation or extremism, the school will contact Northumbria Police and Newcastle Social Services.

It is important 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 groups. We must have the confidence to challenge, the confidence to intervene and ensure that we have strong safeguarding practices.

Staff have been fully briefed about what to do if they are concerned about the possibility of radicalisation relating to a pupils. Any new staff will be briefed on this procedure.

Role of the curriculum

Our curriculum/values promote respect, tolerance and diversity. 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.

The RE, PSHE (Personal, Social and Health Education) and SMSC (Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural) provision is embedded across the curriculum, and underpins the ethos of the school. It also directs some of our assemblies. Safeguarding recognises that pupils 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 taught 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.

Links to other policies

Thomas Bewick school's anti-radicalisation policy links to the following:

- Safeguarding policy – (see appendix F for information about preventing radicalisation)
- E-safety policy
- Anti-bullying policy
- Behaviour policy
- Equalities policy
- Attendance policy
- Safer Recruitment policy

As a school we also aim to develop and nurture British Values from within the teaching of PSHE, covering:

- Democracy
- The rule of law
- Individual liberty
- Mutual respect
- Tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs

Revision Record of Published Versions			
Author	Creation Date	Version	Status
adopted	November 2015	1.0	Approved by Health and Safety Committee 18/01/16
Amended by	Revision Date		
	November 2017		
J McCreery	January 2019	1.0	Approved by Health & Safety Committee 16/01/19