



Sycamore Hall Preparatory School

Prevent Policy

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Prevent Policy

Sycamore Hall Preparatory School is committed to providing a secure environment for pupils, where children feel safe and are kept safe. All adults in our school recognise that safeguarding is everyone's responsibility irrespective of the role they undertake or whether their role has direct contact or responsibility for children or not.

Preventing Radicalisation

The Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 places a duty on specified authorities, including local authorities and childcare, education and other children's services providers, in the exercise of their functions, to have due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism ("the Prevent duty"). Young people can be exposed to extremist influences or prejudiced views, in particular those via the internet and other social media. Schools can help to protect children from extremist and violent views in the same ways they can help to safeguard children from sexual exploitation, drugs, gang violence or alcohol.

This policy 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 at s175 of the Education Act 2002 (s157 of the Education Act 2002.)

The Prevent Strategy

The Prevent strategy aims to protect vulnerable people from being drawn into terrorism. While it remains rare for children and young people to become involved in terrorist activity, young people from an early age can be exposed to terrorist and extremist influences or prejudiced views. We recognise that as with other forms of safeguarding strategies early intervention is always preferable. Our school is committed to working with other local partners, families and communities, and we will play a key role in ensuring young people and threat communities are safe from the threat of terrorism.

When operating this policy we use the following accepted Governmental definition of extremism which is:

'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; and/or calls for the death of members of our armed forces, whether in this country or overseas'.

The full Government Prevent Strategy can be viewed at:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/97976/preventstrategy-review.pdf

We also recognise that our School has a duty of care to our pupils and staff which includes safeguarding them from the risk of being drawn into terrorism. Being drawn into terrorism includes not just violent extremism but also non-violent extremism, which can create an atmosphere conducive to terrorism and can popularise views which terrorists exploit. Prevent can work within both violent and non-violent extremism arenas and can include topics such as hate crime, racism, bullying, on-line safety and extreme political views.

Our school is committed to:

- Having a single point of contact in terms of safeguarding – Mrs Susan Nicklin.
- Assessing the risk of students being drawn into terrorism.
- Training staff to recognise radicalisation and extremism.
- Referring vulnerable people to Channel.
- Prohibiting extremist speakers and events.
- Managing access to extremist material.
- Being confident about British Values.

We recognise that some young people, who are vulnerable to extreme views, may find it difficult to develop a sense of self-worth and to view the world in a positive way. We also recognise that their behaviour may be challenging at times, and that some may cause offence or harm to others.

We will therefore always take a considered and sensitive approach in order that we can support all of our pupils by:

- Providing a safe environment for children and young people to learn and develop in our school setting.
- Identify children and young people who are particularly vulnerable to extreme views/radicalisation, and take appropriate action in accordance with the school's Safeguarding procedures with the aim of making sure they are kept safe both at home and in our school setting.
- Make appropriate referrals to the Local Authority for early intervention and support where necessary.
- Ensure that staff responsible for safeguarding are kept fully aware of their responsibilities by attending relevant training.
- Let staff, parents and pupils know how to voice concerns.
- Respond to any allegations appropriately according to appropriate school policies.

We recognise the following potential diagnostic indicators identified in the Channel Guidance which include:

- Use of language seen to be inappropriate (e.g. causing distress or alarm and perceived to be prejudiced, inflammatory or hateful).
- Noticeable behavioural changes.
- Expression of extreme views.
- Possession of extremist literature.
- Advocating violent actions and means.
- Seeking to recruit others to an extremist ideology.

We also understand these critical risk factors which indicate a possible process of potential grooming/entrapment:

- Changes in faith/ideology.
- Sudden name change linked to a different faith/ideology.
- Significant changes in appearance.
- Secrecy on the internet and access to websites with a social networking element.
- Narrow/limited religious or political view.
- Attendance at certain meetings e.g. rallies and articulating support for.
- “Them” and “us” language/rhetoric.
- Justifying the use of violence to solve societal issues.
- Isolation from usual friends, family or social groups.
- Sudden unexplained foreign travel.

We will work to ensure that our pupils will be skilled and equipped to be resilient and resist involvement in extreme and radical activities. Therefore we recognise the need to build resilience in our pupils to make them less vulnerable.

We will therefore provide a broad and balanced curriculum within which we aim to support pupils, Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural development (SMSC). SMSC development is promoted through all our subjects, including ethos of our school where development of positive attitudes and values is central to everything we do.

Values underpinning public life in the UK have been summarised as democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, mutual respect and tolerance for those with difference faiths and beliefs. It is important that our pupils understand this through different approaches using a balanced and broad curriculum. This supports our pupils to be responsible citizens and prepares for an adult life living and working in Britain which is diverse and changing. Our school will ensure the promotion of British Values.

At our school we will promote the values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, mutual respect and tolerance for those with different faiths and beliefs. We will teach and encourage pupils to respect one another and to respect and tolerate difference, especially those of a different faith or no faith. It is indeed our most fundamental responsibility to keep our pupils safe and prepare them for life in modern multi-cultural Britain and globally.

Our school will closely follow any locally agreed procedure as set out by the Local Authority and/or our Safeguarding Children Board’s agreed processes and criteria for

safeguarding individuals vulnerable to extremism and radicalisation.

When a member of staff has concerns about a child they must report this to the Safeguarding lead, Susan Nicklin. In the event that concerns are about a person becoming radicalised consideration will be given to using the Channel process. Checking with the safeguarding lead will utilise existing internal safeguarding processes.

Channel is a bespoke panel which meets to address issues of individuals who have been identified as being at risk of radicalisation but have not committed any terrorism offence.

Role of the Designated Safeguarding Lead

The Designated Safeguarding Lead is: Susan Nicklin

The Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead is Helen Grassi.