

Forty Hill CE School

Anti-Radicalisation Policy Statement



This policy statement has been written in conjunction with the LDBS Prevent Guidelines.

Rationale

Forty Hill CE School is fully committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all its pupils. As a school, we recognise that safeguarding against radicalisation is no different from safeguarding against any other vulnerability. 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. In formulating this policy, the Governors have taken into account guidance from the Department for Education (DfE) who has called for all public bodies to make explicit their preventative measures to minimise the threat of extremism in their setting.

Definitions and Indicators

The Home Office defines **Radicalisation** as “the process by which a person comes to support terrorism and forms of extremism leading to terrorism”. **Extremism** is defined as “the 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”. **Terrorism** is defined as “the act of violence, property damage and wanting to endanger life to bring attention to a cause”.

It is important to be aware that, whilst there is currently a great deal of media coverage regarding Islamist extremism, there are other organisations, including extreme right wing groups, who can damage society and present a threat to the community. Schools should at all times ensure that their approach to the threat of radicalisation is balanced, calm and proportionate.

The Governing Body has a **zero tolerance** approach to extremist behaviour of any kind for all community members. We rely on our strong values to steer our work and ensure the pastoral care of our pupils protects them from exposure to negative influences. Furthermore, our positive promotion of British Values and of our school vision and values equips our pupils with the skills to reject violence and bigotry in all its forms.

Aims and Objectives

The main principle of this policy statement is to ensure that staff are fully engaged in being vigilant about radicalisation and that they overcome professional disbelief that such issues will not happen here and ensure that we work alongside other professional bodies and agencies to ensure that our pupils are safe from harm.

The aims and objectives are that:

- Pupils are encouraged to adopt and live out our vision and values. These complement the key “British Values” of tolerance, respect, understanding, compassion and harmonious living
- Pupils are helped to understand the importance of democracy and freedom of speech, through Collective Acts of Worship, assemblies and through the elected School Council members
- Pupils are taught how to keep themselves safe, in school and when using the internet
- Pupils participate in local community events so that they appreciate and value their neighbours and friends who may not share their faith background
- Pupil’s wellbeing, confidence and resilience is promoted through our planned curriculum and out of hours learning opportunities
- Pupils are supported in making good choices from a very young age, so they understand the impact and consequences of their actions on others
- Governors, teachers, teaching assistants and non-teaching staff demonstrate an understanding of what radicalisation and extremism is and why we need to be vigilant in school

Legal Responsibility

The Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 places a legal responsibility on schools to prevent people being drawn into terrorism and requires that they challenge extremist ideas. This duty came into force on July 1st 2015. The Office

for Security and Counter Terrorism works to counter the threat from terrorism and their work is detailed in the Counter Terrorism Strategy 'CONTEST'. 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

Primarily our work, as a school, will be concerned with **Prevention** and is outlined more specifically in the DCSF document '*Learning together to be safe: a toolkit to help schools contribute to the prevention of violent extremism*'. https://www.education.gov.uk/consultations/downloadableDocs/17132_DIUS_Learning_Be_Safe.pdf

Procedures for Referrals

Staff are reminded to suspend any professional disbelief that instances of radicalisation 'could not happen here' and to refer any concerns through the appropriate channels as prescribed in the school's Child Protection Policy.

If staff are concerned that children are at risk of radicalisation they must report any concerns straight away to the Designated Safeguarding Lead via the appropriate logging form. The DSL will then seek support from the NSPCC (NSPCC Radicalisation Helpline: 0808 500 800), from the Children's MASH (previously Single Point of Entry) and may refer to Channel Panel. This policy is strictly adhered to should issues arise.

The Role of the Curriculum

At Forty Hill, our curriculum promotes respect, tolerance and diversity. Children are encouraged to express themselves through discussions, debates and consultations. The RE, PSHE (Personal, Social and Health Education), Citizenship and SMSC (Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural) provision is embedded across the curriculum, and underpins the vision and values of the school. British values are taught through discussions and activities in order to encourage children to be able to articulate the values associated. Children learn about other faiths and visit places of worship and are taught about how to stay safe when using the internet.

It should also be remembered that outside events, such as tensions in the local community, events in the country of origin, in the case of migrants, or major world events (such as the refugee crisis or the war in Syria) can also disproportionately affect the feelings and actions of young people. All staff should be alert to these events and be ready to help young people understand them, and put them into context.

Staff Training

All staff have annual Child Protection Training including Radicalisation and Prevent training. Designated Safeguarding Leads have regular DSL training and keep up to date with safeguarding and radicalisation updates through a number of channels including the LDBS, Local Authority and NSPCC. Through INSET opportunities in school, we will ensure that our staff are fully aware of the threats, risks and vulnerabilities that are linked to radicalisation and that all staff and Governors are aware of the process of radicalisation and how this might be identified early on.

Policy Review

This Anti-Radicalisation policy statement will be reviewed annually as part of the overall Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy review.

Other Reference Documents

Anti-Bullying Policy
Behaviour Policy
Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy
Collective Worship Policy
Equalities and Diversity Policy
Online Safety Policy
Religious Education Policy
Teaching and Learning Policy

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