

St.Peter's C.E. Primary School



Preventing Extremism and Radicalisation Policy

Updated: November 2020

To be reviewed: November 2021

Key Contacts:

St Peter's School Designated Safeguarding Person	Mr Steve Wedgeworth 0161 764 2017
St Peter's School Deputy Designated Safeguarding Person	Mrs Hannah Whiteside
St Peter's School Safeguarding Link Governor	Mrs Sherridan Matthews
Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) Team	0161 253 5678 Neil Dudley Team Manager
Bury Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO)	Safeguarding Unit 0161 253 6168
Bury Authority Emergency Duty Team (Out of Office)	0161 253 6606
Prevent Officer/ Channel	0161 856 2476/6345 PC Andy Webb
Community Cohesion	0161 253 5231 Michelle Allan
Prevent Co-ordinator	0161 856 9305

If you have any concerns that a child or young person is at risk of radicalisation, contact the MASH for discussion and referral. If you believe a child or young person is at immediate risk contact the police on 999.



Hope, Honesty, Compassion

Preventing Extremism and Radicalisation Policy

Introduction

St Peter's CE Primary School is committed to providing a secure environment for children, where they feel safe and are kept safe. All adults at St Peter's CE Primary 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 the school's overall arrangements to safeguard pupils in line with the statutory guidance contained in Keeping Children Safe in Education (DfE September, 2016). This particular policy also draws on advice provided in The Prevent Duty (DfE June, 2015). This policy directly links to the Safeguarding Children Policy and Procedures as well as the Equality Policy, Behaviour Policy and Anti Bullying Statement.

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 staff work alongside other professional bodies and agencies to ensure that pupils are safe from harm.

Ethos and Practice

When operating this policy we use the following accepted government 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'.

and radicalisation which is:

'The process by which a person comes to support terrorism and extremist ideologies associated with terrorist groups'.

There is no place for extremist views of any kind in the school, whether from internal sources, children or staff, or external sources, school community, external agencies or individuals. The children see St Peter's School as a safe place where they can ask questions about the world and where staff encourage and facilitate these opportunities.

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 the children.

We aim to provide a broad and balanced curriculum, delivered by skilled professionals, so that the children understand and become tolerant of difference and diversity and also to ensure that they thrive and feel valued and respected as individuals.

Children can be exposed to extremist influences or prejudiced views from an early age which originate from a variety of sources and media, including via the internet. There may be times when children may 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 children or staff will always be challenged. Where misconduct by a member of staff is proven the matter will be referred to the Local Authority.

Children at Risk

As part of wider safeguarding responsibilities school staff will be alert to:

- Disclosures by children of their exposure to the extremist actions, views or materials of others outside of the school, such as in their homes or community groups.
- Graffiti symbols, writing or art work promoting extremist messages or images.
- Children exposed to extremist material online, including through social networking sites.
- Parental reports of changes in behaviour, friendship or actions and requests for assistance.
- Local Authority services, and police reports of issues affecting children in other schools or settings.
- 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.

Indicators of vulnerability to radicalisation and extremism include:

- Children seen as having an identity crisis and may have become distanced from their cultural or religious heritage and is not sure of their place in society.
- Children who are having a personal crisis for example tensions within the family or those who have a sense of isolation and have become distanced from their friends.

- Children who have not met or lived up to their aspirations may have a sense of injustice or feel like a failure in society.
- Children whose personal circumstances may make them vulnerable such as community tensions or events in the child's country of origin.
- Involvement with criminal groups.
- Children with SEND who may experience social interaction difficulties.
- Being in contact with known extremist recruiters or expected extremists.
- Accessing violent extremist websites, especially those with a social networking element.
- Possessing or accessing violent extremist literature.
- Justifying the use of violence to solve issues.
- Joining or seeking to join extremist organisations.
- Significant changes to appearance and/or behaviour.
- Experiencing a high level of social isolation resulting in issues of identity crisis and / or personal crisis.

Every member of staff will be equipped, skilled and confident to identify and challenge extremism. Prejudice of any kind and extremist views will always be challenged by staff and dealt with in accordance to the Behaviour Policy.

The school will closely follow any locally agreed procedure as set out by the Bury Safeguarding Children Board's agreed processes and criteria for safeguarding individuals vulnerable to extremism and radicalisation.

Teaching Approaches

Staff will ensure the teaching approaches help children to build resilience to extremism and give them a positive sense of identity through Personal, Social and Emotional development and the promotion of critical thinking. We will aim to ensure that all staff are equipped to recognise extremism and are skilled and confident enough to challenge it in a way appropriate to the child's age and level of development.

The school will facilitate a 'safe place' for children to speak confidently and openly about any worries or concerns they may have concerning their safety and will equip our children with the appropriate skills to become self-assured young people. This approach will be

embedded within the ethos of our school so that children know and understand what safe and acceptable behaviour is in the context of extremism and radicalisation. Our goal is to build mutual respect and understanding and to promote the use of dialogue not violence as a form of conflict resolution.

The school will work with local partners, families and communities to ensure the school understands and embraces the local context and values in challenging extremist views and to assist in the broadening of children's experiences. We will help support children who may be vulnerable to such influences as part of our wider safeguarding responsibilities and in such instances seek external support from the Local Authority and/or local partnership structures working to prevent extremism.

At the school we will promote the values of democracy, the rules of law, individual liberty, mutual respect and tolerance for those with different faiths and beliefs. We will teach and encourage children to respect one another and to respect and tolerate difference, especially those of a different faith or no faith. We will endeavour to ensure that children are resistant to extremism.

The curriculum promotes respect, tolerance and diversity. Children are encouraged to share their views and recognise that they are entitled to have their own beliefs, but that they should not be used to influence others.

Children are regularly taught how to stay safe online 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.

Procedures for Referrals

It is important for staff to be constantly vigilant and remain fully informed about the issues which affect the local area and society in which they teach. Staff are expected to be 'professionally inquisitive' where concerns arise, referring concerns through the appropriate channels.

- All incidents of prejudicial behaviour will be reported.
- All incidents will be fully investigated and recorded in line with the Behaviour or Safeguarding Children Policies and records will be kept, in line with these procedures.
- Parents / Carers will be contacted and the incident discussed in detail, aiming to identify motivating factors and parent views of the incident and assess whether the incident is serious enough to warrant a further referral. A note of this meeting and any referral details will be kept in the child's Safeguarding file.

- If deemed necessary, serious incidents and concerns will be referred straight to the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) Team for further guidance and advice.

Staff should understand when it is appropriate to make a referral to the Channel programme. Channel is a programme which focuses on providing support at an early stage to people who are identified as being vulnerable to being drawn into terrorism. It provides a mechanism for schools to make referrals if they are concerned that an individual might be vulnerable to radicalisation. An individual's engagement with the programme is entirely voluntary at all stages.

Whistleblowing

Where there are concerns of extremism or radicalisation of children by staff, staff will be encouraged to make use of the internal systems to whistle blow or raise any issue in confidence. Refer to the school's Whistleblowing Policy.

Child Protection

Staff at school 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, staff may be aware of information about a child's family related to extremism that may place a child at risk of harm. Therefore all adults working in our school (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 Designated Safeguarding Lead (Mr. Wedgeworth).

Training

Training on Safeguarding will be organised for staff and management at least every three years and will comply with the prevailing arrangements agreed by the Bury Safeguarding Children Board and will, in part, include training on extremism and radicalisation (Prevent) and its safeguarding implications. The Designated Safeguarding Lead will attend training courses as necessary and the appropriate inter-agency training organised by the Safeguarding Children Board.

Staff will be fully briefed about what to do if they are concerned about the possibility of radicalisation relating to a pupil, or of they have specific children whom they consider to be vulnerable to radicalisation or extremist views. Training may include the online Channel General Awareness Module, which offers advice and guidance on radicalisation and extremist views.

Safer Recruitment

The arrangements for recruiting all staff, permanent and volunteers will follow local authority guidance for safer recruitment best practice in education settings, including, but not limited to, ensuring that Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks are always

made at the appropriate level, that references are always received and checked and that we complete and maintain a single central record of such vetting checks.

Safer recruitment best practice principles and sound employment practice will be applied and in doing so will deny opportunities for inappropriate recruitment or advancement. We will be alert to the possibility that persons may seek to gain positions within our school so as to unduly influence our school's character and ethos. We are aware that such persons seek to limit the opportunities for our children thereby rendering them vulnerable to extremist views and radicalisation as a consequence.

By adhering to safer recruitment best practice techniques and by ensuring that there is an ongoing culture of vigilance within our school and staff team we will minimise the opportunities for extremist views to prevail.

Policy Adoption, Monitoring and Review

This policy was considered and adopted by the Governing Body in line with their overall duty to safeguard and promote the welfare of children as set out in the DfE guidance 'Keeping Children Safe in Education' 2016.

Parents will be issued with a hard copy of this policy on request. This policy will also be made available to parents via the school website.

The effectiveness of this policy will be evaluated by monitoring the staff group's understanding and application of the procedures within this policy as their overall duty to safeguard children.