

Tackling Extremism and Radicalisation Policy

St John the Evangelist CE Aided Primary School



Our School's Vision Statement

“St. John’s is a caring, Christian community striving to support its members to achieve their God given potential. Exploring our unique gifts and raising aspirations, we prepare our children for the challenges of the modern world. Following Jesus’ example, we seek to grow good people who can make a difference.”

We believe that

**“Children are a gift from the Lord.”
(Psalm 127 v.3)**

We believe that any gift from God is most precious. This makes children the most precious gift. Consequently, developing and supporting every child in our care to become the best that they can be is fundamental to all that we do.

Please contact Mrs C. Clark if you have any concerns or would like any further information.

head@sjsmacc.cheshire.sch.uk

Updated: September 2019

To be reviewed: September 2020

1. POLICY STATEMENT

St John the Evangelist CE Aided Primary School is fully committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all its pupils. Every member of staff recognises that safeguarding against radicalisation and extremism is no different to safeguarding against any other vulnerability in today's society. The Tackling Extremism and Radicalisation Policy sets out our beliefs, strategies and procedures to protect vulnerable individuals from being radicalised or exposed to extremist views, by identifying who they are and promptly providing them with support.

2. LINKS TO OTHER POLICIES

The St Johns Primary School Tackling Extremism and Radicalisation Policy links to the following School policies;

- Child Protection and Safeguarding
- Equality Policy
- Positive Behaviour Management Policy and Anti-bullying Policy
- On Line Safety Policy.

The following national guidelines should also be read when working with this policy;

- PREVENT Strategy HM Government
- Keeping Children Safe in Education DfE (Sep 2019)

3. AIMS AND PRINCIPLES

3.1 This Policy is intended to provide a framework for dealing with issues relating to vulnerability, radicalisation and exposure to extreme views. We recognise that we are well placed to be able to identify safeguarding issues and this policy clearly sets out how the school will deal with such incidents and identifies how the curriculum and ethos underpins our actions.

3.2 The objectives are that:

- All governors, teachers, teaching assistants and non-teaching staff will have an understanding of what radicalisation and extremism are and why we need to be vigilant in school.
 - All governors, teachers, teaching assistants and non-teaching staff will know what the school policy is on tackling extremism and radicalisation and will follow the policy guidance swiftly when issues arise.
 - All pupils will understand the dangers of radicalisation and exposure to extremist views; building resilience against these and knowing what to do if they experience them. All parents/carers and pupils will know that the school has policies in place to keep pupils safe from harm and that the school regularly reviews its
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systems to ensure they are appropriate and effective 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.

Introduction

All schools are subject to a duty under section 26 of the Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015 to safeguard children, young people and families from violent extremism and terrorism. 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.

As our school's vision states, St Johns Primary School values freedom of speech and the expression of beliefs/ideology 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. St Johns Primary School is committed to providing a secure environment for pupils, where children feel safe and are kept safe. All adults at the school 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.

This Preventing Extremism and Radicalisation Policy is one element within our overall school arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children in line with our statutory duties.

Our school's Preventing Extremism and Radicalisation Policy also draws upon the guidance produced by the Local Safeguarding Children Board; DfE Guidance "Keeping Children Safe in Education, Sep 2019" and HM government document "Prevent strategy: A guide for local partners in England".

4. DEFINITIONS AND INDICATORS

4.1 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.

4.2 Extremism is defined as the holding of extreme political or religious views.

4.3 There are a number of behaviours which may indicate a child is at risk of being radicalised or exposed to extreme views. These include;

- Spending increasing time in the company of other suspected extremists.
 - Changing their style of dress or personal appearance to accord with the group.
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- Day-to-day behaviour becoming increasingly centred on an extremist ideology, group or cause.
- Loss of interest in other friends and activities not associated with the extremist ideology, group or cause.
- Possession of materials or symbols associated with an extremist cause.
- Attempts to recruit others to the group/cause.
- Communications with others that suggests identification with a group, cause or ideology.
- Using insulting to derogatory names for another group.
- Increase in prejudice-related incidents committed by that person – these may include;
 - physical or verbal assault
 - provocative behaviour
 - damage to property
 - derogatory name calling
 - possession of prejudice-related materials
 - prejudice related ridicule or name calling
 - inappropriate forms of address
 - refusal to co-operate
 - attempts to recruit to prejudice-related organisations
 - condoning or supporting violence towards others.

5. PROCEDURES FOR REFERRALS

5.1 Although serious incidents involving radicalisation have not occurred at St Johns Primary School to date, it is important for us to be constantly vigilant and remain fully informed about the issues which affect the local area, city and society in which we teach. Staff are reminded to suspend any ‘professional disbelief’ that instances of radicalisation ‘could not happen here’ and to be ‘professionally inquisitive’ where concerns arise, referring any concerns through the appropriate channels.

5.2 We believe that it is possible 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/or groups. We must have the confidence to challenge, the confidence to intervene and ensure that we have strong safeguarding practices based on the most up-to-date guidance and best practise.

5.3 The Headteacher, the Deputy Head and Family coordinator are trained as Designated Senior Leaders for Child Protection and Safeguarding and will deal swiftly with any referrals made by staff or with concerns reported by staff.

5.4 The Head Teacher will discuss the most appropriate course of action on a case-by-case basis and will decide when a referral to external agencies is needed (see appendix 1 – Dealing with referrals)

5.5 As with any child protection referral, staff must be made aware that if they do not agree with a decision not to refer, they can make the referral themselves and will be given the contact details to do this via the safeguarding board in the staffroom.

5.6 We are aware of the potential indicating factors that a child is vulnerable to being radicalised or exposed to extreme views, including peer pressure, influence from other people or the internet, bullying, crime and anti-social behaviour, family tensions, race/hate crime, lack of self-esteem or identity, prejudicial behaviour and personal or political grievances

In the event of prejudicial behaviour the following system will be followed;

- All incidents of prejudicial behaviour will be reported directly to the Head Teacher or another member of SLT.
 - All incidents will be fully investigated and recorded in line with the Behaviour Policy and records will be kept in line with procedures for any other safeguarding incident (CPOMS).
 - Parents/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. Any conversations with parents are also recorded using CPOMS.
 - The SLT 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 would be held if there is not a significant positive change in behaviour.
 - If deemed necessary, serious incidents will be discussed and referred to Local Safeguarding Board.
 - In the event of a referral relating to serious concerns about potential radicalisation or extremism, the school will also contact GMP Police Counter Terrorism Unit (CTU) 0800 789 321 and our school's PSCO. Schools can also call 101 (non emergency number) or DFE hot line (020 7340 7264)
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GOVERNORS, LEADERS AND STAFF

6.1 The Head Teacher and all members of the SLT are the leaders for referrals relating to extremism and radicalisation. In the unlikely event that no SLT members are available, all staff know the channels by which to make referrals via the safeguarding notices in the staffroom.

6.2 Staff will be fully briefed about what to do if they are concerned about the possibility of radicalisation relating to a pupil, or if they need to discuss specific children whom they consider to be vulnerable to radicalisation or extremist views.

6.3 The SLT will work in conjunction with the Head Teacher and external agencies to decide the best course of action to address concerns which arise.

7. THE ROLE OF THE CURRICULUM

7.1 Our curriculum is “broad and balanced” and underpinned by Christian Values. It promotes respect, tolerance and diversity. Children 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.

7.2. It is recognised that children with low aspirations are more vulnerable to radicalisation and therefore we strive to equip all our pupils with confidence, self-belief, respect and tolerance as well as setting high standards and expectations for themselves.

7.3 Children are regularly taught about 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.

8. STAFF TRAINING

8.1 Through INSET opportunities in school, we will ensure that our staff are fully aware of the threats, risks and vulnerabilities that are linked to radicalisation; are aware of the process of radicalisation and how this might be identified early on and are aware of how we can provide support as a school to ensure that our children are resilient and able to resist involvement in radical or extreme activities.

9. VISITORS AND THE USE OF SCHOOL PREMISES

9.1 If any member of staff wishes to invite a visitor in the school, they must first confirm it with the Headteacher. Only after this agreement from the Head Teacher can the visitor enter school and then they will be subject to Safeguarding Checks including DBS checks (where appropriate) and photo identification. Children are NEVER left unsupervised with external visitors, regardless of safeguarding check outcomes.

9.3 If any agreement is made to allow non-school groups or organisations to use the premises, appropriate checks will be made before agreeing the contract. Usage will be monitored and in the event of any behaviour not in-keeping with this Policy, the school will contact the police and terminate the contract.

The St John the Evangelist Primary School Tackling Extremism and Radicalisation Policy will be reviewed annually as part of the overall Child Protection and Safeguarding policy review.
