



OMBERSLEY ENDOWED FIRST SCHOOL TACKLING EXTREMISM AND RADICALISATION POLICY

POLICY STATEMENT

Ombersley Endowed First School is fully committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all its pupils. Every member of staff recognises that safeguarding against radicalisation and extremism is no different to safeguarding against any other vulnerability in today's society. The Tackling Extremism and Radicalisation Policy sets out our beliefs, strategies and procedures to protect vulnerable individuals from being radicalised or exposed to extremist views, by identifying who they are and promptly providing them with support.

INTRODUCTION

The threat to the UK from international terrorism is substantial. The terrorist threats that we now face are more diverse than ever before, dispersed across a wider geographical area and often in countries without effective governance. We therefore face an unpredictable situation.

Throughout history there have been groups prepared to use violence to achieve their aims. A small minority of these seek to radicalise young people with an ideology which justifies the use of violence through a distorted interpretation of a set of values (often associated with a religion).

In line with guidance from the Department for Education, Ombersley Endowed First School has a zero tolerance acceptance of extremist behaviour and ensures that our care, guidance and curriculum empowers young people to reject violent or extremist behaviour.

Whilst it remains very rare for school age children to become involved in extremist activity, young people can be exposed to extremist influences or prejudiced views, including via the internet, from an early age. Early intervention is a preferable way of tackling extremism.

DEFINITION

Extremism can be defined as "holding of extreme opinions: the holding of extreme political or religious views or the taking of extreme actions on the basis of those views".

STRATEGIES FOR PREVENTING EXTREMISM

The Office for Security & 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

AIMS

The Ombersley Endowed First School Tackling Extremism and Radicalisation Policy is intended to provide a framework for dealing with issues relating to vulnerability, radicalisation and exposure to extreme views. We recognise that we are well placed to be able to identify safeguarding issues and this policy clearly sets out how the school will deal with such incidents and identifies how the curriculum and ethos underpins our actions.

OBJECTIVES

The objectives are:

- All governors, teachers, teaching assistants and non-teaching staff will have an understanding of what radicalisation and extremism are and why we need to be vigilant in school.
- All governors, teachers, teaching assistants and non-teaching staff will know what the school policy is on tackling extremism and radicalisation and will follow the policy guidance swiftly when issues arise.
- All pupils will understand the dangers of radicalisation and exposure to extremist views; building resilience against these and knowing what to do if they experience them.
- All parents/carers 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.

DEFINITIONS AND INDICATORS

- Radicalisation is defined as the act or process of making a person more radical or favouring of extreme or fundamental changes in political, economic or social conditions, institutions or habits of the mind.
- Extremism is defined as the holding of extreme political or religious views.
- There are a number of behaviours which may indicate a child is at risk of being radicalised or exposed to extreme views. These include;
 - i) Spending increasing time in the company of other suspected extremists.
 - ii) Changing their style of dress or personal appearance to accord with the group.
 - iii) Day-to-day behaviour becoming increasingly centred on an extremist ideology, group or cause.
 - iv) Loss of interest in other friends and activities not associated with the extremist ideology, group or cause.
 - v) Possession of materials or symbols associated with an extremist cause.
 - vi) Attempts to recruit others to the group/cause.
 - vii) Communications with others that suggests identification with a group, cause or ideology.
 - viii) Using insulting to derogatory names for another group.
 - ix) Increase in prejudice-related incidents committed by that person – these may include: physical or verbal assault, provocative behaviour, damage to property, derogatory name calling, possession of prejudice-related materials, prejudice related ridicule or name calling, inappropriate forms of

address, refusal to co-operate, attempts to recruit to prejudice-related organisations, condoning or supporting violence towards others.

PROCEDURES FOR REFERRALS

We are aware of the potential indicating factors that a child is vulnerable to being radicalised or exposed to extreme views, including peer pressure, influence from other people or the internet, bullying, crime and anti-social behaviour, family tensions, race/hate crime, lack of self-esteem or identity, prejudicial behaviour and personal or political grievances.

- Although serious incidents involving radicalisation have not occurred at Ombersley Endowed First School to date, it is important for us to be constantly vigilant and remain fully informed about the issues which affect the local area, city and society in which we teach.
- Staff are reminded to suspend any 'professional disbelief' that instances of radicalisation 'could not happen here' and to be 'professionally inquisitive' where concerns arise, referring any 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 practise.

In the event of prejudicial behaviour the following system will be followed:

- All incidents of prejudicial behaviour will be reported directly to the Headteacher or Deputy Headteacher. The Headteacher and Deputy Headteacher are trained as Designated Senior Leaders for Child Protection and Safeguarding and will deal swiftly with any referrals made by staff or with concerns reported by staff.
- All incidents will be fully investigated and records will be kept in line with procedures for any other safeguarding incident.
- Parents/carers will be contacted and the incident discussed in detail, aiming to identify motivating factors, any changes in circumstances at home, parental views of the incident and to assess whether the incident is serious enough to warrant a further referral. A note of this meeting is kept alongside the initial referral in the Safeguarding folder.
- The Headteacher/Deputy Headteacher follow-up any referrals for a period of four weeks after the incident to assess whether there is a change in behaviour and/or attitude. A further meeting with parents would be held if there is not a significant positive change in behaviour.
- The Head Teacher 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.
- As with any child protection referral, staff must be made aware that if they do not agree with a decision not to refer, they can make the referral themselves and will be given the contact details to do this via the safeguarding information in the staffroom.

- If deemed necessary, serious incidents will be discussed and referred to Sally Mills (Safeguarding Advisor) and Access Centre.
- In the event of a referral relating to serious concerns about potential radicalisation or extremism the school will also contact West Midlands Police Counter Terrorism Unit.

GOVERNORS, LEADERS AND STAFF

- The Head Teacher and Deputy Headteacher are the leaders for referrals relating to extremism and radicalisation.
- Staff will be fully briefed about what to do if they are concerned about the possibility of radicalisation relating to a pupil, or if they need to discuss specific children whom they consider to be vulnerable to radicalisation or extremist views.
- The Head Teacher, Deputy Headteacher and external agencies will decide the best course of action to address concerns which arise.

THE ROLE OF THE CURRICULUM

- Our curriculum is broad and balanced. It promotes respect, tolerance and diversity. 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 provision is embedded across the curriculum. It directs our assemblies and underpins the ethos of the school. It is recognised that children with low aspirations are more vulnerable to radicalisation and therefore we strive to equip our pupils with confidence, self-belief, respect and tolerance as well as setting high standards and expectations for themselves.
- Children are regularly taught about how to stay safe when using the internet and are taught to seek adult help if they are upset or concerned about anything they read or see on the internet.

STAFF TRAINING

- 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 and are aware of how we can provide support as a school to ensure that our children are resilient and able to resist involvement in radical or extreme activities.

VISITORS AND THE USE OF SCHOOL PREMISES

- If any member of staff wishes to invite a visitor in the school, children are NEVER left unsupervised with external visitors.
- Upon arriving at the school, all visitors including contractors, will read the child protection and safeguarding guidance leaflet and be made aware of who the DSLs are and how to report any concerns which they may experience.
- If any agreement is made to allow non-school groups or organisations to use the premises, appropriate checks will be made before agreeing the contract. Usage will be monitored and in the event of any behaviour not in-keeping with the Tackling Extremism and Radicalisation Policy, the school will contact the police and terminate the contract.

This policy should be read in conjunction with:

Safeguarding & Child Protection Policy

Equality Policy

Anti-Bullying Policy

Positive Behaviour Management Policy

E-Safety Policy

PREVENT Strategy HM Gov

Keeping Children Safe in Education DfE 2014

Working Together to Safeguard Children HM Gov 2013

Learning Together to be Safe – DCSF

Signed: *C. Moore*

Date: February 2015

Review Date: Spring 2015