



Sturminster Newton High School

Preventing Radicalisation Policy

2023-24

Prevent lead: Mr P Mattocks

Background

All Schools and Colleges are subject to a duty under Section 26 of the Counterterrorism and Security Act 2015 (the CTSA 2015), in the exercise of their functions to have due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism. This duty is known as the Prevent duty.

This 'Preventing Radicalisation Policy' is part of Sturminster Newton High School commitment to keeping children safe. 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) and the Reviewed Prevent duty guidance for England and Wales (Updated 1 April 2021) which means they must work to prevent children being drawn into extremism.

This policy should be read in conjunction with the schools Safeguarding (child Protection) policy. Safeguarding children is an important part of a school's work and protecting them from extremism and Radicalisation is one aspect of that.

Definition

For the purposes of this policy the definition of radical or extreme ideology is:

"A set of ideas that could justify vilification or violence against individuals, groups or self".

Ethos

At Sturminster Newton High School we ensure that through our school vision, values, rules, curriculum and teaching we promote tolerance and respect for all cultures, faiths and lifestyles. The local governing body also ensures that this ethos is reflected and implemented effectively in school policy and practice and that there are effective risk assessments in place to safeguard and promote students' welfare.

We have a duty to prepare our children for life in modern Britain and to keep them safe. Pupils who attend our school have the right to learn in safety. We do not tolerate bullying of any kind and will challenge derogatory language and behaviour towards others.

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 2023
- Prevent Duty Guidance 2015
- Revised Prevent duty Guidance: for England and Wales 2021
- Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018

Non-statutory Guidance.

- Improving the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils: supplementary information (DfE 2014)
- Promoting fundamental British values

Related Policies

Child protection policy

Anti Bullying policy

IT policy

Behaviour Policy

Definitions

Extremism

The Government has defined extremism in the Prevent strategy (2021) 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.

Radicalisation

The Government's Prevent Duty Guidance (2021) defines radicalisation as "the process by which a person comes to support terrorism and extremist ideologies associated with terrorist groups

British Values

The Prevent duty Guidance (2021) defines British Values as democracy, rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs. The Prevent duty also reminds providers of the need to promote the Equality duty to learners.

Roles and Responsibilities

Role of the Local Governing Body

It is the role of the local governing body to ensure that the school meets its statutory duties with regard to preventing radicalisation.

The governing body has a nominated person who will liaise with the headteacher and other staff about issues to do with protecting children from Extremism and 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, can recognise the signs of vulnerability or radicalisation, and know how to refer their concerns.
- receive safeguarding concerns about children and young people who may be vulnerable to the risk of radicalisation or are showing signs of radicalisation.
- make referrals to appropriate agencies related to concerns about radicalisation.
- liaise with partners, including the local authority and the police.
- report to the governing body on these matters
- Carry out risk assessments to assess the role of pupils being drawn into terrorism including support for extremist ideas which are part of terrorist ideology. The DSL will also use regular risk assessments to demonstrate understanding of the risks and how to identify pupils who may be at risk of radicalisation.

Role of prevent leads

To make sure that consideration of what is appropriate in SNHS school based on a risk assessment and taking into account the circumstances of our school and its local community.

Ensure that protecting the children in SNHS care against extremism and radicalisation is treated in the same way as protecting them from other harms such as drugs, gangs, neglect and sexual exploitation, whether these come from within their family or are the product of outside influences.

Help students build resilience against extremism and radicalisation by fostering a strong ethos and values-based education, as well as by providing a safe space for them to debate controversial issues and develop the critical thinking skills and knowledge they need to be able to challenge extremist arguments.

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.

The PSHE programme of study, alongside specific curriculum topics covered in subjects such as RE, History and Geography supports students understanding of extremism and radicalisation and how to protect themselves and peers from exploitation.

These values support the development of the whole child as a reflective learner within a calm, caring, happy and purposeful atmosphere. Teaching the schools core 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 filtering systems used in our school blocks inappropriate content, including extremist content.

We also filter out social media, such as Facebook. Searches and web addresses are monitored, and the ICT technicians will alert senior staff where there are concerns and prevent further access when new sites that are unblocked are found.

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

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

The Acceptable Use of ICT Policy refers to preventing radicalisation and related extremist content. Pupils and staff are asked to sign this annually to confirm they have understood what is acceptable.

Pupils and staff know how to report internet content that is inappropriate or of concern.

Staff Training

Staff will be given training to help them understand the issues of radicalisation, and extremism they will be able to recognise the signs of vulnerability and know how to refer their concerns. This information also forms part of induction safeguarding training.

Staff are required to attend update WRAP (Prevent) training every 3 years. This is provided by the school as part of the school's commitment to safeguarding children in our school.

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 (2023)*.

Vetting and barring checks are undertaken on relevant people, including local governors and volunteers. The HR team lead on this process and work with the Head teacher to ensure all appropriate checks are completed.

Visitors

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

Visitors who are invited to speak to pupils will be informed about our preventing extremism policy and relevant vetting checks are undertaken. We undertake due diligence to ensure that visiting speakers are appropriate. Speakers are always supervised and will not be allowed to speak to children without a member of staff being present.

Staff must not invite speakers into school without first obtaining permission from the headteacher.

Hire and Lettings

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.

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 like illegal organisations or other extremist groups
- out of character changes in dress, behaviour, and peer relationships (but 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
- online searches or sharing extremist messages or social profiles.
- intolerance of difference, including faith, culture, gender, race, or sexuality
- graffiti, artwork 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

Referral Process

Staff and visitors to the school must refer all concerns about children and young people who show signs of vulnerability or radicalisation must be passed to the Designated Safeguarding Lead using the usual methods for reporting other safeguarding concerns.

When there are significant concerns about a pupil, the Designated Safeguarding Lead in liaison with the headteacher will make a referral to the appropriate body.

Further guidance in respect of Prevent can be located using the following link -

<https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/your-community/community-safety/prevent.aspx> (Dorset)

Prevent in Somerset

If a Prevent referral is required, then the referral form should be used and sent to the following email address –

Prevent referrals should be sent to:

PreventReferrals@Dorset.pnn.police.uk (Dorset)
channelsw@avonandsomerset.pnn.police.uk (Somerset)

If you have safeguarding concerns in respect of a child or young person, then please refer to Dorset Council's to your Dorset or Somerset process as required.

Monitoring and Review

This policy will be monitored by the local governing body annually by receiving a report from the Designated Safeguarding Lead.

Signed (Headteacher) *J Davis*

Ratified by (Chair of Governors) Signed *D Williams*

Date 21st September 2023

Review date September 2024

References/Bibliography

- Educate against hate website:
<https://educateagainsthate.com/teachers/which-children-and-young-people-are-vulnerable-to-radicalisation/>
- Prevent Duty. Departmental advice for schools and childcare providers Guidance; duty in the Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015.
https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/439598/prevent-duty-departmental-advice-v6.pdf
- Revised Prevent duty guidance: for England and Wales 2021.Gov.UK.
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/prevent-duty-guidance>
- Keeping children Safe in Education 2023.
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/keeping-children-safe-in-education--2>
- Working together to Safeguard children 2018
- https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/942454/Working_together_to_safeguard_children_inter_agency_guidance.pdf