

Preventing Extremism and Radicalisation Policy

Introduction

St Bernard's Catholic Grammar School is committed to providing a secure environment for pupils, where children feel safe and are kept safe. All adults in our 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.

This Preventing Extremism and Radicalisation Safeguarding Policy is one element within the school's arrangements to Safeguard and Promote the Welfare of all Children in line with our statutory duties.

School Ethos and Practice

When operating this policy we use the following accepted Government 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'.

Radicalisation is defined as the process by which an individual, or group comes to adopt increasingly extreme political, social, or religious ideals and aspirations that reject or undermine the status quo or contemporary ideas and expressions of the nation.

Terrorism is an action that endangers or causes serious violence to a person/people; causes serious damage to property; or seriously interferes or disrupts an electronic system. The use or threat must be designed to influence the government or to intimidate the public and is made for the purpose of advancing a political, religious or ideological cause.

There is no place for extremist views of any kind in our school, whether from internal or external sources. 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. We will therefore 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.

We are also 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 any member of the school's community, staff or pupil, will always be challenged and where appropriate dealt with in line with our Behaviour Policy for pupils and the Code of Conduct for staff. Any breach of the Behaviour Policy by a student in regard to the issues related to extremism may result in sanction, including exclusion, whether internal or fixed-term. Where misconduct by a teacher is suspected, a decision will be made by the Headteacher, following discussion with both the Designated Safeguarding lead and Deputy Lead, over the need to involve the relevant local external agencies, such as the police and Designated Lead for the Local Authority, dependent on the circumstances of the alleged concern. Any proven misconduct will be referred to the National College for Teaching and Leadership 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 art work 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, and 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 our equalities 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.

St Bernard's will closely follow any locally agreed procedure as set out by the Local Authority and/or our Safeguarding Children Board's agreed processes and criteria for safeguarding individuals vulnerable to extremism and radicalisation. In the event of concerns about a person becoming radicalised consideration will be given to using the LA Channel process. Channel is a bespoke panel which meets to address issues of individuals who have been identified as being at risk of radicalisation but have not committed any terrorism offence. The Channel Panel meets when a referral has been made and referrals can be made by anyone.

Teaching Approaches

We will all strive to eradicate the myths and assumptions that can lead to some young people becoming alienated and disempowered, especially where the narrow approaches children may experience elsewhere may make it harder for

them to challenge or question these radical influences. This will be achieved by good teaching but primarily via the PSHE programme.

We will ensure that all of our teaching approaches help our pupils build resilience to extremism and give pupils a positive sense of identity through the development of critical thinking skill. We will ensure that all of our staff are equipped to recognize 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 in order to become even more relevant to the current issues of extremism and radicalisation.

We will apply methodologies following the three broad categories of:

- Making a connection with young people through good [teaching] design and a pupil centred approach.
- Facilitating a 'safe space' for dialogue, and
- Equipping our pupils with the appropriate skills, knowledge, understanding and awareness for resilience.

Therefore this approach will be embedded within the ethos of St Bernard's 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 schools approach to the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils as defined in Ofsted's School Inspection Handbook and will include the sound use of assemblies 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 achieve this by using a curriculum that includes:

- Citizenship programmes
- Open discussion and debate
- Work on anti-violence and a restorative, forgiving approach to conflict
- Focused educational programmes.

In addition, we recognise that every member of our school community is a child of God and, as such, has skills and talents that are worthy of recognition. To this end, we celebrate success as a community, and recognise the worth of each individual.

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 pupil's 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.

St Bernard's 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 our pupils safe and prepare them for life in modern multi-cultural Britain and globally.

Please refer to the Internet Use Policy.

Use of External Agencies and Speakers

Please refer to the School Visitor Policy and the School Letting Policy

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; we may use external agencies or speakers to facilitate and support this. By delivering a broad and balanced curriculum, augmented by the use of external sources where appropriate, we will strive to ensure our pupils recognise risk and build resilience to manage any such risk themselves where appropriate but also to help pupils develop the critical thinking skills needed to engage in informed debate.

Whistle Blowing

Please refer to the School Whistle Blowing Policy.

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

Child Protection

Please refer to the Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy.

Staff at our 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. All adults working at our school (including visiting staff, volunteers' contractors, and students 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, or Deputy Lead in their absence.

The Designated Leads for St Bernard's are the focus people and local 'experts' for school staff, and others, who may have concerns about an individual child's safety or well-being, including any concern that relates to the Prevent Agenda, and are the first point of contact for external agencies.

Training

Whole school in-service training on Safeguarding and Child Protection will be organised for staff and governors at least every three years and will comply with the prevailing arrangements agreed by the Local Authority and the Safeguarding Children Board and will, in part, include training on extremism and radicalisation and its safeguarding implications. Staff will also receive updates at least annually via sources such as email and staff meetings. The Designated Safeguarding Leads will attend training courses as necessary and the appropriate inter-agency training organised by the Safeguarding Children Board at least every two years, again this will include training on extremism and radicalisation and its safeguarding implications.

Recruitment

Please refer to the Safer Recruitment Policy.

By adhering to safer recruitment best practice techniques and by ensuring that there is an on-going culture of vigilance within our school and staff team we will minimise the opportunities for extremist views to prevail.

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 Recommendation 13 of Peter Clarke's report details of our Governing Body are published on our school website to promote transparency. In line with the provisions set out in the DfE guidance 'Keeping Children Safe in Education, 2018' the governing body will challenge the school's senior management team on the delivery of this policy and monitor its effectiveness.

Governors will review this policy regularly (every two years) and may amend and adopt it outside of this timeframe in accordance with any new legislation or guidance or in response to any quality assurance recommendations pertaining to the delivery of this policy and the overall safeguarding arrangements made.

Policy Adoption, Monitoring and Review

This policy was considered and adopted by the Governing body in line with their overall duty to safeguard and promote the welfare of children as set out in the DfE guidance 'Keeping Children Safe in Education'

Parents will be issued with a hard copy of this policy on request. This policy will also be made available to parents via the school website.

The Headteacher will actively evaluate the effectiveness of this policy by monitoring the staff's understanding and application of the procedures within this policy as their overall duty to safeguard children.

Policy Adopted by Leadership Governors on: 4th November 2020

Policy Due for Review on: Autumn 2022