

Preventing Radicalisation Policy

Key Document Details:			
Author:	Trust Vulnerability Lead	Department:	Trust Central Services
Reviewer:	Executive Team	Version No:	1.0
Last Review:	January 2023	Next Review:	January 2024
Approver:	CEO/DCEO	Date Ratified:	16 January 2023

Contents

Document Change History	2
Mission Statement	3
Aims	3
Principles.....	3
Practice	4
Recognising Extremism	4
Educating Students	5
Visitors	5
Internet Safety	6
Safer Recruitment	6
Staff Training.....	7
Out of Hours Hiring	7
Risk Assessment	7
Links to other policies	7
Monitoring and review.....	7

Document Change History

Date:	Version:	Description of Changes:
16.01.2023	1.0	Updated version for agreement

Mission Statement

“To nurture and develop all people in our Trust so that they reach their full potential academically, vocationally, and personally, including being positive role models for future generations in the community. We will achieve this by providing high quality values-based education that cultivates employability and life skills making our schools the first choice for young people, parents, carers, staff and employers.”

Aims

This ‘Preventing Radicalisation Policy’ is part of Skills for Life Trust’s commitment to keeping children 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.

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 (2020)
- Prevent Duty Guidance (2015)
- Working Together to Safeguard Children (2022)

Principles

There is no place for extremist views of any kind in the schools within our Trust. It is imperative that our students and parents see our schools as safe places where they can discuss and explore controversial issues safely and in an unbiased way, and where our teachers encourage and facilitate this.

As a Trust we recognise that extremism and exposure to extremist materials and influences can lead to poor outcomes for our students. We also recognise that if we fail to challenge extremist views we are failing to protect our students. Extremists of all persuasions aim to develop destructive relationships between different communities by promoting division, fear and mistrust of others based on ignorance or prejudice and thereby limiting the life chances of young people. Education is a powerful weapon against this; equipping young people with the knowledge, skills

and critical thinking, to challenge and debate in an informed way.

Therefore, within Skills for Life Trust we will...

- Challenge extremist views, prejudice and derogatory language;
- Provide a broad and balanced curriculum so that our students understand and become tolerant of difference and diversity;
- Support our children to ensure that they thrive and feel valued and not marginalised.

Practice

Recognising Extremism

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;
- religious conversion;
- unexplained 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.

As part of wider safeguarding responsibilities, Trust staff will be alert to:

Disclosures by students of their exposure to the extremist actions, views or materials of others outside of school, such as in their homes or community groups, especially where students have not actively sought these out.

Graffiti symbols, writing or artwork promoting extremist messages or images.

Students accessing extremist material online, including through social networking sites.

Parental reports of changes in behaviour, friendship or actions and requests for assistance.

Local schools, Local Authority services, and police reports of issues affecting pupils in other schools or settings.

Students voicing opinions drawn from extremist ideologies and narratives.

Use of extremist or 'hate' terms to exclude others or incite violence.

Intolerance of difference, whether secular or religious or, in line with our equalities policy, views based on, but not exclusive to, gender, disability, homophobia, race, colour or culture.

Attempts to impose extremist views or practices on others.

Anti-Western or Anti-British views.

Any concerns regarding a potentially extremist behaviour or concerns about possible radicalisation will be referred in line with the Trust's Safeguarding Policy via My Concern which will then be passed to a DSL. The DSL will then determine whether the matter meets the requirements for referral to the Channel Panel using the forms linked to the following websites:

Kent - <https://www.kscmp.org.uk/procedures/prevent>

Medway - <https://www.medwayscp.org.uk/mscb/info/4/advice-resources-professionals/27/radicalisation>

The Schools within the Trust will work closely with Local and National Statutory Bodies including the Local Children's Safeguarding Partnership and the Police to access information regarding local prevent concerns and issues.

Any, discrimination or extremist views, including derogatory language, displayed by students will always be challenged and, where appropriate, dealt with in line with the School's "Anti-Bullying Policy" and "Behaviour Policy". This will apply to comments made in school and on any digital platform used during remote learning or made using the Trust's Email Server.

Educating Students

All Schools within the trust will ensure that their teaching approaches help students build resilience to extremism and give students a positive sense of identity through the development of critical thinking skills. Schools will help support students who may be vulnerable to such influences as part of their wider safeguarding responsibilities.

Each school will have a programme of assemblies that include that promotion of fundamental British Values. Each school will, through the Skills for Life Strategy, promote the values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, mutual respect and tolerance for those with different faiths and beliefs. Students will be taught and encouraged to respect one another and to respect and tolerate difference, especially those of a different faith or no faith.

Opportunities will be made where appropriate within the Curriculum, including within Schemes of Work for PD, PSHE, MSC and RE, for students to broaden their understanding of British Values and how these are threatened by Extremist ideologies. We will strive to eradicate the myths and assumptions that can lead to students becoming alienated and disempowered.

Visitors

Each School will assess the suitability and effectiveness of input from external agencies or

individuals to ensure that:

Any messages communicated to students are in support with fundamental British Values

Any messages communicated to students are consistent with the ethos of the Trust and do not marginalise any communities, groups or individuals

Any messages communicated to students do not seek to glorify criminal activity or violent extremism or seek to radicalise students through extreme or narrow views of faith, religion or culture or other ideologies

Activities are properly embedded in the curriculum and clearly mapped to schemes of work to avoid contradictory messages or duplication.

Activities are matched to the needs of students.

Visitors to the Schools within the Trust are provided with details of the School's safeguarding arrangements.

Internet Safety

The internet provides children 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 schools will be regularly updated to block inappropriate content, including extremist content. Social media sites, such as Facebook are also blocked on pupil devices. Searches and web addresses are monitored and the ICT technicians will alert the DSL where there are concerns and prevent further access when new sites that are unblocked are found. Where staff or students find unblocked extremist content they should report it to a member of staff. Students and staff know how to report internet content that is inappropriate or of concern. Online Safety will be covered in ICT/Computing lessons and the Government Guidance on Teaching Online Safety will be used as the basis for this work.

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

With the increased use of the internet as part of any Remote Learning, Schools within the Trust will ensure that they continue to provide advice to parents and carers on safe use of the internet. Any websites or online materials that are used as part of remote learning will be from reputable sources and will be vetted in advance by the staff member using them.

Safer Recruitment

The Trust will ensure that staff appointed to roles within the Trust are suitable. Our recruitment procedures are rigorous and we follow the statutory guidance published in Keeping Children Safe in Education, as set out in each school's Child Protection & Safeguarding Policy and in our Safer Recruitment Policy

Staff Training

All Trust 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 will form part of induction safeguarding training. All Staff will complete the Home Office's Online Prevent training upon induction

(<https://www.elearning.prevent.homeoffice.gov.uk/edu/screen1.html>). A DSL from each Trust School will attend refresher training to ensure that their knowledge and understanding of the Prevent Duty and how it applies to the School is up to date. Relevant Staff will also have completed online training relating to the Channel Panel and making referrals to the Channel Panel.

Out of Hours Hiring

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.

Risk Assessment

The Primary and Secondary schools have an Extremism and Radicalisation Risk Assessment and Action Plan that is reviewed annually.

Links to other policies

This policy should be read in conjunction with the following policies:

- Safeguarding & Child Protection Policy;
- Behaviour Policy;
- Remote Learning Policy;
- Child Protection Policy;
- Equal Opportunities Policy;
- Safer Recruitment Policy;
- School Lettings Policy;
- Equality Policy;
- Equality and Diversity Policy;
- Curriculum Policy;
- E-Safety Policy.

Monitoring and review

This policy will be reviewed annually, but may be reviewed and updated more frequently if necessary.