



# **St Joseph's Catholic Primary School**

## **Statement on Preventing Radicalisation**

### **Pupil Safeguarding – Prevent**

The St Joseph's Catholic Primary School Prevent Strategy has been written in response to and in line with government guidance and forms part of the government's counter terrorism strategy which seeks to:

- Respond to the ideological challenge of terrorism and aspects of extremism, and the threat faced from those who promote these views
- Provide practical help to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism and ensure they are given appropriate advice and support
- Work with a wide range of sectors where there are risks of radicalisation which need to be addressed, including education, criminal justice, faith, charities, the internet and health

All schools are required by law to teach a broad and balanced curriculum which promotes the spiritual, moral and cultural development of students and prepares them for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of life.

The purpose of the Prevent Strategy is to protect students from harm and to ensure that they are taught in a way that is consistent with the law and British values.

To this end it acts to;

- Raise awareness
- Provide information
- Enable learners to make a positive contribution
- Safeguard young people

The current threat from extremism and radicalisation in the UK can 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.

St Joseph's Catholic Primary School is clear that this exploitation and radicalisation should be viewed as a safeguarding concern and that both Staff and Governors, under their duty of care for students, have explicit responsibilities to safeguard pupils from the risk of falling under the influence of extremist groups and individuals and potentially even being drawn into terrorism.

The Staff are alert to the potential dangers of institutional complacency and/or suspended professional disbelief – 'it could not happen here' – and will put in place strategies to ensure that governors, staff, parents and pupils understand the potential threat and are aware of the indicators of vulnerability.

We seek to protect children and young people against the messages of all violent extremism delivered using any means or medium to express views which:

- Encourage, justify or glorify political, religious, sexist or racist violence
- Belong to rigid and narrow ideologies that are intolerant of diversity and so leave those who hold them vulnerable to future radicalisation
- Seek to provoke others to terrorist acts
- Encourage other serious criminal activity or seek to provoke others to serious criminal acts
- Foster hatred which might lead to inter-community violence in the UK

### **What has already been done to address this risk?**

Through our school mission statement "***At St Joseph's we love, learn and live by the example of Jesus Christ***" we actively promote respect and understanding of different cultures and faiths and understanding of difference to ensure our children make a positive contribution to the multicultural world in which they live.

At our school, children participate in a curriculum that promotes active learning and develops critical personal thinking skills. The focus on active learning and questioning enables children to explore social and emotional aspects of learning throughout the curriculum.

At St Joseph's Catholic School, we challenge all prejudices recognising children who are at risk of isolation. The emphasis on pastoral care, the use of agreed policies, school assemblies, PSHE lessons and circle times and enrichment activities ensure that the school is a safe place to learn and socialise. We work with children who make inappropriate behaviour choices and restorative approaches are used to repair harm when caused.

We have already undertaken a range of activities and initiatives to raise awareness of the issues with both staff and children and to ensure that the school community understands what to do and who to go to if they have any concerns around the potential radicalisation of a member of the school community. These include:

- Both Mrs French, the Designated Lead for Safeguarding and Mr Briggs, the Deputy Safeguarding Lead have attended the Prevent training run by the Local Authority
- All staff and the Chair of Governors have completed the online Prevent training produced by the Home Office designed to increase confidence in identifying pupils at risk of being drawn into terrorism
- IT filtering systems are used both passively to block users from accessing inappropriate websites and proactively to identify the use of a library of key words by users of school equipment which can then be acted on quickly and effectively
- Our Safeguarding Policy takes account of the Prevent Strategy and is available on the school website and has been shared with all staff and governors
- Regular liaison with local organisations to ensure that good partnership links exist and that information is regularly shared

### **What we plan to do in the future?**

- Provide Prevent training for new staff/governors as part of their induction
- Ensure that all staff, governors, pupils and parents are aware of the indicators of vulnerability
- Foster a climate that ensures that the whole school community takes the threat of radicalisation seriously