



St Helens Primary School

Preventing Radicalisation Policy

Reviewed by: FGB

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Next review due: September 2024

Co-Chairs of Governors: Gary Booth and Matthew Searle

Signatures



ST HELENS PRIMARY SCHOOL

POLICY FOR PREVENTING RADICALISATION

Introduction

This policy forms part of the school's commitment to keeping children safe. In March 2015, new statutory duties were placed on schools by the Counter Terrorism and Security Act (2015) which requires them to work to prevent children being drawn into extremism.

Safeguarding children from all risks of harm is a key element of the school's responsibility and protecting from extremism is one aspect of that. Schools have an important part to play in both educating children and young people about extremism and recognising when pupils are at risk of becoming radicalised.

At St Helens Primary School we have a duty to prepare our children for life in modern Britain and to keep them safe. All staff are expected to uphold and promote the fundamental principles of British values, including democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs.

Evidence shows that children with low aspirations are more vulnerable to radicalisation.

Therefore, the school's ethos and work it carries out to ensure pupils have confidence and self-belief, are tolerant and respectful whilst having high expectations of themselves, and are crucial in combating radicalisation.

Aims:

The main aims of this policy statement are to ensure that staff and governors are vigilant for the signs of radicalisation; that they overcome professional disbelief that such issues 'will not happen on the Isle of Wight' and ensure that we work alongside other professional bodies and agencies to ensure that our children are safe from harm.

Objectives

- 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 anti-radicalisation and extremism and will follow the policy when issues arise.
- The school will ensure this policy is available to the wider school community through its website and in hard copy from the school office on request.

Definitions

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

Extremism: We have adopted the 2011 Prevent Strategy definition 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.

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

Signs of Vulnerability

There are no known definitive indicators that a young person is vulnerable to radicalisation, however there are a number of signs that together increase the risk. These include:

- Continual refusal to conform
- 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 (but there are also very powerful narratives, programmes and networks that young people can come across online so particular individuals / groups may not become apparent)
- 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
- 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

Procedure for referrals

Although serious incidents involving radicalisation have not occurred at St Helens Primary School to date, it is important for us to be vigilant and fully informed about issues that affect the local and wider area. Staff are reminded to suspend any professional disbelief that incidents of radicalisation 'could not happen on the Isle of Wight' and to refer any concerns to the Head teacher or DDSL in their absence.

Role of the 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. Our values support the development of pupils as reflective learners within a safe, respectful and tolerant learning environment.

Through our curriculum, pupils 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 and SMSC provision is embedded across the curriculum, and underpins the ethos of the school.

Pupils are taught how to stay safe when using the Internet and 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. 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. The filtering systems used in our school blocks inappropriate content, including extremist material, and pupils are regularly reminded to report any inappropriate material that may get through the school's filter so the matter can be addressed. This includes cyber bullying.

Staff training

Through INSET opportunities in school, we will ensure our staff are fully aware of the threats, risks and vulnerabilities that are linked to radicalisation and are aware of the process of radicalisation and how this might be identified early on. This information will also form part of our safeguarding training. In addition, all staff have completed online Prevent training.

All staff are aware that children with disabilities / SEN present additional challenges due to their vulnerability including;

Assumptions are that indicators of possible abuse relate to the child's disabilities. The potential for these children to be suffering abuse without showing outward signs and there maybe communication barriers and difficulties.

Safer recruitment

We ensure our recruitment processes are rigorous, in line with statutory requirements, best practice guidance and the school's safer recruitment policy. These processes include the use of the DBS checks on all employees, governors and regular volunteers.

Visitors:

All visitors are accommodated in line with the school's 'Guidelines for Visitors.' Contractors are required to sign documentation in advance of having access to school. Visiting speakers are required to work to a pre-agreed mandate and, if at any time, the supervising staff consider the input inappropriate they are to take immediate action.

Links to other policies:

This policy links to the following policies:

- Child protection
- Safeguarding
- E-safety
- Whistleblowing
- Equal opportunities
- Anti-bullying
- PSHE
- Our British Values Statement
- Staff Code of Conduct

Statutory duties:

The duty to prevent children and young people radicalised is set out in the following documents:

- Counter Terrorism and Security Act (2015) be pi
- Keeping Children Safe in Education (2023)
- Prevent Duty Guidance (2015)
- Together to Safeguard Children (2018)

