



Preventing Extremism and Radicalisation Policy

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1. Introduction and aims

Sir William Stanier School is fully committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all its students and staff; providing a secure environment where they feel safe and are kept safe. All adults in our school recognise that safeguarding is everyone’s responsibility irrespective of the role they undertake. The approach we take towards protecting our children against radicalisation and extremism is no different to safeguarding against any other vulnerability in today’s society.

This Preventing Extremism and Radicalisation Safeguarding Policy is one element within our overall school arrangements to Safeguard and Promote the Welfare of all Children in line with our statutory duties.

Our school fully recognises the contribution it can make to promoting the welfare of children and protecting them from harm. This policy sets out our strategies and procedures to protect vulnerable students from being radicalised or exposed to extremist views.

At Sir William Stanier School, we will ensure that:

- All staff, volunteers and governors, have an understanding of what radicalisation and extremism is and why we need to be vigilant in school.
- Through training, staff, volunteers and governors will know what the school policy is on tackling extremism and radicalisation and how to respond when concerns arise.
- Through our curriculum, we will promote the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of students.
- Parents/carers and students will know that the school has policies in place to keep students safe from harm and that the school regularly reviews these systems to ensure they are appropriate and effective.

This policy applies to all students, staff, parents, governors, volunteers and visitors.

2. Definitions and Indicators

What is Extremism?

“Extremism” is 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. Included in the definition of extremism are calls for the death of members of the armed forces, whether in this country or overseas. Terrorist groups very often draw on extremist ideas developed by extremist organisations.

What is Radicalisation?

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.

3. Roles and Responsibilities

3.1 It is the responsibility of every member of staff, volunteer and regular visitor to our school to ensure that they carry out the requirements of this policy and, at all times, work in a way that will safeguard and promote the welfare of all of the students at this school.

3.2 The Governing Body of Sir William Stanier School is accountable for ensuring the effectiveness of this policy and our compliance with it. The Governing Body will ensure that:

- This policy is reviewed annually alongside our Safeguarding Policy.
- All staff undertake appropriate training that equips them with the skills to identify and respond appropriately to concerns regarding extremism and radicalisation.
- The Principal, Designated Safeguarding Lead and Deputy Safeguarding Lead will assess the risk of students being drawn into extremist views. The risk assessment may include consideration of the school’s curriculum, the use of school premises by external agencies and any other local issues relating to the school community.
- A broad curriculum is in place to deliver the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of students.
- Appropriate safeguarding arrangements are in place by working in partnership with other agencies and communities as required.
- There are systems in place for keeping students safe from extremist material when accessing the internet in our school by using effective filtering and usage policies.

3.3 The Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) and Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead (DDSL) will act as the point of contact within our school for any concerns relating to radicalisation and extremism.

3.4 The DSL and DDSL at Sir William Stanier School will make referrals in accordance with Cheshire East Channel procedures to CHECs, where appropriate, and will represent our school at Channel Panels as required.

3.5 The DSL and DDSL are responsible for ensuring that all staff members and volunteers are aware of our policy and the procedures they need to follow. They will ensure that all staff have received appropriate training.

4. Risk Assessment

We should be aware of the increased risk of online radicalisation, as terrorist organisations seek to radicalise young people through the use of social media and the internet.

There is no single way of identifying an individual who is likely to be susceptible to a terrorist ideology. As with managing other safeguarding risks, we should be alert to changes in children's behaviour which could indicate that they may be in need of help or protection. Children at risk of radicalisation may display different signs or seek to hide their views.

School staff should use their professional judgment in identifying children who might be at risk of radicalisation and act proportionately.

Even very young children may be vulnerable to radicalisation by others, whether in the family or outside, and display concerning behaviour. The Prevent duty does not require teachers or childcare providers to carry out unnecessary intrusion into family life but as with any other safeguarding risk, they must take action when they observe behaviour of concern.

Procedures are in place for protecting children at risk of radicalisation. These procedures are set out in existing safeguarding policies.

5. Staff training

Through training, we will ensure that all of our staff are made fully aware of the threats, risks and vulnerabilities that are linked to radicalisation. Staff will be able to identify children at risk of being drawn into extremism and develop the confidence to challenge extremist ideas. All staff will understand how we can provide support to ensure that our students are resilient and supported to resist involvement in radical or extreme activities.

Our governing body will also undertake appropriate training to ensure they are able to carry out their duty to safeguard all of the children at our school.

- Key staff have received special individual training in accordance with their role in school.
- All of our - Teaching and Support Staff have received WRAP training on Prevent as part of Staff training.
- New staff will receive Prevent training from the school's Designated Teacher or the Local Prevent Coordinator

6. The role of the curriculum

Our curriculum promotes respect, tolerance and diversity. We are committed to ensuring that our pupils are offered a broad and balanced curriculum that aims to prepare them for life in modern Britain. 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. Our PSHE (Personal, Social and Health Education), Citizenship and SMSC (Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural) provision is embedded across the curriculum, and underpins the ethos of the school. Teaching the schools' core values alongside the fundamental British values supports quality teaching and learning, whilst making a positive contribution to the development of a fair, just and civil society. Pupils 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.

Through our curriculum we will aim to:

- enable students to develop their self-knowledge, self-esteem and self-confidence
- enable students to distinguish right from wrong and to respect the civil and criminal law of England;
- encourage students to accept responsibility for their behaviour, show initiative, and to understand how they can contribute positively to the lives of those living and working in the locality of the school and to society more widely;
- enable students to acquire a broad general knowledge of and respect for public institutions and services in England;
- further tolerance and harmony between different cultural traditions by enabling students to acquire an appreciation of and respect for their own and other cultures;
- encourage respect for other people;
- encourage respect for democracy and support for participation in the democratic processes, including respect for the basis on which the law is made and applied in England.

7. Recruitment

The arrangements for recruiting all staff, permanent and volunteers, to our school will follow the DfE guidance for safer recruitment and Keeping Children Safe in Education, 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 in general 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.

8. Procedures for managing concerns

Sir William Stanier School adheres to the procedures that have been agreed locally through Cheshire East Safeguarding Children Board for safeguarding individuals vulnerable to extremism and radicalisation.

We recognise that all staff at our school play an important role as they are in a position to identify concerns early and provide help for children to prevent concerns from escalating. All staff are advised to maintain an attitude of 'it could happen here' where safeguarding is concerned and this includes vulnerability to radicalisation.

At all times we will work in partnership and endeavour to establish effective working relationships with parents, carers and colleagues from other agencies in line with Keeping Children Safe in Education (2022).

The Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) /Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead (DDSL) should be the first point for contact any safeguarding concerns in our school. Any member of staff/visitor who receives a

disclosure of or suspects that a child is at risk of radicalisation must report it immediately to the one of the above mentioned designated staff. Following receipt of any information raising concern about vulnerability to radicalisation, the DSL/DDSL will consider what action to take and will follow Cheshire East Safeguarding procedures by consulting with CHECs and contacting the Prevent Co-ordinator. All information and actions taken, including the reasons for any decisions made, will be fully documented.

If an allegation is made or information is received about an adult who works in our setting which indicates that they may be unsuitable to work with children because of concerns relating to extremism and radicalisation, the member of staff receiving the information should inform the Headteacher, DSL or Chair of Governors immediately in line with the procedures outlined in our Safeguarding Policy and the Whistleblowing Policy.

9. Useful information and contacts

Prevent Duty Guidance: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/prevent-duty-guidance>

Channel Guidance: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/channel-guidance>

Cheshire East Guide to Prevent:

https://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/environment/community_safety/preventing-violent-extremism.aspx

Cheshire East One Minute Guide: <https://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/pdf/environment/preventing-violent-extremism-one-minute-guide1.pdf>

Cheshire Police Advice: <https://www.cheshire.police.uk/advice/advice-and-information/t/prevent/prevent/>