

Greasby Infant School



POLICY FOR PREVENTING RADICALISATION AND EXTREMISM

Mission Statement

We aim to provide a happy, relaxed environment where children are encouraged and supported to achieve their full potential, and to develop an attitude of care and responsibility towards others and their surroundings.

We ensure that the children in this school will attain the highest standards of which they are capable. We encourage the children to be independent and self-confident and we believe that this can be achieved more readily when teachers, parents and pupils work together in partnership.

Introduction

Since 2010, when the Government published the Prevent Strategy, there has been an awareness of the specific need to safeguard children, young people and families from violent extremism. There have been several occasions both locally and nationally in which extremist groups have attempted 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 rigid and narrow ideology that is intolerant of diversity and leaves them vulnerable to future radicalisation.

Greasby Infant School values freedom of speech and the expression of belief as fundamental rights underpinning our society's values. Both pupils and teachers have the right to speak freely and voice their opinions. However, freedom comes with responsibility and free speech that is designed to manipulate the vulnerable or that leads to violence and harm of others goes against the moral principles in which freedom of speech is valued. Free speech is not an unqualified privilege; it is subject to laws and policies governing equality, human rights, community safety and community cohesion.

The current threat from terrorism in the United Kingdom may include the exploitation of vulnerable people, to involve them in terrorism or in activity in support of terrorism. The normalisation of extreme views may also make children and young people vulnerable to future manipulation and exploitation. Greasby Infant School is clear that this exploitation and radicalisation should be viewed as a safeguarding concern.

Greasby Infant School takes seriously its duty contained in the Counter Terrorism and Security Act (2015), to prevent pupils and those working in school from being radicalised or drawn into extremism. We will follow the advice contained within the new statutory guidance on the legal duty set out in the 'Prevent Duty Guidance: For England and Wales (2015)' in conjunction with the other duties which we already have for keeping pupils safe.

Prevent Strategy is part of the CONTEST strategy introduced by the government to reduce the risk of terrorism to the UK. Prevent has a specific role aiming to stop people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism. It is statutory for schools to raise awareness of this work and spread the message that Prevent is an important part of keeping the UK safe. The strategy covers all forms of terrorism, including far right extremism and some aspects of non-violent extremism. Greasby Infant School seeks to protect children against the messages of all violent extremism including, but not restricted to, those linked to Islamist ideology, or to Far Right / Neo Nazi /

White Supremacist ideology, Irish Nationalist and Loyalist paramilitary groups, and extremist Animal Rights movements.

Objectives

1. To prevent pupils and those working in school from being radicalised and drawn into extremism
2. To take appropriate action to protect children from harm
3. To be alert to harmful behaviour by other adults
4. To ensure that pupils use the internet safely and to encourage parents to be alert and vigilant to the dangers their children might face.
5. To ensure that staff and pupils report any concerns to the headteacher immediately.
6. To build strong links with the appropriate outside agencies so that where the school needs specialist help and support it will be activated promptly.

Strategies

1. To ensure that there is a Prevent Lead (Single Point of Contact) for the school who is responsible for undertaking the Prevent risk assessment, formulating the action plan and monitoring the implementation of the policy. This is currently the Headteacher. See Appendix 2
2. To continue to promote community cohesion and teach children fundamental British values.
3. To ensure that all staff are alert to recognise signs that pupils are in danger of being radicalised and drawn into extremism and report these to the Prevent Lead. See Appendix 1
4. To teach a broad and balanced curriculum which promotes the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of pupils and to prepare them for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of life.
5. To ensure that through teaching pupils about the importance of keeping safe that they are alerted to those who might wish to do them harm by radicalising them or drawing them into extremism.
6. By raising awareness of safe use of the internet both in school and at home that pupils are alerted to those who would wish to harm them.
7. To provide Prevent awareness raising training for the staff and governors so that they use this policy appropriately. Updated training for the Prevent Lead took place on 7.5.21. An initial prevent staff briefing took place on 21.9.15 and governor training took place on 17.9.15. Annual Prevent updates take place at the start of the year.
All staff and Governors completed home office online learning (www.elearning.prevent.homeoffice.gov.uk) during lockdown between March –August 2020.

Regular Prevent updates also take place throughout the year during staff meetings and briefings.

Outcomes

Everyone at Greasby Infant School will work in partnership with parents and the wider community to prevent pupils from being radicalised or drawn into extremism. The head teacher and Governing Body will assess the impact of this policy and monitor its operation. It should be viewed in conjunction with the school's other policies especially the British Values Policy, Safe Use of The Internet policy, Safeguarding Policy and Behaviour Policy. The policy will be reviewed and updated as necessary on a regular basis or when Government Policy is changed.

J. Hall September 2021

Appendix 1

INDICATORS OF VULNERABILITY TO RADICALISATION

1. Radicalisation refers to the process by which a person comes to support terrorism and forms of extremism leading to terrorism.
2. Extremism is defined by the Government in the 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.
3. Extremism is defined by the Crown Prosecution Service as:
The demonstration of unacceptable behaviour by using any means or medium to express views which:
 - Encourage, justify or glorify terrorist violence in furtherance of particular beliefs;
 - Seek to provoke others to terrorist acts;
 - Encourage other serious criminal activity or seek to provoke others to serious criminal acts; or
 - Foster hatred which might lead to inter-community violence in the UK.
4. There is no such thing as a “typical extremist”: those who become involved in extremist actions come from a range of backgrounds and experiences, and most individuals, even those who hold radical views, do not become involved in violent extremist activity.
5. Pupils may become susceptible to radicalisation through a range of social, personal and environmental factors - it is known that violent extremists exploit vulnerabilities in individuals to drive a wedge between them and their families and communities. It is vital that school staff are able to recognise those vulnerabilities.
6. Indicators of vulnerability include:
 - Identity Crisis – the pupil is distanced from their cultural / religious heritage and experiences discomfort about their place in society;
 - Personal Crisis – the pupil may be experiencing family tensions; a sense of isolation; and low self-esteem; they may have dissociated from their existing friendship group and become involved with a new and different group of friends; they may be searching for answers to questions about identity, faith and belonging;
 - Personal Circumstances – migration; local community tensions; and events affecting the pupil’s country or region of origin may contribute to a sense of grievance that is triggered by personal experience of racism or discrimination or aspects of Government policy;
 - Unmet Aspirations – the pupil may have perceptions of injustice; a feeling of failure; rejection of civic life;
 - Experiences of Criminality – which may include involvement with criminal groups, imprisonment, and poor resettlement / reintegration;
 - Special Educational Need – pupils may experience difficulties with social interaction, empathy with others, understanding the consequences of their actions and awareness of the motivations of others.

However, this list is not exhaustive, nor does it mean that all young people experiencing the above are at risk of radicalisation for the purposes of violent extremism.

8. More critical risk factors could include:

- Being in contact with extremist recruiters;
- Accessing violent extremist websites, especially those with a social networking element;
- Possessing or accessing violent extremist literature;
- Using extremist narratives and a global ideology to explain personal disadvantage;
- Justifying the use of violence to solve societal issues;
- Joining or seeking to join extremist organisations; and
- Significant changes to appearance and / or behaviour;
- Experiencing a high level of social isolation resulting in issues of identity crisis and / or personal crisis.

PREVENT CONTACT DETAILS

Prevent Co-ordinator – Alison Burnett 07394559106
Alison.Burnett@Liverpool.gov.uk

Prevent Admin - Claire White Claire.White@Liverpool.gov.uk

The Merseyside Police contact for Wirral is Sgt Martin Leyland:
Prevent@merseyside.police.uk

The Channel lead for the Local Authority is Kerry Mehta, Head of Safeguarding Children: kerrymehta@wirral.gov.uk.

Merseyside Police 0151 777 8560

msoc.prevent@merseysidepolice.uk

APPENDIX 2

PREVENTING VIOLENT EXTREMISM - ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE SINGLE POINT OF CONTACT (SPOC)

The SPOC for Greasby Infant School is Mrs J Hall (Headteacher), who is responsible for:

- Ensuring that staff of the school are aware that you are the SPOC in relation to protecting students/pupils from radicalisation and involvement in terrorism;
- Maintaining and applying a good understanding of the relevant guidance in relation to preventing students/pupils from becoming involved in terrorism, and protecting them from radicalisation by those who support terrorism or forms of extremism which lead to terrorism;
- Raising awareness about the role and responsibilities of staff at Greasby Infant School in relation to protecting pupils from radicalisation and involvement in terrorism;
- Monitoring the effect in practice of the school's policies and curriculum to ensure that they are used to promote community cohesion and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs;
- Raising awareness within the school about the safeguarding processes relating to protecting pupils from radicalisation and involvement in terrorism;
- Acting as the first point of contact within the school for case discussions relating to pupils who may be at risk of radicalisation or involved in terrorism;
- Collating relevant information from in relation to referrals of vulnerable pupils into the Channel* process;
- attending Channel* meetings as necessary and carrying out any actions as agreed;
- Reporting progress on actions to the Channel* Co-ordinator; and
- Sharing any relevant additional information in a timely manner.

* Channel is a multi-agency approach to provide support to individuals who are at risk of being drawn into terrorist related activity. It is led by the Merseyside Police Counter-Terrorism Unit, and it aims to

- Establish an effective multi-agency referral and intervention process to identify vulnerable individuals;
- Safeguard individuals who might be vulnerable to being radicalised, so that they are not at risk of being drawn into terrorist-related activity; and
- Provide early intervention to protect and divert people away from the risks they face and reduce vulnerability.