

Westhead Lathom St James' CE Primary School



Tackling Extremism and Radicalisation Policy

Last Reviewed Date: Autumn 2023

Next Review Date: Autumn 2024

Version	Date	Author/Editor	Revision Notes
V 1.0	April 2017	Alison Albion	Policy rewritten in light of changes to the setting and curriculum. Documents copied into new format, with header, footer and version control.
V 2.0	Mar. 2019	Alison Albion	Updated in line with current advice.
V 3.0	Summer 2020	Helen Clark	New vision and values added. Updated in line with current guidance- KCSiE 2019 and 2020.
V 4.0	Autumn 2021	Helen Clark	Updated in line with KCSiE 2021 DSLs updated Related policies added
V 5.0	Autumn 2022	Helen Clark	Updated in line with KCSiE 2022 DSLs updated Related policies added
V6.0	Autumn 2023	Helen Clark	Updated DSLs Updated in line with KCSiE 2023

Vision Statement: Our Vision for the Future

'A curriculum that is challenging, inspiring and engaging; in which all pupils flourish spiritually, creatively and academically to become confident young people.'

'With God's power working in us, God can do much, much more than anything we can ask or imagine.'
Ephesians 3:20 New Century Version (NCV)

Tackling Extremism and Radicalisation

1. POLICY STATEMENT

Westhead Lathom St James' C.E. Primary School is fully committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all its pupils. Every member of staff recognises that safeguarding against radicalisation and extremism is no different to safeguarding against any other vulnerability in today's society. The Tackling Extremism and Radicalisation Policy sets out our beliefs, strategies and procedures to protect vulnerable individuals from being radicalised or exposed to extremist views, by identifying who they are and promptly providing them with support.

2. LINKS TO OTHER POLICIES

The Westhead Lathom St James C.E. Primary School Tackling Extremism and Radicalisation Policy links to the following Primary School policies;

- Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy
- Equalities Policy
- Behaviour and Anti-bullying Policy
- Online Safety Policy
- Dealing with Incidents of Equality and Discrimination

The following national guidelines should also be read when working with this policy;

- PREVENT Strategy HM Government
- Keeping Children Safe in Education DfE 2023
- Working Together to Safeguard Children HM Government 2018.

3. AIMS AND PRINCIPLES

3.1 The Tackling Extremism and Radicalisation Policy is intended to provide a framework for dealing with issues relating to vulnerability, radicalisation and exposure to extreme views. We recognise that we are well placed to be able to identify safeguarding issues and this policy clearly sets out how the school will deal with such incidents and identifies how the curriculum and ethos underpins our actions.

3.2 The objectives are that:

- All governors, teachers, teaching assistants and non-teaching staff will have an understanding of what radicalisation and extremism are and why we need to be vigilant in school.
- All governors, teachers, teaching assistants and non-teaching staff will know what the school policy is on tackling extremism and radicalisation and will follow the policy guidance swiftly when issues arise.
- All pupils will understand the dangers of radicalisation and exposure to extremist views; building resilience against these and knowing what to do if they experience them.
- All parents/carers and pupils will know that the school has policies in place to keep pupils safe from harm and that the school regularly reviews its systems to ensure they are appropriate and effective.

3.3 The main aims of this policy 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.

4. DEFINITIONS AND INDICATORS

4.1 Radicalisation is defined as the act or process of making a person more radical or favouring of extreme or fundamental changes in political, economic or social conditions, institutions or habits of the mind.

4.2 Extremism is defined as the holding of extreme political or religious views.

4.3 There are a number of behaviours which may indicate a child is at risk of being radicalised or exposed to extreme views. These include;

- Spending increasing time in the company of other suspected extremists. Changing their style of dress or personal appearance to accord with the group.
- Day-to-day behaviour becoming increasingly centred on an extremist ideology, group or cause.
- Loss of interest in other friends and activities not associated with the extremist ideology, group or cause.
- Possession of materials or symbols associated with an extremist cause. Attempts to recruit others to the group/cause.
- Communications with others that suggests identification with a group, cause or ideology.
- Using insulting to derogatory names for another group.
- Increase in prejudice-related incidents committed by that person – these may include; physical or verbal assault; provocative behaviour ;damage to property; derogatory name calling ; possession of prejudice-related materials ; prejudice related ridicule or name calling ; inappropriate forms of address ; refusal to co-operate ;attempts to recruit to prejudice-related organisations ;condoning or supporting violence towards others.

5. PROCEDURES FOR REFERRALS

5.1 Although serious incidents involving radicalisation have not occurred at Westhead Lathom St James' C.E. Primary School to date, it is important for us to be constantly vigilant and remain fully informed about the issues which affect the local area, city and society in which we teach. Staff are reminded to suspend any 'professional disbelief' that instances of radicalisation 'could not happen here' and to be 'professionally inquisitive' where concerns arise, referring any concerns through the appropriate channels. (See appendix 1 – Dealing with referrals)

5.2 We believe that it is possible to intervene to protect people who are vulnerable. 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 practise.

5.3 Helen Clark, Kate Tither and Michelle Smyth are trained as Designated Senior Leaders for Child Protection and Safeguarding and will deal swiftly with any referrals made by staff or with concerns reported by staff.

5.4 The Head Teacher 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 (see appendix 1 – Dealing with referrals)

5.5 As with any child protection referral, staff must be made aware that if they do not agree with a decision not to refer, they can make the referral themselves and will be given the contact details to do this via the safeguarding board in the staffroom.

6. GOVERNORS, LEADERS AND STAFF

6.1 The Head Teacher and all members of the SLT are the leaders for referrals relating to extremism and radicalisation. In the unlikely event that the senior teacher and the Head Teacher are not available, all staff know the channels by which to make referrals via the safeguarding board in the staffroom.

6.2 Staff will be fully briefed about what to do if they are concerned about the possibility of radicalisation relating to a pupil, or if they need to discuss specific children whom they consider to be vulnerable to radicalisation or extremist views.

6.3 The teachers will work closely with the Head Teacher and external agencies to decide the best course of action to address concerns, which arise.

6.4 Prejudicial behaviour can be a factor in radicalisation and extremism. With this in mind, Westhead Lathom St James' C.E. Primary School has updated procedures for dealing with prejudicial behaviour, as outlined in the Behaviour Policy and Equalities Policy.

7. THE ROLE OF THE CURRICULUM

7.1 Our curriculum is broad and balanced. It promotes respect, tolerance and diversity. 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.

7.2 Our PSHE provision is embedded across the curriculum. It directs our collective worship and underpins the ethos of the school. It is recognised that children with low aspirations are more vulnerable to radicalisation and therefore we strive to equip our pupils with confidence, self-belief, respect and tolerance as well as setting high standards and expectations for themselves.

7.3 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. Our annual Friendship Week during the national anti-bullying week has aspects of personal safety within it. It is a recurring theme in collective worship so that the subject is always fresh.

8. STAFF TRAINING

8.1 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 and are aware of how we can provide support as a school to ensure that our children are resilient and able to resist involvement in radical or extreme activities. (See Appendix 2- Staff training)

9. VISITORS AND THE USE OF SCHOOL PREMISES

9.1 If any member of staff wishes to invite a visitor in the school they will ensure that the visitor is with a members of staff at all times and any subject content is vetted. Children are NEVER left unsupervised with external visitors, regardless of safeguarding check outcomes.

9.2 Volunteers within the school, including parent volunteers, are subject to DBS clearance and work within sight and sound of a member of staff. They undergo safeguarding induction and are asked to complete Level 1&2 safeguarding training.

9.3 If any agreement is made to allow non-school groups or organisations to use the premises, appropriate checks will be made before agreeing the contract. Usage will be monitored and in the event of any behaviour not in-keeping with the Tackling Extremism and Radicalisation Policy, the school will contact the police and terminate the contract.

Appendix 1 – Dealing with referrals

We are aware of the potential indicating factors that a child is vulnerable to being radicalised or exposed to extreme views, including peer pressure, influence from other people or the internet, bullying, crime and anti-social behaviour, family tensions, race/hate crime, lack of self-esteem or identity, prejudicial behaviour and personal or political grievances

In the event of prejudicial behaviour the following system will be followed;

- All incidents of prejudicial behaviour will be reported directly to the SLT or the Head Teacher.
 - All incidents will be fully investigated and recorded in line with the Behaviour Policy and records will be kept in line with procedures for any other safeguarding incident.
 - Parents/carers will be contacted and the incident discussed in detail, aiming to identify motivating factors, any changes in circumstances at home, parental views of the incident and to assess whether the incident is serious enough to warrant a further referral. A note of this meeting is kept alongside the initial referral in the Safeguarding folder.
 - The HT and teachers follow-up any referrals after the incident to assess whether there is a change in behaviour and/or attitude. A further meeting with parents would be held if there is not a significant positive change in behaviour.
 - If deemed necessary, serious incidents will be discussed and referred to Lancashire Children’s Services.
- In the event of a referral relating to serious concerns about potential radicalisation or extremism, the school will also contact Lancashire Police Counter Terrorism Unit.

Appendix 2 - Staff Safeguarding Training

Type of Training	Delivered by	Delivered to	When and at what frequency
Safer Recruitment Training	Online training	Governor	Certificates held in school office
Safeguarding and Child Protection Training	Lancashire County Council Safeguarding	DSL and DDSL	Refreshed on 2 year basis. Certificates held in school Safeguarding Folder
Safeguarding and Child Protection Training – (Dissemination)	SLT	All staff, governors, office staff, site management and dinner supervisors	Repeated for all staff during Autumn term each academic year and on-going in weekly staff meeting
FGM	HT	All staff	Delivered at staff meeting 7 min briefings
PREVENT	Online training	HT, Teaching/TA staff	Certificates held in school office

Appendix 3 - Additional materials (Available in Staffroom, on school website or by searching online)

- The Prevent Strategy, GOV.UK – Home Office
- Keeping Children Safe in Education DfE 2023
- Working Together to Safeguard Children HM Gov 2018
- Learning Together to be Safe: a Toolkit to Help Schools Contribute to the Prevention of Violent Extremism was published in 2008 by the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF), a predecessor of the Department for Education.