



APPENDIX 5:

Policy on PREVENT and radicalisation

(Part of the GJPA Child Protection Policy - Appendix 5)

This policy forms part of the schools commitment to keeping children safe. Since the 'Educational and Inspections Act 2006', schools have a duty to promote community cohesion. Over the last few years, global events have led to a growth in extremist viewpoints, including advocacy of violent extremism. In March 2015, new statutory duties were placed on schools by the Counter Terrorism and Security Act (2015) which requires them to work to prevent children being drawn into extremism.

Safeguarding children from all risks of harm is a key element of the schools responsibility, and protecting from extremism is one aspect of that. Schools have an important part to play in both educating children and young people about extremism and recognising when pupils are at risk of becoming radicalised.

We have a duty to prepare our children for life in modern Britain and to keep them safe. 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.

Evidence suggests that children with low aspirations are more vulnerable to radicalisation. Therefore the schools ethos and work it carries out to ensure pupils have confidence and self-belief, are tolerant and respectful whilst having high expectations of themselves, are crucial in combating radicalisation.

Aims

The main aims of this policy statement are to ensure that staff and governors are vigilant for the signs of 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 children are safe from harm.

Objectives:

- 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 anti-radicalisation and extremism and will follow the policy when issues arise
- The school will ensure this policy is available to the wider community through its website and in hard copy from the school office on request.

Signs of vulnerability

There are no known definitive indicators that a young person is vulnerable to radicalisation, but there are a number of signs that together increase the risk. These include:

- Continual refusal to conform
- 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 identity
- 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 cause
- Glorifying violence, especially to other faiths and cultures
- Making remarks or comments about being at extremist events
- 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
- 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 values
- Advocating violence towards others

Procedure for referral

Although serious incidents involving radicalisation have not occurred at Graham James Primary Academy to date, it is important for us to be vigilant and fully informed about issues that affect the local and wider area. Staff are reminded to suspend any professional disbelief that incidents of radicalisation 'could not happen here' and to refer any concerns to the designated child protection officers, Mrs Petra Back (Head teacher), Mr Richard Turner (Deputy head teacher) or Mrs Wendy Ward (SENCO).

Any concerns that are reported in school with regards to PREVENT and radicalisation should be raised as a safeguarding issue through Thurrock Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH - 01375 652802). Essex Police can also be contacted to discuss any concerns on:

PREVENT@essex.pnn.police.uk

Role of the 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 values support the development of pupils as reflective learners within a safe, respectful and tolerant learning environment. Through our curriculum, pupils 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. Pupils are taught how to stay safe when using the internet and 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. 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 messages. The filtering systems used in our schools blocks inappropriate content, including extremist material, but pupils are regularly reminded to report any inappropriate material that may get through the schools filter so the matter can be addressed.

Staff training

Through INSET opportunities in school, we will ensure our staff are fully aware of the threats, risks and vulnerabilities that are linked to radicalisation and are aware of the process of radicalisation and how this might be identified early on. This information will also form part of our safeguarding training.

Safer recruitment

We ensure our recruitment processes are rigorous, in line with statutory requirements and best practice guidance. These processes include the use of the DBS checks in all employees, governors and regular volunteers.

Policy review

This policy will be reviewed every two years by the safeguarding committee or when updates schools are advised/informed to make appropriate updates (e.g. PREVENT updates).

DATE AGREED BY THE GOVERNING BODY:

DATE FOR REVIEW: