



# Preventing Extremism Policy

**Courtney Primary School**

**Date Reviewed:** May 2018 **by** Deborah Wood

**Date Ratified:** May 2018 by Deborah Wood

**Review Date:** May 2020

**Signed by:** Deborah Wood

**Position:** Headteacher

## 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.

## Ethos

At Courtney 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 students' welfare.

We have a duty to prepare our children 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 (2015)
- Prevent Duty Guidance (2015)
- Working Together to Safeguard Children (2015)

## Non-statutory Guidance

Promoting fundamental British values as part of SMSC in schools: Departmental advice for maintained schools (DfE 2014)

## Related Policies

- Acceptable Use (ICT) Policy
- Anti-Bullying Policy
- Behaviour Policy
- Child Protection Policy
- E-Safety
- Lettings' Policy
- Social Media 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.

**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, **Janet Hinchliffe**, 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, are able to recognise the signs of vulnerability or radicalisation and know how to refer their concerns.

## **Core Values**

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.

Our Courtney Values - which are reinforced through assemblies and certificates - strengthen key values important for modern Britain including:

- Treating each other as we like to be treated
- Taking pride in our diverse school family

Teaching the school's 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.

## **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.

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, are able to recognise the signs of vulnerability or radicalisation and know how to refer their concerns. From November 2015, this information will also form part of induction safeguarding training. Staff are updated as necessary in weekly safeguarding briefings via the Weekly Bulletin.

## **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.

### **'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 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 (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
- verbalising anti-Western or anti-British views
- advocating violence towards others

## 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.