

Rigby Hall School



Preventing Extremism ad Radicalisation Policy.

February 2019

Written By

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Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

## Preventing Extremism and Radicalisation Policy

### **Background**

This “Preventing Extremism and Radicalisation Policy” is part of our commitment to keeping children safe. Since the “Education Inspections Act 2006”, schools have a duty to promote community cohesion. 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 in to 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**

At Rigby Hall School we ensure through our school vision, values, rites, rules, diverse curriculum and teaching that we promote tolerance and respect for all cultures, faiths and lifestyles. The governing body also ensures that this is reflected and implemented effectively in school policy and practice and that there are effective risk assessments in place to safeguard and promote children’s welfare.

We have a duty to prepare our children for life in modern Britain and to keep them safe.

Children 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 (September 2018)
- Prevent Duty Guidance (June 2015)
- Working Together to safeguard children (September 2018)
- Safer working practice for staff in educational settings (September 2018)

## **Non-statutory guidance**

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

## **Related Policies**

- Acceptable use (Online Safety) policy
- Behaviour Policy
- Safeguarding Children Policy
- Equality Policy

## **Definitions**

**Extremism** is defined in the 2011 Prevent Strategy as 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. We also include in our definition of extremism calls for the death of members of our armed forces, whether in this country or overseas.

**Radicalisation** refers to the process by which a person comes to support terrorism and extremist ideologies associated with terrorist groups.

**British Values** are democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs.

## **Roles and Responsibilities**

### **Role of the Governing Body**

It is the role of the governing body to ensure that the school meets its statutory duties with regard to preventing radicalisation.

The governing body has a nominated person who will liaise with the Headteacher and other staff about issues to do with protecting children from radicalisation; this is part of the role of the safeguarding governor.

## **Role of the Headteacher**

It is the role of the Headteacher to:

- Ensure the school and its staff responds to preventing radicalisation on a day to day basis.
- Ensure the school's curriculum addresses the issues involved in radicalisation
- Ensure that staff conduct is consistent with preventing radicalisation

## **Role of the Designated Safeguarding Lead**

It is the role of the designated safeguarding lead to:

- Complete a Prevent Risk Assessment, yearly
- Ensure that staff understand the issues of radicalisation, are able to recognise 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
- Report to the governing body on these matters
- Keep a prevent log in the locked safeguarding drawer

## **Role of the Staff**

It is the role of the staff to understand the issues of radicalisation, to be able to recognise the signs of vulnerability or radicalisation and know how to refer their concerns.

Staff should use the **Notice, Check, Share** model for reporting concerns.

## **Curriculum**

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. We encourage our pupils to be inquisitive learners who are open to new experiences and are tolerant of others.

These values support the development of the whole child as a reflective learner within a calm, caring, happy and purposeful atmosphere. Teaching the schools core values alongside fundamental British Values supports quality teaching and learning, whilst making a positive contribution to the development of a fair, just and civil society.

## **Online Safety**

The internet provides children and young people with access to a wide range of content, some of which is harmful. Extremists use the internet, including social media, to share their messages. We use a filtering system called Smoothwall, in our school, which blocks inappropriate content, including extremist content. Reports are sent to the Headteacher and the DSL through its Visigo service.

We also filter out social media such as Facebook. Searches and web addresses are monitored and the Visigo service will alert senior staff where there are concerns and prevent further access when new sites that are unblocked are found.

Where staff, children or visitors find unlocked extremist content they must report it to a senior member of staff.

We are aware that children and young people have access to unfiltered internet when using their mobile phones and staff are alert to the need for vigilance when pupils are using their phones.

The Acceptable Use of ICT Policy refers to preventing radicalisation and related extremist content. Pupils and staff are asked to sign the AUP annually to confirm they have understood what is acceptable.

Pupils and staff know how to report internet content that is inappropriate or of a concern.

## **Staff Training**

Staff will be given training 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 induction safeguarding training. Staff are updated as necessary by email or in staff meetings.

## **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 Keeping Children Safe in Education (September 2018). Vetting and barring checks are undertaken on relevant people, including governors and volunteers. The Head teacher, Deputy Headteacher, School Business Manager and Administrative staff have completed Safer Recruitment training.

## **Visitors**

Visitors to the school are made aware of our safeguarding procedures when signing in to school.

Visitors who are invited in to speak to pupils will be informed about our preventing extremism policy and relevant vetting checks are undertaken. We undertake due diligence to ensure that visiting speakers are appropriate. Speakers will be supervised at all times and will not be allowed to speak to children without a member of staff present.

Staff must not invite speakers into school without first obtaining permission from the Headteacher.

## **No Platform for Extremists**

The school is vigilant to the possibility that out-of-hours hire of the school premises may be requested by people wishing to run an extremist event. The school does not accept bookings from individuals or organisations that are extremist in their views.

## **Signs of Vulnerability**

There are known definitive indicators that a young person is vulnerable to radicalisation, but there are a number of signs that together increase the risk. Signs of vulnerability include:

- Underachievement
- Being in possession of extremist literature
- Poverty
- Social exclusion
- Traumatic events
- Global or National events
- Religious conversion
- Change in behaviour
- Extremist influences
- Conflict with family over lifestyle
- Confused identity
- Victim or witness to race or hate crimes
- Rejection by peers, family, social groups or faith

## **Recognising Extremism**

Early indicators of radicalisation or extremism may include:

- Showing sympathy for extremist causes
- Glorifying violence, especially to other faiths or cultures
- Making remarks or comments about being at extremist events or rallies outside school
- Evidence of possessing illegal or extremist literature
- Advocating messages similar to illegal organisations or other extremist groups
- Out of character changes in dress, behaviour and peer relationships (but there are also powerful narratives, programmes and networks that young people can come across online so involvement with particular groups may not be apparent)
- Secretive behaviour
- Online searches or sharing extremist messages or social profiles
- Intolerance of difference, including faith, culture, gender, race or sexuality
- Graffiti, art work or writing that displays extremist themes
- Attempts to impose extremist views or practices on others
- Verbalising anti-Western or anti-British views
- Advocating violence towards others

## **Referral Process**

Staff and visitors to the school must refer all concerns about children and young people who show signs of vulnerability or radicalisation must be passed to the Designated Safeguarding Lead using the usual methods for reporting safeguarding concerns.

When there are significant concerns about a pupil, the Designated Safeguarding Lead in liaison with the Headteacher will make a referral to the appropriate body.

## **Monitoring and Reviewing**

This policy will be monitored and reviewed by the governing body at least annually through a report from the Designated Safeguarding Lead

This is not a statutory policy and will be reviewed biannually after ratification by the governors.

Signed (Headteacher) \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signe (Chair of Governors) \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_