

St Mary & St Paul's
C of E Primary School



Anti-Radicalisation and
Extremism Policy

Preventing Extremism and Radicalisation Policy

Introduction

St Mary & St Paul's C of E Primary School is committed to providing a secure environment for pupils, where children feel safe and are kept safe. All adults at St Mary & St Paul's C of E primary School recognise that safeguarding is everyone's responsibility irrespective of the role they undertake or whether their role has direct contact or responsibility for children or not.

In adhering to this policy, and the procedures therein, staff and visitors will contribute to St Mary & St Paul's C of E primary School's delivery of the outcomes to all children, as set out in section 10 (2) of the Children Act 2004. This Preventing Extremism and Radicalisation Policy is one element within our overall school arrangements to Safeguard and Promote the Welfare of all Children in line with our statutory duties set out in the Education Act 2002.

Our school's Preventing Extremism and Radicalisation Safeguarding Policy also draws upon the guidance contained in DfE Guidance "Keeping Children Safe in Education, 2016"; and specifically, DCSF Resources "Learning Together to be Safe", "Prevent: Resources Guide", "Tackling Extremism in the UK", DfE's "Teaching Approaches that help Build Resilience to Extremism among Young People" and Peter Clarke's Report of July 2014.

This policy should be read in line with the school's other relevant policies including Safeguarding, Health & Safety, Behaviour, Anti-Bullying, RE and Equal Opportunities.

School Ethos and Practice

When operating this policy St Mary & St Paul's C of E primary School uses the following accepted Governmental definition of extremism which is:

'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; and/or calls for the death of members of our armed forces, whether in this country or overseas'.

There is no place for extremist views of any kind in our school, whether from internal sources — pupils, staff or governors, or external sources - school community, external agencies or individuals. Our pupils see our school as a safe place where they can explore controversial issues safely and where our teachers encourage and facilitate this — we have a duty to ensure this happens.

As a school we recognise that extremism and exposure to extremist materials and influences can lead to poor outcomes for children and so should be addressed as a safeguarding concern as set out in this policy. We also recognise that if we fail to challenge extremist views we are failing to protect our pupils. Extremists of all persuasions aim to develop destructive relationships between

different communities by promoting division, fear and mistrust of others based on ignorance or prejudice and thereby limiting the life chances of young people. Education is a powerful weapon against this; equipping young people with the knowledge, skills and critical thinking, to challenge and debate in an informed way. Therefore, at St Mary & St Paul's C of E primary School we will provide a broad and balanced curriculum, delivered by skilled professionals, so that our pupils are enriched, understand and become tolerant of difference and diversity and also to ensure that they thrive, feel valued and not marginalized.

Furthermore, at St Mary & St Paul's C of E Primary School we are aware that young people can be exposed to extremist influences or prejudiced views from an early age which emanate from a variety of sources and media, including via the internet, and at times pupils may themselves reflect or display views that may be discriminatory, prejudiced or extremist, including using derogatory language. Any prejudice, discrimination or extremist views, including derogatory language, displayed by pupils or staff will always be challenged and where appropriate dealt with in line with our Behaviour Policy for pupils and the Code of Conduct for staff.

Where misconduct by a teacher is proven the matter will be referred to the Teaching Regulation Agency for their consideration as to whether to a Prohibition Order is warranted.

As part of wider safeguarding responsibilities school staff will be alert to:

- Disclosures by pupils of their exposure to the extremist actions, views or materials of others outside of school, such as in their homes or community groups, especially where pupils have not actively sought these out.
- Graffiti symbols, writing or artwork promoting extremist messages or images.
- Pupils accessing extremist material online, including through social networking sites.
- Parental reports of changes in behaviour, friendship, or actions and requests for assistance.
- Partner schools, local authority services, police reports of issues affecting pupils in other schools or settings.
- Pupils voicing opinions drawn from extremist ideologies and narratives.
- Use of extremist or 'hate' terms to exclude others or incite violence.
- Intolerance of difference, whether secular or religious or, in line with us Equal opportunities policy, views based on, but not exclusive to, gender, disability, homophobia, race, colour, or culture.
- Attempts to impose extremist views or practices on others.
- Anti-western or Anti-British views.

Our school will closely follow any locally agreed procedure as set out by the Local Authority and agreed processes and criteria for safeguarding individuals vulnerable to extremism and radicalisation.

At St Mary & St Paul's we take pride in the teachings of our adopted Christian values that underpin all our work. We promote the British fundamental values where British law, democracy and a mutual respect and tolerance for those of other faiths, cultures and beliefs is embedded through all areas of the curriculum. Through ensuring pupils' PSHE and Citizenship development, we are also actively promoting fundamental British values where pupils are encouraged to regard people of all faiths, races and cultures with respect and tolerance.

We will all strive to eradicate the myths and assumptions that can lead to some young people becoming alienated and disempowered, especially were the narrow approaches children may experience elsewhere may make it harder for them to challenge or question these radical influences.

We will ensure that all our teaching approaches help our pupils build resilience to extremism and give pupils a positive sense of identity. We will ensure that all our staff are equipped to recognise extremism and are skilled and confident enough to challenge it.

We will be flexible enough to adapt our teaching approaches, as appropriate, so as to address specific issues to become even more relevant to the current issues of extremism and radicalisation.

Therefore, this approach will be embedded within the ethos of our school so that pupils know and understand what safe and acceptable behaviour is in the context of extremism and radicalisation. This will work in conjunction with our school's approach to the Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural development of pupils as defined in OfSTED's School Inspection Handbook to help further promote this rounded development of our pupils.

Our goal is to build mutual respect and understanding and to promote the use of dialogue not violence as a form of conflict resolution.

We will also work with local partners, families, and communities in our efforts to ensure our school understands and embraces our local context and values in challenging extremist views and to assist in the broadening of our pupils' experiences and horizons.

We will help support pupils who may be vulnerable to such influences as part of our wider safeguarding responsibilities and where we believe a pupil is being directly affected by extremist materials or influences we will ensure that that pupil is offered mentoring. Additionally in such instances our school will seek external support from the Local Authority and/or local partnership structures working to prevent extremism.

At St Mary & St Paul's C of E primary School we will promote the values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, mutual respect and tolerance for those with different faiths and beliefs. We will teach and encourage pupils to respect one

another and to respect and tolerate difference, especially those of a different faith or no faith. It is indeed our most fundamental responsibility to keep us pupils safe and prepare them for life in modern multi-cultural Britain and globally.

Use of External Agencies and Speakers

At St Mary & St Paul's C of E primary School we encourage the use of external agencies or speakers to enrich the experiences of our pupils, however we will positively vet those external agencies, individuals, or speakers who we engage to provide such learning opportunities or experiences for our pupils.

These external agencies will be vetted to ensure that we do not unwittingly use agencies that contradict each other with their messages or that are inconsistent with, or are in complete opposition to, the school's values and ethos. We must be aware that in some instances the work of external agencies may not directly relate to the rest of the school curriculum so we need to ensure that this work is of benefit to pupils.

Our school will assess the suitability and effectiveness of input from external agencies or individuals to ensure that:

- Any messages communicated to pupils are consistent with the ethos of the school and do not marginalise any communities, groups, or individuals.
- Any messages do not seek to glorify criminal activity or violent extremism or seek to radicalise pupils through extreme or narrow views of faith, religion or culture or other ideologies.
- Activities are properly embedded in the curriculum and clearly mapped to schemes of work to avoid contradictory messages or duplication.
- Activities are matched to the needs of pupils.
- Activities are carefully evaluated by schools to ensure that they are effective.

We recognise, however, that the ethos of our school is to encourage pupils to understand opposing views and ideologies, appropriate to their age, understanding and abilities, and to be able to actively engage with them in informed debate, and we may use external agencies or speakers to facilitate and support this.

Therefore, by delivering a broad and balanced curriculum and enrichment programme augmented using external sources where appropriate, we will strive to ensure our pupils recognise risk and build resilience to manage any such risk themselves where appropriate to their age and ability but also to help pupils develop the critical thinking skills needed to engage in informed debate.

Whistle Blowing

Where there are concerns of extremism or radicalisation Pupils, Staff and Governors will be encouraged to make use of our internal systems to Whistle Blow or raise any issues in confidence.

They must inform the Headteacher straight away (or if it relates to the Headteacher inform the Chair of Governors).

Safeguarding

Please refer to our Safeguarding Policy for the full procedural framework on us Safeguarding and Child Protection duties.

Staff at St Mary & St Paul's C of E primary School will be alert to the fact that whilst Extremism and Radicalisation is broadly a safeguarding issue there may be some instances where a child or children may be at direct risk of harm or neglect. For example: this could be due to a child displaying risky behaviours in terms of the activities they are involved in or the groups they are associated with, or staff may be aware of information about a child's family that may equally place a child at risk of harm. (These examples are for illustration and are not definitive or exhaustive).

Therefore, all adults working in St Mary & St Paul's C of E primary School (including visiting staff, volunteers' contractors, and teacher trainees on placement) are required to report instances where they believe a child may be at risk of harm or neglect to the Designated Safeguarding Lead / Headteacher.

In St Mary & St Paul's C of E primary School our Safeguarding reporting arrangements are set out fully in our Safeguarding Policy.

The Designated Safeguarding Lead is **Mr P Brooksbank**
Headteacher/ deputy Safeguarding lead is **Mr Paul Brooksbank**

Role of 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 of our school 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, 2016' the governing body will challenge the school's senior management team on the delivery of this policy and monitor its effectiveness.'

Review

Governors will review this policy annually.

Last review: Autumn term 2024