



C24 Prevent Guidance

PREVENTING RADICALISATION GUIDANCE CONTENTS

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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. New statutory duties were placed on schools by the



Counter Terrorism and Security Act (2015) and in the updated guidance "The Prevent Duty: an introduction to those with safeguarding responsibilities" September 2023 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.

2) ETHOS

At St Mary's Catholic School we ensure that through our school vision, rules and policies, diverse curriculum and teaching, that we promote tolerance and respect for all cultures, faiths and lifestyles. The governing body 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.

3) STATUTORY DUTIES

The duty to prevent children and young people being radicalised is set out in the following documents.

- i. Counter Terrorism and Security Act (2015)
- ii. Keeping Children Safe in Education (2023)
- iii. Prevent Duty Guidance (September 2023)
- iv. Working Together to Safeguard Children (December 2023)
- v. Keeping Children Safe in Education (September 2024)

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) ESafety Policy
- Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy
- Equality Policy
- Lettings' Policy
- Spiritual, Moral, Social, Cultural (SMSC) Policy and PSHE
- Staff Code of Conduct
- Teaching and Learning Policy



4) 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. These are outlined in our "Gospel Values" and are reflected in the actions and conduct of students in accordance of the human rights act and our Catholic ethos.

5) 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.

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, 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;
- 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.



6) 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 "British Values" document highlights our commitment to British values through;

- Assembly programme
- Catholic ethos
- Extensive community work

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.

7) INTERNET SAFETY

Please refer to the St Mary's Catholic School e-Safety policy for detailed guidance.

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 St Mary's Catholic School E-safety policy refers to preventing radicalisation and related extremist content. Pupils and staff are asked to sign the E-safety policy summary in their planner annually, to confirm they have understood what is acceptable.

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

8) 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 briefings regarding safeguarding matters as and when appropriate.

9) 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.

10) VISITORS

Staff have been informed regarding our Visitor Policy and guidance regarding Visitors is available in the Staff handbook for reference. 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 according to policy A7b Visitor Policy.

11) '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.

Acts of worship: There will be no collective worship taking place in ungoverned space without a member of staff.

The school will not permit any outside speaker or preacher to visit or speak in the school without the permission of the Headteacher.

12) 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:

- i. underachievement
- ii. being in possession of extremist literature
- iii. poverty
- iv. social exclusion
- v. traumatic events
- vi. global or national events



- vii. religious conversion
- viii. change in behaviour
- ix. extremist influences
- x. conflict with family over lifestyle
- xi. confused identify
- xii. victim or witness to race or hate crimes
- xiii. rejection by peers, family, social groups or faith

13) RECOGNISING EXTREMISM

Early indicators of radicalisation or extremism may include:

- i. showing sympathy for extremist causes
- ii. glorifying violence, especially to other faiths or cultures
- iii. making remarks or comments about being at extremist events or rallies outside school
- iv. evidence of possessing illegal or extremist literature
- v. advocating messages similar to illegal organisations or other extremist groups
- vi. 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.)
- vii. secretive behaviour
- viii. online searches or sharing extremist messages or social profiles
- ix. intolerance of difference, including faith, culture, gender, race or sexuality
- x. graffiti, art work or writing that displays extremist themes
- xi. attempts to impose extremist views or practices on others
- xii. verbalising anti-Western or anti-British views
- xiii. advocating violence towards others

14) 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 Channel Referral Team.

15) MONITORING AND REVIEW


This policy will be monitored by the governing body at least annually through 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.



16) FOSTERING BRITISH VALUES

British values are outlined in our Gospel Values, which are shared with pupil in their school planners, in assemblies, and throughout the curriculum. They are the core of the school's Catholic and Rights Respecting ethos.

Signed  _____ (Headteacher)

Signed P. Carroll _____ (Chair of Governors)

Governor Committee: School Education Committee
Date of Review: January 2025
Date of next Review: January 2026



St Mary's Catholic School

Prevent Risk Assessment

Risk Area	Hazards	Rating	Measures to minimise risk
Welfare and Safeguarding	Staff are not aware of school procedures for handling concerns and/or do not feel able to share issues internally	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff received PREVENT training December 2018 • Staff have received the PREVENT duty advice for schools and childcare providers document and signed that they have read the document.
	Students are radicalised by factors external or external to the school	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The challenges of radicalisation are part of the school's PSHEE programme. • Assemblies delivered to the students to raise education and awareness. • RE curriculum and Core RE course to raise education and awareness of vulnerabilities and risks. • Visitors to the school are vetted through the Visitor's policy to ensure appropriate.
	St Mary's Catholic School is not linked with statutory partners and does not feel able to share extremism related concerns.	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • St Mary's Catholic School has outstanding community links and communicates regularly with a wide range of external partners. • PREVENT officer, DSP and Governors have attended WRAP training. • Channel referrals system in place, in line with Safeguarding practices and procedures.
Curriculum and Learning	Students are exposed by school staff or messages supportive of terrorism or attitudes which contradict British Values	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appropriate Safer Recruitment practices for employment of all new staff. • Whistle blowing policy in place. • E Safety policy revised to ensure staff understand their



			<p>responsibilities with online vulnerabilities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child Protection and Safeguarding policy in place. • PREVENT duty guidelines to be shared with Governors and staff. • Audit of British Values across the curriculum. • British Values clearly identified within all curriculum areas and celebrated at Assemblies.
	Behaviours which harm the ability of different groups and individuals to learn and work are left unchallenged.	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All staff are encouraged to be assertive and challenge. • Behaviour for Learning emphasised and reinforced regularly. • Sanction policy flowchart and INSET to alert staff with tackling and challenging behaviours.
Organisational Culture	Staff are not aware of/do not support the values of St Mary's Catholic School.	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recruitment overseen by Heads PA and compliance with clear questions regarding the school ethos. • Member of safer recruitment trained staff on interview panel. • Induction programme rigorous to ensure PREVENT duty and responsibilities are delivered and understood. • All new staff receive copies of PREVENT documentation and safeguarding procedures.
	Staff are unable to raise extremism related concerns due to a lack of appropriate whistle blowing mechanism	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appropriate whistle blowing policy is in place. • Policy will be reviewed annually.
Management of Space	Staff and students are exposed by visiting speakers to messages which are supportive of terrorism and views which contradict British Values of individual	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visitor policy and guidelines in place to safeguard. • Visitor safeguarding leaflet for all guests on school site. • All visitors are signed in and supervised for their visit.



	liberty and mutual respect and tolerance for those of different faiths and beliefs.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lettings policy in place for letting purposes to ensure visitors and guests are suitable.
	Extremist or terrorist related material is displayed within the school premises	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appropriate staff have responsibility for specific notice boards around the school site. • Premises team keep the school clean and tidy.
	The school chapel is not equally accessible for all students.	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Chapel is by the DHT office who oversees student visits to the Chapel
ICT and E-Safety	Students access extremist or terrorist material whilst using the schools network	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School network filtering policy and a code of conduct for all students and staff to sign included accessing inappropriate sites and attempting to subvert the network. • All staff have received the updated E-Safety Policy. • E-Safety policy signed in the students planner, checked annually by form tutors/Learning coordinators. • E-Safety assemblies and PSHEE sessions to highlight student responsibilities whilst using the Internet.

Date of reviewed Risk Assessment: January 2025

Risk Assessment carried out by: Miss D McHugh