



PREVENTING EXTREMISM AND RADICALISATION POLICY

Committee Responsible:	Local Governing Body
Reviewed by:	Kevin Alderton
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BENTLEY WOOD HIGH SCHOOL

PREVENTING EXTREMISM POLICY

Preventing and protecting students from extremism.

1. Introduction

The school recognises that it has a duty of care towards its students and that safeguarding against extreme radicalisation that may leave them vulnerable to extremism is one of their duties.

What is Prevent?

Prevent is an integral part of CONTEST, the Government's Counter Terrorism Strategy. It aims to 'stop people from becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism'. The prevent strategy;

- responds to ideological challenge of terrorism and the threat we face from those who promote it.
- prevents people from being drawn into terrorism and ensures that they are given appropriate advice and support.
- works with a wide range of sectors and institutions (including education, faith, health and criminal) where there are risks of radicalisation which need to be addressed.

Since 2010 the Office for Security and Counter Terrorism works to counter the threat of terrorism through CONTEST (the Counter Terrorism Strategy):

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/counter-terrorism-strategy-contest-2018>.

(Last updated August 2018.)

This strategy is based on four areas of work:

- Pursue – To stop terrorist attacks;
- Prevent – To stop people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism;
- Protect – To strengthen our protection against a terrorist attack;
- Prepare – To mitigate the impact of a terrorist attack;

The guidance for delivery of the Prevent duty was updated in 2021:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/prevent-duty-guidance/revise-prevent-duty-guidance-for-england-and-wales>

Our role as a school is outlined more specifically in the DfE document '*Learning Together to Be Safe: A toolkit* to help schools contribute to the prevention of violent extremism.'

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.

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

This Policy applies to all Governors, staff, volunteers and students. The Preventing Extremism and Radicalisation Policy is intended to provide a framework for dealing with issues relating to vulnerability, radicalisation and exposure to extreme views. There are different forms of extremist organisations around the world ie. ISIS, Al-Qaeda, Boko Haram, British Defence League, Animal Rights to name a few.

School Ethos and Practice

As a school we recognise that extremism and exposure to extremist materials and influences can lead to poor outcomes for students 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 our students. We follow guidance from *Keeping Children Safe in Education* (Sept 2020) to ensure that our safeguarding procedures (including preventing young people from being drawn into radicalisation). According to this document 'Protecting children from the risk of radicalisation should be seen as part of schools' and colleges' wider safeguarding duties, and is similar in nature to protecting children from other forms of harm and abuse.'

Extremists of all persuasions aim to develop destructive relationships between different communities by promoting division, fear and mistrust of others based on ignorance or prejudice and thereby limiting the life chances of young people. Education is a powerful weapon against this; equipping young people with the knowledge, skills and critical thinking to challenge and debate in an informed way.

Therefore, at Bentley Wood we will provide a broad and balanced curriculum so that our pupils are enriched, understood and become tolerant of differences and diversity and also ensure that they thrive, feel valued and are not marginalised.

This policy aims to:

- raise awareness amongst the school of the threat from extremist groups and the risks to young people.
- explain the positive contribution we make by working with communities to protect the well-being of all groups of students who may be vulnerable to being drawn into extremist activity.
- share training and guidelines by the Harrow Prevent Team.
- ensure all students are taught in a way that is consistent with the law and the British values of tolerance, democracy and liberty.

This policy describes the activities that the School undertakes in order that students attending the school are safeguarded against being influenced by those who hold extreme views. Extremists exploit vulnerabilities in individuals to drive a wedge between them and their families and communities. As staff we need to recognise those vulnerabilities just as we would recognise our duty to any child protection issue.

We aim to:

- teach material which emphasises the strengths and weaknesses of democracy in contrast to other forms of government in other countries and how democracy works in Britain.
- ensure that all learners within the school are consulted on a regular basis on their safety and well-being.
- ensure staff have high levels of safeguarding training, including level 3 training for members of the safeguarding team, HOYs and achievement leaders.
- ensure staff and Governors complete on-line Prevent Training. (Prevent training was delivered to staff and Governors in April 2019 by a Counter Terrorism Intelligence Officer).
- have high aspirations for all our students, through target setting and growth mind-set training.
- organise visits to local councils, Parliament and places of worship of other faiths, and encourage contacts with those of other faiths in political or local office.

- use teaching resources from a wide variety of sources to help learners to understand a range of faiths, and beliefs such as atheism and humanism. Explore and promote diversity and shared values between communities.
- work with Harrow Prevent Team to provide adequate awareness training for staff, learners and parents.
- work closely with the local community through the Cultural Barriers Working Group meetings which includes local faith leaders.
- Ensure All members of staff are able to identify children who may be vulnerable to radicalisation and respond by following whole school safeguarding procedures with immediate effect.

2. The School will:

- strictly apply its recruitment procedures which include DBS checks and references which are in line with 'Keeping Children Safe in Education Sept 2020
- ensure that individuals and organisations who let the school premises are vetted for links to extremism and that they understand their activities whilst onsite will be monitored by the site team
- ensure that teachers do not use teaching materials which may encourage intolerance guided by School guidelines and review of the curriculum and learner participation and by using and adapting the curriculum. *Teaching approaches that help to build resilience to extremism.*
https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/182675/DFE-RR119.pdf
- ensure learners are not actively encouraged by teachers or visitors to the school to support extremist views of any form. Visitors who stay for more than one day will send in two professional references to the school's HR Manager.
- clearly communicate the school's position on Prevent through the school website.
- provide regular staff training, including newly appointed staff when undergoing induction on the practise of this policy within the school.
- follow procedures as set out by the Harrow Council Prevent Team (Appendix A) when concerns are raised.
- alert parents of any concerns the school may have.

3. Referral Process

- Follow School protocol for child protection issues and report to the Child Protection Officer (Child Protection Policy).
- Child Protection Officer will discuss the referral with the Headteacher and follow referral procedure set out in Appendix A.

Role of Governing Body

The Governing Body of our school will undertake appropriate training to ensure that they are clear about their role and the parameters of their responsibilities as Governors, including their statutory safeguarding duties. The Prevent link Governor is Alison Moore, Safeguarding Governor for BWS.

The Governing Body of our school will support the ethos and values of our school and will support the school in tackling extremism and radicalisation.

In line with the provisions set out in the DfE guidance 'Keeping Children Safe in Education, Sept 2020, the governing body will challenge the school's senior management team on the delivery of this policy and monitor its effectiveness.

Governors will review this policy annually and may amend and adopt it outside of this timeframe in accordance with any new legislation or guidance or in response to any quality assurance recommendations pertaining to delivery of this policy and the overall safeguarding arrangements made.

APPENDIX A: Referral Process for Harrow

Background

The Government's counter- terrorism strategy CONTEST aims to reduce the risk to the UK and its interests from terrorism. The CONTEST strategy is made up of four key areas. One of these areas is Prevent which aims to stop people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism.

The **Channel Programme** is a key element in the Prevent area and aims to stop people being drawn into extremism or radicalisation. Channel is a multi-agency partnership led by the local authority with the police and other services to protect and divert children and adults from being drawn in to committing terrorist-related activity. Channel addresses **all** forms of extremism.

Recognising and referring individuals who show signs of vulnerability is not about criminal prosecution: it aims to protect them from risk and from possibly committing a crime or hurting themselves or others.

Through Channel, agencies work together to assess the nature and the extent of the risk of radicalisation and, where appropriate, to provide a support package tailored to individual needs. The agencies include education, health, children and adult social

Contest

Protect: To strengthen our protection against a terrorist attack.	Prepare: To Mitigate the impact of a terrorist attack.	Pursue: To stop terrorist attacks.	Prevent: To stop people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism.
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How to make a referral

Anyone who is concerned about a young person or adult at risk of extremism or radicalisation may make a referral to the Channel Programme.

Referral for young people up to and including age 18 (up to 25 with learning disability) should be made on a CAF (Common Assessment Framework) to Duty&Assess@harrow.gov.uk.cjism.net detailing your concerns about the young person and relevant history.

Referrals for people aged 19 and over should be made on the Prevent Referral Form which can be obtained via enquiry to prevent@harrow.gov.uk

Referral Criteria

The young person or adult should be referred if there are concerns about any of the following:

- Changes in patterns of behaviour from known and predictable patterns with day to day behaviour becoming secretive or increasingly centred around extremist ideology, group or cause.
- Expressing attitudes that justify offending on behalf of the group, cause or ideology.
- Using insulting or derogatory names or labels for another group and blaming that group for all social or political ills.
- Condoning or supporting violence or harm towards others and speaking about the imminence of harm from another group and the importance of action now.
- Planning to travel abroad to areas where there are known risks from terrorism and violent extremism.