



# Barlaston C.E. (VC) First School



## Prevent Policy

**Lead Governor: Sharon Clarkson (appointed 20<sup>th</sup> September 2023)**

**Name of Designated Safeguarding Lead: John Gordon**

**Name of Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead: Sarah Broome; Adam Peel**

**Policy will be reviewed by the governing body by: September 2024**

### Introduction

Barlaston First School is committed to providing a secure environment for pupils, where children feel safe and are kept safe. All staff and volunteers working at Barlaston First 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.

Under the Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015 the school also has a statutory duty to have due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into extremism.

This policy is one element within our overall school arrangements to Safeguard and Promote the Welfare of all Children in line with our statutory duties set out in section 175 of the Education Act 2002 and should be read in conjunction with the school's Safeguarding Policy (See website).

This Policy also draws upon the guidance contained in:

- the Staffordshire SSCB Procedures and DfE Guidance Keeping Children Safe in Education, 2016
- DCSF Resources Learning Together to be Safe
- Prevent: Resources Guide,
- Tackling Extremism in the UK
- DfE's "Teaching Approaches that help Build Resilience to Extremism among Young People"

## **School Ethos and Practice – countering extremism**

When operating this policy Barlaston First believes there is no place for extremist views of any kind in our school, whether from internal sources – pupils, staff or governors, or external sources - school community, external agencies or individuals. Our pupils see our school as a safe place where they can legitimately be supported to explore controversial issues safely in a learning context and where our teachers encourage and facilitate this – we have a duty to ensure this happens in order to secure common values and ethos of diversity, inclusion and democracy and the central tenants of British values.

As a school we recognise that extremism and exposure to extremist materials and influences can lead to risks 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 these limit 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 and balanced way.

Therefore we will provide a broad and balanced curriculum, delivered by skilled professionals, so that our pupils are enriched, with understanding and become tolerant of difference and diversity to ensure that they thrive, feel valued and are not marginalised. Furthermore at Barlaston First School we are aware that young people can be exposed to extremist influences or prejudiced views from an early age which emanate from a variety of sources, including via the internet, and consequently pupils may be at risk of reflecting or display views that may be ill-informed, discriminatory, prejudiced or extremist, including using derogatory language.

Any such behaviour displayed by pupils or staff will always be challenged and where appropriate dealt with in line with our Behaviour and Discipline Policy for pupils and the Code of Conduct for staff. 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.
- 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

Our school will closely follow any locally agreed procedure as set out by the Local Authority and/or Staffordshire Safeguarding Children Board, including agreed processes and criteria for safeguarding individuals vulnerable to extremism and radicalisation.

### **Teaching Approaches - Building Resilience**

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 some children may experience elsewhere may make it harder for them to challenge or question these radical influences. In our school this will be achieved by good teaching, including via PSHE.

We will ensure that all of our teaching approaches help pupils to build resilience to extremism and give pupils a positive sense of identity through the development of critical thinking skills. We will ensure that all of our staff are equipped to recognise 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 and be relevant to the current issues and insight into extremism and radicalisation. In doing so we will apply the 'key ingredients' see Appendix A, and we will apply the methodologies set out in that document following the three broad categories of:

- Making a connection with young people using a pupil centred approach
- Facilitating a 'safe space' for dialogue
- Equipping our pupils with the appropriate skills, knowledge, understanding and awareness for resilience

Therefore this approach will be embedded within the ethos of our school so that pupils know and understand what safe and acceptable behaviour is in the context of extremism and radicalisation.

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 approach addressed throughout the curriculum
- Focussed educational programmes

We will also work with local partners, families and communities in our efforts to ensure our school community understands and embraces the local context and our values in challenging extremist views, to assist in the broadening of our pupil's experiences and horizons. We will help support pupils who may be vulnerable to adverse 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 safeguarded, supported and offered mentoring intervention. Additionally in such instances our school will seek external support from the Local Authority and/or local partnership structures working to prevent extremism.

Through these measures 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. It is indeed our most fundamental responsibility to keep our pupils safe and prepare them for life in modern multi-cultural Britain and globally.

### **Referring Concerns**

Where there are concerns of extremism or radicalisation parents, pupils and staff will use our internal systems to raise any issue with senior management. Our lead person for Prevent is the Designated Safeguarding Lead who would normally be the first point of contact should there be concerns.

### **Child Protection**

Please refer to our Safeguarding Policy for the full procedural framework on our Child Protection duties.

Staff will be alert to the fact that whilst Extremism and Radicalisation are managed as a safeguarding issue there may be some instances where a child or children may be at direct risk of harm or neglect.

## **Training**

All staff, including temporary staff and volunteers will receive an induction in regard to our Safeguarding policy and procedures. This will include information and guidance about our duty to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism.

Whole school in-service training in regard to safeguarding, including PREVENT for staff, governors and volunteers annually.

The Designated Safeguarding Lead will attend appropriate and relevant training courses in regard to safeguarding children, including the appropriate inter-agency training organised by the Safeguarding Children Board at least every two years. This will include accessing training on extremism and radicalisation and its safeguarding implications. The Designated Safeguarding Lead will ensure that all adults working in the school receive appropriate levels of training, guidance and support in regard to safeguarding children from extremism and radicalisation on recorded regular basis.

## **Recruitment and staff conduct**

The arrangements for recruiting all staff, permanent and volunteers, to our school will follow guidance for 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. We will apply safer recruitment best practice principles and sound employment practice and in doing so will deny opportunities for inappropriate recruitment or advancement.

We will be alert to the possibility that persons may seek to gain positions within our school so as to unduly influence our school's character and ethos. We are aware that such persons seek to limit the opportunities for our pupils thereby rendering them vulnerable to extremist views and radicalisation as a consequence. Therefore, by adhering to safer recruitment best practice techniques and by ensuring that there is an ongoing culture of vigilance within our school and staff team we will minimise the opportunities for extremist views to prevail.

Referrals to the Staffordshire LADO service will be made when appropriate as per statutory guidance and our Safeguarding Children Policy.

## **Role of Governing Body**

The Governing Body of our School will undertake appropriate training and updating to ensure clarity about their role and the parameters of responsibilities as Governors, including their statutory safeguarding duties. The Governing Body of our school shapes the ethos and values of our school and will support the school in tackling extremism and radicalisation.

Governors will review this policy regularly (annually) 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.

| <b>Push Factors</b>  | <b>Key Ingredients</b>   | <b>Pull Factors</b>                                    |
|--|--|--|
| Factors which push/make an individual vulnerable to extremist messages                                   | <b>Teacher confidence and skills</b> in dealing with difficult and sensitive issues  | Factors that draw young people into extremist messages |
| Lack of excitement, frustration  | <b>Teacher attitude/behaviours</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Need to be able to admit that do not necessarily know the answers</li> <li>• Able to acknowledge that controversial issues/matters exist</li> <li>• Willingness to seek help when not sure what to do/how to assist</li> <li>• Understanding that they have a role to play re this agenda</li> </ul> | Confident and charismatic recruiters                   |
| Lack of a sense of achievement seen as significant. Lacking purpose/confidence in the future/life goals. | <b>Specific knowledge</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Some understanding of other cultures and religions and belief systems</li> <li>• Knowledge of alternate values framework</li> </ul>   | Networks/sense of belonging                            |
| Lacking an outlet for views  | <b>Teaching pedagogy</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Working with pupils to enable them to develop critical thinking skills ( to be able to see through propaganda...</li> <li>• Enabling pupils to see multiple perspectives</li> <li>• Enabling pupils to deal with difficult situations</li> </ul>   | Persuasive clear message which exploit knowledge gaps  |

|  |   |   |
|--|---|---|
|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Utilizing multiple resources/methods</li> <li>• Working with young people to enable them to develop and have pride in sense of self and sense of having multiple identities</li> <li>• Linking school work with the wider community</li> </ul> |   |
| Gaps in knowledge and or understanding of Islam both young people and their parents  |   | Wider community views which promote extremist views or do not actively oppose extremism |
| A sense of injustice   |   |   |
| Actual or perceived humiliating experiences. This may be linked to sense of injustice. The experiences may be of being bullied, put down etc |   |   |
| Exclusion – a lack of belonging to peer/community networks, groups etc.  |   |   |

## **Appendix B**

### **Prevent**

#### **What do I do if I have concerns about an individual in relation to extremism or radicalisation?**

If you have concern about an individual in relation to extremism or radicalisation, you can refer to the Prevent Team. They will be able to offer appropriate advice and guidance and will refer into the Channel process, if required.

#### **Prevent Co-ordinator**

Tel: 01785 232054

Email: [Calum.Forsyth@staffordshire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:Calum.Forsyth@staffordshire.pnn.police.uk)

#### **Prevent Team**

Tel: 01785 238239 or 01785 233109

Email: [prevent@staffordshire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:prevent@staffordshire.pnn.police.uk)

#### **What is Channel?**

Channel is a key element of the Prevent Strategy. It is a multi-agency approach to protect people at risk of radicalisation. Channel uses existing collaboration between local authorities, statutory partners, the police and the local community to identify individuals at risk of being drawn into terrorism, assess the nature and extent of that risk and develop the most appropriate support for the individuals concerned.

More information about Channel can be found at:

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/118194/channel-guidance.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/118194/channel-guidance.pdf)

#### **What happens once I have raised a concern about an individual with the Prevent Team?**

Prevent Team Officers would liaise with you to discuss your concerns. They would complete a vulnerability assessment for the individual (either by engaging directly with them or based on information given by the referrer, depending on the circumstances).

The information would then be used to make a decision as to whether the case needed to be discussed at the next Channel meeting, where the assessment is discussed and agencies are invited to contribute any shared knowledge about the individual from their own area of business. The vulnerability assessment scoring is also discussed and a decision made about how to ensure the most suitable outcomes for the individual are achieved. If the case is not accepted into the Channel process at this stage, it will be referred back to the Case Management process, where appropriate alternative support and engagement for the individual will be identified.

If an individual who has been referred to Channel is the subject of an existing statutory process (for example, child protection processes) the Prevent Team would endeavour to contribute to the statutory process along with the other key partners who were working together to achieve the best outcomes for the individual concerned.

The person making the referral will be kept informed and, in many cases, would be involved in decision-making going forward.