

Preventing Extremism and Radicalisation Policy

The Lighthouse School is committed to providing a secure environment for pupils, where children feel safe and are kept safe. The Proprietors and all staff recognise that safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.

From 1 July 2015 all schools are subject to a duty under the *Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015*, to have "due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism". This duty is known as the Prevent duty. It is essential therefore that staff are able to identify children who may be vulnerable to radicalisation, and know what to do when they are identified. Schools can also build pupils' resilience to radicalisation by promoting fundamental British values and enabling them to challenge extremist views.

The Prevent duty is not intended to stop pupils debating controversial issues. On the contrary, schools should provide a safe space in which pupils and staff can understand the risks associated with terrorism and develop the knowledge and skills to be able to challenge extremist arguments.

This policy has been developed in accordance with the principles established by the Children Acts 1989 and 2004 and related guidance. This includes

- DfE guidance: Keeping Children Safe in Education 2015 (KCSIE)
- Working Together to Safeguard Children 2015 (WTSC)
- The Prevent Duty (2015)
- Teaching approaches that help build resilience to extremism among young people' (2011)

When operating this policy we use will the statutory guidance definition of extremism:

'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'.

The full Government Prevent Strategy can be viewed at https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/97976/preventstrategy-review.pdf

School Ethos and Practice

At The Lighthouse School we recognise that extremism and exposure to extremist materials and influences can lead to extremely dangerous situations for our children and so should be addressed as a safeguarding concern. We also recognise that if we fail to challenge extremist views, we are failing to protect our pupils. Pupils see our school as a safe place where they can explore controversial issues safely and where our teachers encourage and facilitate this.

Education is a powerful weapon against extremism - equipping young people with the knowledge, skills and critical thinking, to challenge and debate in an informed way. At The Lighthouse 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.

We are also aware that young people can be exposed to extremist influences or prejudiced views from an early age and from a variety of sources including via the internet.

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.

Risk Assessments

In line with Prevent Guidance (DfE 2015) we will assess the risk of children being drawn into terrorism, including support for extremist ideas that are part of terrorist ideology as part of the Risk Assessment Policy.

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
- 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

We will follow any locally agreed procedure as set out by the Local Authority Safeguarding Team'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 Channel Programme.

Teaching approaches

We will ensure that all of our staff are equipped to recognise extremism and are skilled and confident enough to challenge it. We will 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.

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 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. Our most fundamental responsibility to keep our pupils safe and prepare them for life in modern multi-cultural Britain and globally.

Whistle Blowing

Where there are concerns of extremism or radicalisation, pupils and staff will be encouraged to make use of our internal systems raise any issue in confidence. Please also refer to School Whistle Blowing Policy.

Child Protection

Please refer to our Child Protection Policy for detailed information on our procedures for Child Protection. Lighthouse School staff 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.

Designated Safeguarding Lead

The Designated Safeguarding Lead is: Mr P Johnston (Head of School)

The Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead is: Mrs. S. Stoneman (Principal)

Training

Training on Safeguarding and Child Protection is organised for staff and governors at least every three years and this will include training on extremism and radicalisation and its safeguarding implications. The Designated Safeguarding Lead and Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead will attend training at least every two years, again this will include training on extremism and radicalisation and its safeguarding implications. Safeguarding updates are given to all staff on a yearly basis on when available.



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.

Reviewed: May 2018