

Emscote Infant School & All Saints' Junior School Federation

Prevent Policy

September 2023

Review Date: September 2024

Executive Headteacher: Jon Queralt

Emscote Infant School & All Saints' Junior School Federation
Policy on Preventing Extremism and Radicalisation.

Background

This policy is part of our commitment to keeping children safe and is one element within our overall school arrangements to Safeguard and Promote the Welfare of all Children in line with our statutory duties set out in the Education Act 2002. It also supports the school's duty to promote community cohesion as detailed in the Education and Inspections Act 2006.

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

We ensure we promote tolerance and respect for human life and for all cultures, faiths and lifestyles, through our school vision, values, expectations and curriculum. 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 (2022)
- Prevent Duty Guidance (2015)
- Working together to Safeguard Children (2018)

Non-statutory Guidance

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

Further Advice and Support

- Prevent Duty Guidance: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/prevent-duty-guidance>
- Channel Guidance: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/channel-guidance>

Roles and Responsibilities

Role of the Governing Body:

The Governing Body will ensure that they are clear about their role and the parameters of their responsibilities, including their statutory safeguarding duties in line with the provisions set out in the DfE guidance 'Keeping Children Safe in Education 2016'. The Governing Body will monitor the implementation of this policy and its effectiveness. Relevant governors will review this policy regularly (every two years) and may amend and adopt it outside of this time frame in accordance with any new legislation or guidance or in response to any quality assurance recommendations pertaining to the delivery of this policy and the overall safeguarding arrangements made.

The school has a nominated member of the governing board who has responsibility for liaising with the school on all matters relating to safeguarding. The nominated Safeguarding Governor will liaise with the safeguarding lead about issues related to protecting children from radicalisation.

Role of the Headteacher

It is the role of the Headteacher/Head of School 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
- ensure that staff are trained and appropriately informed on procedures and key issues

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
- attend and disseminate relevant CPD; keep up to date and communicate relevant information or issues to staff

Role of Staff

It is the role of staff to:

- understand the issues of radicalisation, its effect on children and recognise the signs of vulnerability or radicalisation
- challenge derogatory language and behaviour
- understand and use safeguarding systems and procedures to refer their concerns
- demonstrate the professional behaviour and expectations outlined in the code of conduct

Curriculum

Our curriculum promotes respect, tolerance and diversity. 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. 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. Our PSHE (Personal, Social and Health Education), Citizenship and SMSC (Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural) provision is embedded across the curriculum, and underpins the ethos of the school. Teaching the schools' 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. 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.

Extremists use the internet, including social media, to share their messages. The filtering systems used in our school blocks inappropriate content, including extremist content. The monitoring software also uses databases of words and phrases linked to the Prevent agenda so that any inappropriate activity is reported directly to the school.

Staff Training

All staff will be given training inline with the PREVENT strategy, 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. This information also forms part of safeguarding induction training. Staff are updated as part of the annual safeguarding training, or through briefings if guidelines or legislation change.

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.

Visitors/ volunteers

All volunteers at the school take part in induction training and along with all visitors to the school are made aware of our safeguarding policies and provided with information detailing what to do if they are concerned about any aspect of child welfare.

Signs of Vulnerability

There are no known definitive indicators that a young person is vulnerable to radicalisation, but there are a number of signs that together increase the risk. Early indicators of radicalisation or extremism may include:

- Disclosures by pupils of their exposure to the extremist actions, views or materials of others outside of school, such as in their homes or community groups, especially where pupils have not actively sought these out.
- Graffiti symbols, writing or art work promoting extremist messages or images
- Pupils accessing extremist material online, including through social networking sites
- Parental reports of changes in behaviour, friendship or actions and requests for assistance
- Partner schools, local authority services, and police reports of issues affecting pupils in other schools or settings
- Pupils voicing opinions drawn from extremist ideologies and narratives
- 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
- Attempts to impose extremist views or practices on others
- Anti-Western or Anti-British views

Referral Process

Staff and visitors to the school must refer all concerns about children who show signs of vulnerability or radicalisation to the Designated Safeguarding Lead using the schools safeguarding referral systems. Where there are significant concerns about a pupil the Designated Safeguarding Lead will make a referral to the appropriate body. If staff have concerns regarding adults in school, they should use the yellow form to record their concerns and share these with the headteacher.

Related policies:

- Safeguarding & Child Protection Policy
- Staff Code of Conduct
- Equality Policy
- Anti-Bullying Policy
- Internet Safety Policy

This policy was 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'. 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.