



St Bernadette's Catholic Primary School

Prevent Policy

Introduction

The Mission for St Bernadette's Catholic Primary School is

'...to ensure a loving and faithful learning community in which our children can become the person God created them to be. A community where we celebrate the dignity, worth and uniqueness of every individual. Where we grow and learn together with joy, in the love of Jesus. In this love, we strive to be courageous stewards of creation.'

Our Mission is rooted in scripture

I have come so that they may have life and have it to the full

John 10:10

Therefore, the full implementation of our Prevent Policy plays an important part in enabling us to strive towards achieving this mission for all the children in our care.

Background

This Preventing Radicalisation Policy is part of our commitment to keeping our pupils and the school community safe. Since the Education and 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 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.

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 – updated 2021

Working Together to Safeguard Children 2015 – updated 2022

Non-statutory Guidance

Promoting fundamental British values as part of SMSC in schools: DfE Departmental advice for maintained schools 2014

Related Policies

Online safety policy

Behaviour Policy

Safeguarding Policy

Single Equalities 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 Governors

It is the role of the Governors to ensure that the schools meet their statutory duties with regard to preventing radicalisation.

The schools have a nominated Safeguarding Governor who will liaise with the Headteacher and other staff about issues to do with protecting pupils from radicalisation.

Role of the Headteacher

It is the role of the Headteacher 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

Role of Designated Safeguarding Lead

It is the role of the Designated Safeguarding Lead to:

- ensure that staff understand the issues of radicalisation, that they are able to recognise the signs of vulnerability or radicalisation and know how to refer their concerns
- receive safeguarding concerns about pupils 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

Role of Staff

It is the role of staff to understand the issues of radicalisation, that they are able to recognise the signs of vulnerability or radicalisation and know how to refer their 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. Our values support the development of the whole child as a reflective learner within a safe respectful learning environment. Teaching the schools' Gospel 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. Extremists use the internet, including social media, to share their messages. The BTLS filtering systems used at our schools block inappropriate content, including extremist content.

Where staff, pupils or visitors find unblocked extremist content they must report it immediately to a senior member of staff.

The Online Safety Policy and Acceptable use agreements refers to inappropriate content. Pupils and staff know how to report internet content that is inappropriate or of concern.

Staff Training

Staff will be given training (bi-annually) to help them understand the issues of radicalisation, so that they are able to recognise the signs of vulnerability or radicalisation and know how to refer their concerns.

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 2022. DBS checks are carried out in accordance to up to date guidance on persons having regular unsupervised access to children

Visitors

Visitors to the schools are made aware of our safeguarding and child protection policies on arrival at the schools and are given information about what to do if they are concerned about any aspect of child welfare.

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 pupils without a member of staff being present.

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

Signs of Vulnerability

There are no known definitive indicators that a young person is vulnerable to radicalisation, but there are 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 event
- religious conversion
- change in behaviour
- extremist influences
- conflict with family over lifestyle
- confused identify
- victim or witness to race or hate crimes

- rejection by peers, family, social groups or faith
- isolation from peers
- becoming withdrawn in class
- disengagement from work
- aggressive behaviour towards peers
- rebelling against school rules
- attendance – change in pattern

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 (there are also very powerful narratives, programmes and networks that young people can come across online so involvement with particular groups may not be apparent)
- secretive behaviour
- on-line 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

families at risk should also be considered. Those who:-

- Do not buying into schools' ethos
- Question policies
- Keep apart from other parents

Referral Process

Staff and visitors to the schools must refer all concerns about pupils who show signs of vulnerability or radicalisation to the Designated Safeguarding Lead using the usual methods for reporting other safeguarding concerns.

Reviewed Autumn 2023

To be reviewed Autumn 2024