



St Gabriel's CE Primary School

Preventing Radicalisation & Extremism Policy

Our statement of mission:

Our aim is to nurture children with the confidence and self-belief to achieve their best; to be resilient in their learning and ambitious in their hopes and dreams; to live in harmony, respecting others; to have the courage to think for themselves; to search and question throughout life's journey and, if their paths should lead them, to find a personal faith, hope and love in Jesus Christ.

Seeking to nurture:

self**F**-belief cour**A**ge res**I**llience ambi**T**ion **H**armony

“Stand firm... be courageous” 1 Corinthians 16:13

Policy Reviewed: Spring 2022

Next Review: Spring 2025

St Gabriel's CE Primary School is fully committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all its pupils. As a school we recognise that safeguarding against radicalisation is no different from safeguarding against other vulnerabilities.

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

'Radicalisation' is defined as the process by which people come to support/promote extremism or terrorism or and in some cases, to then participate in terrorist activity.

'Extremism' is vocal or active opposition to fundamental British Values including Democracy, Rule of Law, Individual Liberty and Mutual Respect and Tolerance of those with different faiths or beliefs. This also includes calling for the death of our Armed Forces.

Since the publication of the 'Prevent Strategy', there has been an awareness of the specific need to safeguard children, young people and families from violent extremism. There have attempts to radicalise vulnerable children and young people to hold extreme views including views justifying political, religious, sexist or racist violence, or to steer them into a narrow and rigid ideology that is intolerant of diversity and leaves them vulnerable to future radicalisation.

Keeping children safe from these risks is a safeguarding matter and is approached in the same way as safeguarding children and young people from any other risks. Children and young people should be protected from messages of all violent extremism including but not restricted to eg those linked to extreme Islamist ideology or to Far Right/White Supremacist Ideology, Irish Nationalist and Loyalist Paramilitary groups and extremist Animal Rights groups.

'Prevent' in the context of counter terrorism is intervention before any criminal offence has been committed and is with the intention of preventing individuals or groups from committing crimes

The main aims of this policy statement 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.

Procedures for Referrals

Staff are reminded to be vigilant and 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 or Headteacher).

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.

The Role of the Curriculum

Our curriculum promotes respect and tolerance. We are committed to ensuring that our children are offered a broad and balanced curriculum that aims to prepare them for life in modern Britain. We encourage pupils to recognise risk and build resilience to manage any such risk themselves, appropriate to their age and ability, and to help develop the critical thinking skills needed to engage in informed debate.

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) and SMSC (Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural) provision is embedded across the curriculum, and underpins the Christian ethos of our school.

Teaching our school's 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.

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.

Use of External Agencies and Speakers

As a school, we will vet individuals and any organisations which provide learning opportunities or experiences for our children. The vetting process is to ensure that we do not unwittingly use agencies or individuals that contradict each other with their messages or that are inconsistent with, or in opposition to, the school's values and ethos and to ensure that this is of benefit to all pupils.

Role of the Governing Body

The Governing Body of our School 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 school 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', the governing body will support the school's senior management team on the delivery of this policy and monitor its effectiveness.

Recruitment

The arrangements for recruiting all staff, permanent and volunteers, to our school will follow safer recruitment best practice in education settings, 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 school's character and ethos. 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.

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.

Useful Websites

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

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