



Preventing Extremism and Radicalisation Policy

Adopted – November 2018

For review – November 2020

PURPOSE

Keevil CofE Academy is committed to providing a secure environment for students, where children feel safe and are kept safe. All adults at Keevil CofE Academy recognise that safeguarding is everyone's responsibility irrespective of the role they undertake or whether their role has direct contact or responsibility for children or not. In adhering to this policy, and the procedures therein, staff and visitors will contribute to Keevil CofE Academy's delivery of the outcomes to all children, as set out in s10 (2) of the Children Act 2004 (the physical, mental health and emotional well-being of children; the protection of children from harm and neglect; the education, training and recreation of children; the contribution made by them to society; and their social and economic well-being). This Preventing Extremism and Radicalisation Safeguarding Policy is one element within our overall school arrangements to Safeguard and Promote the Welfare of all Children in line with our statutory duties set out at s175 of the Education Act 2002 (s157 of the Education Act 2002).

Our school's Preventing Extremism and Radicalisation Safeguarding Policy also draws upon the guidance contained in the DfE Guidance "Keeping Children Safe in Education, July 2015"; and specifically DCSF Resources "Learning Together to be Safe", "Prevent: Resources Guide", "Tackling Extremism in the UK", DfE's "Teaching Approaches that help Build Resilience to Extremism among Young People" and Peter Clarke's Report of July 2014.

GUIDELINES

1. When operating this policy Keevil CofE Academy uses the following accepted Governmental definition of extremism which 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; and/or calls for the death of members of our armed forces, whether in this country or overseas'.
2. There is no place for extremist views of any kind in our school, whether from internal sources – students, staff or governors, or external sources - school community, external agencies or individuals. Our students see our school as a safe place where they can explore controversial issues safely and where our teachers encourage and facilitate this – we have a duty to ensure this happens.
3. As a school we recognise that extremism and exposure to extremist materials and influences can lead to poor outcomes for children and so should be addressed as a safeguarding concern as set out in this policy. We also recognise that if we fail to challenge extremist views we are failing to protect our students.

Extremists of all persuasions aim to develop destructive relationships between different communities by promoting division, fear and mistrust of others based on ignorance or prejudice and thereby limiting the life chances of young people. Education is a powerful weapon against this; equipping young people with the knowledge, skills and critical thinking, to challenge and debate in an informed way. At Keevil CofE Academy we will provide a broad and balanced curriculum, delivered by skilled professionals, so that our students are enriched, understand and become tolerant of difference and diversity and also to ensure that they thrive, feel valued and not marginalised.

Furthermore, at Keevil CofE Academy we are aware that young people can be exposed to extremist influences or prejudiced views from an early age which emanate from a variety of sources and media, including via the internet, and at times students may themselves reflect or display views that may be

discriminatory, prejudiced or extremist, including using derogatory language.

Any prejudice, discrimination or extremist views, including derogatory language, displayed by students or staff will always be challenged and where appropriate dealt with in line with our Behaviour Policy for students and the Code of Conduct for staff.

4. As part of wider safeguarding responsibilities school staff will be alert to:
- 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;
 - Partner schools, local authority services, 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 culture;
 - Attempts to impose extremist views or practices on others;
 - Anti-Western or Anti-British views.

5. **Teaching Approaches**

We will all strive to eradicate the myths and assumptions that can lead to some young people becoming alienated and disempowered, especially where the narrow approaches children may experience elsewhere may make it harder for them to challenge or question these radical influences. In our school this will be achieved by good teaching across the school, but primarily via the Wellbeing Days that deliver our PSHE curriculum, our Worship Rota and RE provision; but also by adopting the methods outlined in the Government's guidance 'Teaching approaches that help build resilience to extremism among young people' DfE 2011.

We will ensure that all of our teaching approaches help our students build resilience to extremism and give students a positive sense of identity through the development of critical thinking skills. We will ensure that all of our staff are equipped to recognise extremism and are skilled and confident enough to challenge it.

We will be flexible enough to adapt our teaching approaches, as appropriate, so as to address specific issues so as to become even more relevant to the current issues of extremism and radicalisation.

- Making a connection with young people through good teaching and a student centered approach;
- Facilitating a 'safe space' for dialogue, and
- Equipping our students with the appropriate skills, knowledge, understanding and awareness for resilience.

6. This approach will be embedded within the ethos of our school so that students know and understand what safe and acceptable behaviour is in the context of extremism and radicalisation. This will work in conjunction with our mission as a Church School, defined by the quote: Always treat others as you would like to be treated.

Our goal is to build mutual respect and understanding and to promote the use of dialogue not violence as a form of conflict resolution.

At Keevil CofE Academy we will promote the values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, mutual respect and tolerance for those with different faiths and beliefs. We will teach and encourage students to respect one another and to respect and tolerate difference, especially those of a different faith or no faith. It is indeed our most fundamental responsibility to keep our students safe and prepare them for life in modern multi-cultural Britain and globally.

7. Use of External Agencies and Speakers

At Keevil CofE Academy we encourage the use of external agencies or speakers to enrich the experiences of our students, however we will positively vet those external agencies, individuals or speakers who we engage to provide such learning opportunities or experiences for our students. These external agencies will be vetted to ensure that we do not unwittingly use agencies that contradict each other with their messages or that are inconsistent with, or are in complete opposition to, the school's values and ethos. No external agency or speaker is left alone with students there is always a member of Keevil CofE Academy staff present during all interactions with students.

Our school will assess the suitability and effectiveness of input from external agencies or individuals to ensure that:

- Any messages communicated to students are consistent with the ethos of the school and do not marginalise any communities, groups or individuals;
- Any messages do not seek to glorify criminal activity or violent extremism or seek to radicalise students through extreme or narrow views of faith, religion or culture or other ideologies;
- Activities are properly embedded in the curriculum and clearly mapped to schemes of work to avoid contradictory messages or duplication;
- Activities are matched to the needs of students;
- Activities are carefully evaluated by schools to ensure that they are effective.

We recognise, however, that the ethos of our school is to encourage students to understand opposing views and ideologies, appropriate to their age, understanding and abilities, and to be able to actively engage with them in informed debate, and we may use external agencies or speakers to facilitate and support this. All external agencies or speakers are accompanied by a member of Keevil CofE Academy staff at all times.

8. Whistle Blowing

Where there are concerns of extremism or radicalisation Students, Staff and Governors will be encouraged to make use of our internal systems to raise any issue in confidence.

Staff concerned with extremism amongst their colleagues/a colleague must inform the Headteacher, Lindsey Hermon straight away (or if it relates to the Headteacher) inform the Chairs of the Academy Council Leon Sears and Hannah Wright.

Staff concerned with extremism in regard to student(s) must report this to the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) Lindsey Hermon straight away.

Students concerned with extremism in regard to either their peers or staff members are encouraged to report to the DSL, Lindsey Hermon.

9. Safeguarding

Please refer to our Safeguarding Policy for the full procedural framework on our Safeguarding and Child Protection duties. The School DSL leads on all safeguarding concerns relating to radicalisation, extremism and terrorism. These reports will be investigated and where necessary passed to the Channel programme.

Staff at Keevil CofE Academy will be alert to the fact that whilst Extremism and Radicalisation is broadly a safeguarding issue there may be some instances where a child or children may be at direct risk of harm or neglect. For example; this could be due to a child displaying risky behaviours in terms of the activities they are involved in or the groups they are associated with or staff may be aware of information about a child's family that may equally place a child at risk of harm. (These examples are for illustration and are not definitive or exhaustive). Therefore, all adults working at Keevil CofE Academy (including visiting staff, volunteers' contractors, and students on placement) are required to report instances where they believe a child may be at risk of harm or neglect to the DSL, Lindsey Hermon. At Keevil CofE Academy our Safeguarding reporting arrangements are set out fully in our Safeguarding Policy.

10. Role of Academy Council

The Academy Council will undertake appropriate training to ensure that they are clear about their role and the parameters of their responsibilities as Governors, including their statutory safeguarding duties.

The Academy Council of our school will support the ethos and values of our school and will support the school in tackling extremism and radicalisation.

In line with the provisions set out in the DfE guidance 'Keeping Children Safe in Education, 2014' the Academy Council will challenge the school's senior leadership team on the delivery of this policy and monitor its effectiveness.

11. IT policies

Keevil CofE Academy follows the statutory guidance to ensure that children are safe from terrorist and extremist material when accessing the internet in school. Keevil CofE Academy ensures that suitable filtering is in place. More generally, Keevil CofE Academy endeavours to equip children and young people to stay safe online, both in school and outside. Internet safety is integral to Keevil CofE Academy's PSHE and Computing curricula, as well as being embedded throughout all curriculum areas. As with other online risks of harm, every teacher is aware of the risks posed by the online activity of extremist and terrorist groups and has received training on this matter.

12. Staff Training

The Head, Lindsey Hermon, will keep up to date with statutory guidance with regard to PREVENT and will use staff training to share this information with the staff team. Resources used in staff training will be made available.