Preventing Radicalisation Policy

Swanbourne CE School

Mursley CE School

Drayton Parslow Village School

Kingfishers Nursery (Mursley)

(In this policy known as the Three Schools)

This policy agreed by the Governing Body– **September 2024**

The policy is to be reviewed by – **September 2025**

(Copies of this policy are available for staff, parents, visitors and volunteers on request from the school office)

The Three Schools

Preventing Radicalisation Policy

The Three Schools are fully committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all its pupils. As a federation of schools, 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.

Aims and Principles

The main aims of this policy are to ensure that staff are fully engaged in being vigilant about radicalisation; 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 principle objectives are that:

- All Staff and Governors will have an understanding of what radicalisation and extremism are and why we need to be vigilant in school.
- All Staff and Governors will know what the school policy is on anti-radicalisation and extremism and will follow the policy when issues arise.
- All parents and pupils will know that the school has policies in place to keep pupils safe from harm and that the school regularly reviews its systems to ensure they are appropriate and effective.

Background

This ‘Preventing Radicalisation Policy’ is part of our 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.

Ethos

At The Three Schools we ensure that through our school vision, values, rules, diverse curriculum and teaching we promote tolerance and respect for all cultures, faiths and lifestyles. The 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 schools 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 (2024)
- Prevent Duty Guidance (2015)
- Working Together to Safeguard Children (2015)
- Non-statutory Guidance
- Promoting fundamental British values as part of SMSC in schools:
- Departmental advice for maintained schools (DfE 2014)

Related Policies

- Acceptable Use (ICT) Policy
- Online Safety Policy
- Positive Behaviour Policy
- Anti-bullying policy
- Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy
- Equality Policy
- Personal, Social And Health Education (PSHE) Policy
- Relationships Policy
- Sex Education Policy
- Spiritual, Moral, Social, Cultural (SMSC) Policy
- Staff Code of Conduct
- Teaching and Learning Policy
- Visitors Policy
- Whistle-blowing 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 Governing Body

It is the role of the 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 radicalisation.

The Governing Body of our Schools will undertake appropriate training to ensure that they are clear about their role and the parameters of their responsibilities as Governors, including their statutory safeguarding duties. The Governing Body will support the ethos and values of our schools and will support the school in tackling extremism and radicalisation. In line with the provisions set out in the DfE guidance ‘Keeping Children Safe in Education 2023’ the governing body will challenge the school’s senior management team on the delivery of this policy and monitor its effectiveness.

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 (DSL)

It is the role of the designated safeguarding lead to:

- ensure that staff understand the issues of radicalisation, are able to 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 with regard to concerns about radicalisation
  - liaise with partners, including the local authority and the police
  - report to the governing body on these matters

Role of staff

It is the role of staff to understand the issues of radicalisation, 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 Christian values of Love, Honesty, Forgiveness and Respect. These values support the development of the whole child as a reflective learner within a calm, caring, happy and purposeful atmosphere. Teaching the schools' Christian 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.

Our curriculum promotes respect, tolerance and diversity. 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. Children are encouraged to share their views and recognise that they are entitled to have their own different beliefs which should not be used to influence others. Our PSHE (Personal, Social and Health Education), Citizenship and SMSC (Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural) provision is embedded across the curriculum, and underpins the ethos of the school. Teaching The Three Schools' Christian 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. Children are regularly taught about how to stay safe when using the Internet and are encouraged to recognise that people are not always who they say they are online. They are taught to seek adult help if they are upset or concerned about anything they read or see on the Internet.

Internet and Online 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.

Across The Three Schools, we use **Securly** for both Filtering and Monitoring the online activity of our Staff and Pupils. The **Securely Filtering system** is a cloud-based web filter designed specifically for schools, which helps us to keep our students safe with powerful features that make our schools safer. Through the **Securly Monitoring system**, we are able to have visibility into online activity, download or email reports, and block inappropriate sites instantly – this enables us to block inappropriate content, including extremist content. We also filter out social media, such as Facebook. Searches and web addresses are monitored.

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

Our children do not have access to mobile phones, however staff are alert to the need for vigilance if a pupil did bring their phone in to school.

The Acceptable Use of ICT Policy (AUP) refers to preventing radicalisation and related extremist content. Pupils and staff are asked to sign the AUP 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, are able to recognise the signs of vulnerability or radicalisation and know how to refer their concerns. This information also forms part of induction safeguarding training.

Staff are updated as necessary in weekly safeguarding briefings and via internal emails and links to the NSPCC CASPAR newsletter bulletin.

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; are aware of the process of radicalisation and how this might be identified early on.

Links to other policies:

- Child Protection Policy
- Anti-bullying policy
- Positive Behaviour policy
- Online Safety Policy

The Three Our school's Policy also draws upon the guidance contained in the DfE Guidance "Keeping Children Safe in Education, 2024"; and specifically, DCSF Resources "LearningTogether to be Safe", "Prevent: Resources Guide", "Tackling Extremism in the UK", DfE's"Teaching Approaches that help Build Resilience to Extremism among Young People".

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 (2024).**Vetting and barring checks are undertaken on relevant people, including governors and volunteers.

The arrangements for recruiting all staff, permanent and volunteers, to our school will follow The Three Schools' Safer Recruitment policy, including, but not limited to, ensuring that DBS checks are always made at the appropriate level, that references are always received and checked and that we complete and maintain a single central record of such vetting checks. We will apply safer recruitment best practice principles and sound employment practice in general and in doing so will deny opportunities for inappropriate recruitment or advancement. We will be alert to the possibility that persons may seek to gain positions within our school so as to unduly influence our schools character and ethos. We are aware that such persons seek to limit the opportunities for our pupils thereby rendering them vulnerable to extremist views and radicalisation as a consequence. Therefore, by adhering to safer recruitment best practice techniques and by ensuring that there is an ongoing culture of vigilance within our school and staff team we will minimise the opportunities for extremist views to prevail.

Visitors

Visitors to the school are made aware of our safeguarding and child protection policies 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 will be supervised at all times and will not be allowed to speak to children with a member of staff being present.

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

No platform for extremists'

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.

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 events
- 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
- 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 (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, 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

Referral Process

Although serious incidents involving radicalisation have not occurred at The Three Schools to date, it is important for us to be constantly vigilant and remain fully informed about the issues which affect the region in which we teach. 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 (currently via the Designated Safeguarding Lead, Deputy DSL or Headteacher).

To ensure all staff have up to date knowledge and understanding of their responsibilities to prevent and protect children from extremism, all are required to complete PREVENT level 1 training (Awareness) and this is renewed on a 2 year cycle. All DSLs are required to complete PREVENT Level 2 training (Referrals) and again, this is renewed on a 2 year cycle.

We believe that it is possible to intervene to protect people who are vulnerable. Early intervention is vital and staff must be aware of the established processes for front line professionals to refer concerns about individuals and/or groups. We must have the confidence to challenge, the confidence to intervene and ensure that we have strong safeguarding practices based on the most up-to-date guidance and best practice.

The Designated Lead for Child Protection and Safeguarding and the Headteacher will deal swiftly with any referrals made by staff or with concerns reported by staff.

The Headteacher will discuss the most appropriate course of action on a case-by-case basis and will decide when a referral to external agencies is needed using the PREVENT reporting flowchart and contacts for Buckinghamshire (**Appendix 1**).

Useful Numbers/Websites

Prevent Duty Guidance: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/prevent-duty-guidance

Channel Guidance: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/channel-guidance

Monitoring and Review

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

This is not a statutory policy and will be reviewed at an appropriate time not later than two years after ratification by the governing body.

This policy will be reviewed annually.

Policy Agreed – **September 2024**

Policy to be reviewed – **September 2025**

Appendix 1 – PREVENT Flowchart and Contacts for Buckinghamshire

PREVENT - How to Report Concerns in Buckinghamshire

1. Make Safe

- If emergency service are required call 999
- Take reasonable steps to ensure that there is no immediate danger

2. REFER

Is the child or adult at risk of radicalisation?

YES

- Refer to either first Response adult/child or to your organisation PREVENT Lead(s)
- Record decision making

First Response

Adults

Child

Prevent Lead(s) (SeeAnnex E)

NO

- Refer to appropriate agency to address any other concerns
- Record decision making

Who to contact for advice or to make a referral

Concerns about an **Adult**	Safeguarding Adults First Response:	**0800 137915**
Concerns about a **Child**	First Response:	**01296 383962**
Concerns out of hours **Adult/Child**	Out of hours, emergency duty team	**0800 9997677**

See Annex E for who you can contact about the Prevent Duty & Channel Panel or to share any concerns you may have about making a referral

PREVENT Leads for Buckinghamshire

If you would like to discuss your concerns about a child or adult at risk of radicalisation, find out more about what the Channel Panel does, discuss other issues in relation to the Prevent Duty (including finding out what training is available) please contact the most relevant Prevent lead for your organisation/area.

If you would like to make a referral direct to the police or discuss concerns about an individual with the police, please complete the referral form (which you can download from the schoolsweb here : https://schoolsweb.buckscc.gov.uk/equalities/prevent/) or contact Thames Valley Police (details below)

Buckinghamshire Council	
Yvette Thomas	Yvette.thomas@buckinghamshire.gov.uk
Daniel Sullivan	Daniel.sullivan@buckinghamshire.gov.uk
Alison Watts	Alison.watts1@buckinghamshire.gov.uk
Buckinghamshire Healthcare Trust	
Louise Pegg	Louise.pegg@nhs.net
Oxford Health Foundation (OHFT)	
Lynda Dix	Lynda.dix@oxfordhealth.nhs.uk
Thames Valley Police	
Prevent Team at Thames Valley Police	Preventreferrals@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk
Out of office hours	Call 101 and ask for the on call Special Branch Sergeant
National Anti-terrorist hotline	0800 789 321 www.gov.uk/report-suspicious-activity-to-mi5 www.gov.uk/report-terrorism
To report information anonymously	Call **Crimestoppers** 0800 555 111
Jeff Singleton	Jeffrey.singleton@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk Tel: 07980 905203
Praveen Liyanage	Prav.liyanage@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk Tel: 07800 702037