

Preventing Extremism Policy

Introduction

Heritage School is committed to playing its part in the government's counter-terrorism strategy. The Prevent duty was established by the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 and places a duty on specified authorities such as education, health, local authorities, police and criminal justice agencies to have 'due regard to the need to prevent people from becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism.

The three objectives of Prevent are:

1. tackle the ideological causes of terrorism
2. intervene early to support people susceptible to radicalisation
3. enable people who have already engaged in terrorism to disengage and rehabilitate

Heritage's Prevent Duty should be viewed as an integral element of our safeguarding responsibilities, in particular contextual safeguarding. Contextual Safeguarding is an approach to understanding, and responding to children's experiences of significant harm beyond their family and home. This approach recognises the different relationships children have in their schools, peer groups, online and in their community.

Legislation and guidance

The policy is drawn up in accordance with the following statutory guidance:

- Revised Prevent Duty Guidance: for England and Wales (updated December 2023),
- The Prevent duty: an introduction for those with safeguarding responsibilities (Sept 2023)
- Understanding and identifying radicalisation risk in your education setting (Sept 2023)
- Managing risk of radicalisation in your education setting (Sept 2023)
- The use of social media for online radicalisation (July 2015),
- Promoting fundamental British values as part of SMSC in schools (2014)
- KCSIE (September 2023).

It is linked to the following school policies:

- PSHE & Citizenship Policy
- Safeguarding Policy
- Recruitment, Selection and Disclosure Policy
- Active Promotion of Fundamental British Values Policy
- Acceptable Use of Screens Policy

Defining extremism and radicalisation

Extremism has been defined as vocal or active opposition to fundamental British Values including democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, mutual respect and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs. It also includes calls for the death of armed service personnel serving at home or overseas.

Radicalisation is the process of a person legitimising support for, or use of, terrorist violence. It's where terrorism begins. Most people who commit terrorism offences do so of their own agency and dedication to an ideological cause.

Steps Heritage School takes to prevent extremism

1. A Senior Staff member (Deputy Head and DDSL) has undergone specialist Prevent Lead training.
2. A Prevent Duty Risk Assessment has been carried out and is reviewed annually.
3. All staff are trained in Prevent Duty to understand the nature of extremism and radicalisation,
4. All staff know what signs to watch for, to identify children who may be susceptible to radicalisation
5. All staff have carried out training on challenging extremist ideas (Notice, Check, Share).
6. All staff know what to do if they suspect extremism or radicalisation.
7. The school builds pupils' resilience to radicalisation by actively promoting Fundamental British Values and enabling them to challenge extremist views (see our Active Promotion of Fundamental British Values Policy).
8. The school actively promotes Christian values, including 'love for neighbour' and liberty of conscience, through RS lessons, assemblies and PSHE lessons.
9. The school ensures that pupils do not have access to extremist websites while at school (see our Acceptable and Safe Use of Screens Policy).
10. The school ensures that any visiting speakers will not promote extremist or radical views. Appropriate checks are undertaken on all visiting speakers - at a minimum this will include an internet search and whatever formal/informal background checks are reasonable in the circumstances. These checks are recorded. A member of school staff will be present during the visit/talk, and will monitor what is being said to ensure that it aligns with the values and ethos of the school and British values

Building children's resilience to radicalisation

In PSHE, History and R.S. lessons, as well as via assemblies, teachers provide a safe environment for exploring sensitive and controversial issues helping enable children to challenge ideas. Pupils learn to recognise and manage risk, make safe choices, and recognise when pressure from others threatens their personal safety. Pupils also learn about the risk of online radicalisation via social media and the Internet. They develop effective ways of resisting unwanted pressures, including when, where and how to get help.

Assessing whether a child is being radicalised

Terrorist groups need to radicalise and recruit people to their cause. Some target a few select people with the right capabilities; others aim to build a mass movement and to encourage insurgency against legitimate governments.

A mix of the following factors can lead a person to engage with extremist ideologies:

- a family culture where fundamental British values are questioned
- family tension/instability at home/bereavement
- quest for identity, meaning or community (belonging)
- bullying
- lack of self-esteem
- experience of hate/race crimes
- feelings of personal or political grievances
- involvement in crime
- peer pressure
- exposure to extremist sites on the Internet, including social media
- existence of mental health issues
- a desire for control or status
- a desire for excitement or adventure
- 'them and us' thinking

Prevent referrals are more common for:

- those on the autistic spectrum
- boys (89% of referrals are male)

Further to **engagement** with extremist ideologies, an **intent to cause harm** and a **capability to use violence** are necessary in order to carry out terrorist attacks.

Intent to cause harm: not all who are drawn toward extremist ideologies come to see violence as an acceptable means, but some do. Strong group bonding, peer pressure, and indoctrination are also necessary to persuade individuals to think that violence is a legitimate response to perceived injustice.

Capability to use violence: not all who develop an intent to cause harm have the ability to carry it out, but some do. Those who do will possess the necessary skills and competencies and they will have access to funding, networks or equipment.

What to do if you suspect radicalisation

It is essential that staff record all safeguarding concerns - including concerns regarding extremism and radicalisation - immediately, in note form if necessary, then onto our online safeguarding software, MyConcern.

When recording the disclosure on MyConcern, staff must note:

- the full name of the child
- the date and time of incident/comment,
- the place and context of the incident or concern,
- the facts you need to report,
- whether or not there are any witnesses, and if so, who they are.

The Safeguarding team consists of the Designated Safeguarding Lead (Jason Fletcher, Headmaster), or the Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads (Matthew Fox, Deputy Head; Bettina Scarlata, Head of PSHE and Enrichment). Having received notification of any form of safeguarding concern, the safeguarding team will discuss the case and will advise whether a referral is necessary. Referrals should be made to the contact centre using the Cambridgeshire online referral form found on the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Safeguarding Children Partnership Board website.

<https://www.safeguardingcambspeterborough.org.uk/concerned/>

Further guidance regarding making a Prevent referral is available:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/making-a-referral-to-prevent#preparing-a-prevent-referral>

A specialist from Channel, the programme which supports individuals who are susceptible to radicalisation, may become involved.

Advice may be sought regarding Prevent concerns by calling Cambridgeshire Police on 101 and selecting extension 2596 or 2595 or by email: Prevent@cambs.police.uk If urgent police assistance is required staff should dial **999**. Staff can also call the Anti-Terrorist Hotline on **0800 789 321**, which is available 24/7 for members of the public to report suspicious activity (though **999** should always be used for emergencies). Calls are answered by specially trained counter terrorism officers and staff who will carry out some initial enquiries. They are then able to pass the details on to local counter terrorism officers for further investigation where appropriate.

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