Prevent Duty Approach

Outline and Aims

- This document is to be read in conjunction with the Safeguarding Children Policy.
- This policy is for the whole school, including EYFS.
- **The school's general safeguarding procedures apply: staff having a concern about a pupil should report this to the Safeguarding Team.**
- We have a legal duty to have 'due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism', both whilst at school and beyond. This is seen both as part of our wider safeguarding responsibilities and our responsibility to develop well-balanced, socially responsible young people, who embrace British values and contribute positively to society, locally and globally.

Due regard is given to the guidance contained in the relevant DfE documents:

- Prevent duty guidance update (September 2023)
- The use of social media for on-line radicalisation, July 2015

We aim to ensure that:

- Staff are able to identify children susceptible to radicalisation.
- Staff know what to do when they are identified.

- We aim to reduce the risk of radicalisation by building resilience and actively promoting fundamental British values.
- The School recognises that Prevent refers to all kinds of terrorist activity, whether associated with, for example, Islamic extremists or with the extreme right wing.

Risk Assessment

- The School assesses the risks of pupils being drawn into terrorism and support for extremist ideas. This process also contributes to the development of this document.
- Whilst the make-up of the school's pupil body means that risk is likely to be low, the school is not complacent and in particular recognises the risks of radicalisation through the internet and social media.
- There is no easy, single way of identifying an individual who might be susceptible to a terrorist ideology, but staff should be alert to changes in children's behaviour. Research shows that indicators of susceptibility can include:

    - Identity Crisis - Distance from cultural/religious heritage and uncomfortable with their place in the society around them;
    - Personal Crisis - Family tensions; sense of isolation; adolescence; low self-esteem; disassociating from existing friendship group and becoming involved with a new and different group of friends; searching for answers to questions about identity, faith and belonging;

  - Personal Circumstances - Migration; local community tensions; events affecting country or region of origin; alienation from British values; having a sense of grievance that is triggered by personal experience of racism or discrimination or aspects of Government policy;
  - Unmet Aspirations - Perceptions of injustice; feeling of failure; rejection of civic life;
  - Criminality - Experiences of imprisonment; poor resettlement / reintegration; previous involvement with criminal groups.

- Children at risk may display different signs or seek to hide their views. The following indicators of potential risk are suggested by Channel:

  - Use of inappropriate language;
  - Possession or accessing violent extremist literature;
  - Behavioural changes;
  - The expression of extremist views;
  - Advocating violent actions and means;
  - Association with known extremists;
  - Articulating support for violent extremist causes or leaders;
  - Using extremist views to explain personal disadvantage;
  - Joining or seeking to join extremist organisations;
  - Seeking to recruit others to an extremist ideology.

Responding to a concern and working in partnership

- The school's general safeguarding procedures apply: staff having a concern should report this to the Safeguarding Team.
- The Safeguarding Team will be ready to refer a concern on to the Local Safeguarding Partnership. Advice may be sought from, or reference made to, as appropriate, the following agencies.

  - Police: in an emergency call 999; for a non-emergency, call 101.
  - DfE helpline and mail box for non-emergency advice regarding extremism 0207 340 7264 counter.extremism@education.gsi.gov.uk
  - Channel programme, for support at an early stage to those vulnerable to radicalisation.

- Effective engagement with families would be important, too, in advising of appropriate support mechanisms, should they have concerns.

Staff training

- Staff are reminded of their responsibility within the Prevent Duty, at the start of each term, within the safeguarding briefing.

- All staff are trained bi-annually, or sooner if updates are brought into legislation, by completing an online course on The Prevent Duty and their responsibility in identifying pupils susceptible to radicalisation. Certificates are held by the DSL.

IT policies

- The School ensures that children are safe from terrorist and extremist materials when accessing the internet in school; suitable filtering is in place, provided by Fortinet, FortiGuard, Senso and Lightspeed. We proactively check our internet logs for any inappropriate activity.
- Internet safety and digital literacy are included within the Digital Learning curriculum.

Visitors

- Staff inviting outside speakers into school (or facilitating such invitations by pupils) must give careful consideration to the suitability of the speakers and the risk that they will convey a message which may draw pupils into extremism.
- Staff must actively consider this risk and undertake practical checks to reassure themselves of suitability, for example through recommendations from third parties and internet searches.
- A declaration that this has taken place is made when staff sign the Visitors Approval Form.
- Basic checks will also be made by the Headmistress before signing to approve the visit.

Building resilience to radicalisation

The School aims to build resilience to radicalisation by:

- Providing a safe environment for critically debating controversial issues.
- Helping pupils to understand how they can influence and participate in decision making.
- Promoting spiritual, moral, social and cultural education and fundamental British values.
- Developing self-esteem, confidence, tolerance and mutual respect.
- Introducing key vocabulary associated with Prevent: radicalisation, extremism, xenophobia, vulnerability & susceptibility.

The School provides such education through:

- PSHCE lessons, which help to teach pupils to:
    - Recognise and manage risks
    - Make safe choices
    - Resist pressures
    - Know where to get help.
    - Weigh evidence, debate and make reasoned arguments.
    - Understand and respect people from different backgrounds, races or religions.
    - Understand rights.
    - Understand and critically assess British values and the main issues surrounding Prevent.

- Digital Learning, which helps pupils understand the risks surrounding the internet and digital devices.
- Other subjects, activities and presentations, both within the curriculum and our extensive extra-curricular programme, which help to develop determination, self-esteem and confidence.