

PREVENT POLICY

1 Introduction

This policy forms part of the school's commitment to keeping children safe. Since the 'Education and Inspections Act 2006', schools have a duty to promote community cohesion. Over the last few years, global events have led to a growth in extremist viewpoints, including advocacy of violent extremism. In March 2015 new statutory duties were placed on schools by the Counter Terrorism and Security Act (2015) which requires them to work to prevent children being drawn into extremism.

Safeguarding children from all risks of harm is a key element of the school's responsibility and protecting from extremism is one aspect of that. Schools have an important part to play in both educating children and young people about extremism and recognising when pupils are at risk of becoming radicalised.

We have a duty to prepare our children for life in modern Britain and to keep them safe. All staff are expected to uphold and promote the principals of Fundamental British Values, including democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs.

Evidence shows that children with low aspirations are more vulnerable to radicalisation, therefore the school's ethos and the work it carries out to ensure pupils have confidence and self belief, are tolerant and respectful, whilst having high expectations of themselves, are crucial in combating radicalisation.

2 Aims and Objectives

2.1 The main aims of this policy are to ensure that all staff and the Foundation Committee are vigilant for the signs of 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 children are safe from harm.

2.2 The main objectives of this policy are that:

- All Dale House Staff will have an understanding of what radicalisation and extremism is and why we need to be vigilant in school.
- All Dale House staff will know what the school policy is on anti-radicalisation and extremism and will follow the policy when issues arise.
- Dale House School will ensure that this policy is available to the wider school community through its website and in hard copy from the school on request.

3 Definitions

Radicalisation: Refers to the process by which a person comes to support terrorism and extremist ideologies associated with terrorist groups.

Extremism: We have adopted the 2011 Prevent Strategy definition as 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. We also include in our definition of extremism, calls for the death of members of our armed forces, whether in this country or overseas.

British Values: Include democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs.

4 Signs of Vulnerability

There are no known definitive indicators that a young person is vulnerable to radicalisation, but there are a number of signs that together increase the risk. These include:

- Continual refusal to conform.
- Underachievement.
- Being in possession of extremist literature.
- Poverty.
- Social exclusion.
- Traumatic events.
- Global or national events.
- Religious conversion.
- Change in behaviour.
- Extremist influences.
- Conflict with family over lifestyle.
- Confused identity.
- Victim or witness to race or hate crimes.
- Rejection by peers, family, social groups, or faith.

5 Recognising Extremism

Early indicators of radicalisation or extremism may include:

- Showing sympathy for extremist causes.
- Glorifying violence, especially to other faiths or cultures.
- Making remarks or comments about being at extremist events or rallies outside school (but there are also very powerful narratives, programmes and networks that young people can come across online, so particular individuals/groups may not become apparent).
- Evidence of possessing illegal or extremist literature.
- Advocating messages similar to illegal organisations or other extremist groups.
- Out of character changes in dress, behaviour and peer relationships.
- Secretive behaviour.
- Online searches or sharing extremist messages or social profiles.
- Intolerance of difference, including faith, culture, gender, race or sexuality.
- Graffiti art work or writing that displays extremist themes.
- Attempts to impose extremist views or practices on others.
- Verbalising anti-Western or anti-British views.
- Advocating violence towards others.

6 Procedure for Referrals

Although serious incidents involving radicalisation have not occurred at Dale House School to date, it is important for us to be vigilant and fully informed about issues that affect the local and wider community.

Staff are reminded to suspend any professional disbelief that incidents of radicalisation 'could not happen here' and to refer any concerns to Mrs Fletcher who is the Head teacher, Child Protection Officer and Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) or Mrs D Howard, Deputy DSL.

7 Role of the Curriculum

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. We encourage our pupils to be inquisitive learners who are open to new experiences and are tolerant of others. Our values support the development of pupils as reflective learners within a safe, respectful and tolerant learning environment.

Through our curriculum, pupils 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 and SMSC provision is embedded across the curriculum and underpins the ethos of the school.

Pupils are taught how to stay safe when using the internet and 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. The internet provides children and young people with access to a wide-range of content, some of which is harmful. Extremists use the internet, including social media, to share their messages. The filtering systems used at Dale House School blocks inappropriate content, including extremist material, but pupils are regularly reminded to report any inappropriate material that may get through the school's filter so that the matter can be addressed.

8 Staff Training

Through inset opportunities in school, we will ensure our staff is fully aware of the threats, risks and vulnerabilities that are linked to radicalisation and is aware of the process of radicalisation and how this might be identified early on. This information will also form part of our safeguarding training.

9 Safer Recruitment

We ensure that our recruitment processes are rigorous and in line with statutory requirements, best practice guidance, and the school's safer recruitment policy. These processes include obtaining enhanced DBS checks on all Dale House School staff, Proof of ID checks, Prohibited from Teaching checks, Prohibited from Management checks, Right to Work in the UK checks, Overseas Checks where necessary, Written References, Employment History, Medical Fitness, etc.

10 Visitors

All visitors/contractors to Dale House School have their ID checked on arrival. They are also required to sign the visitor's book on arrival and departure. Visiting speakers are required to work to a pre-agreed mandate and if at any time the supervising staff consider the input inappropriate, they will take immediate action.

11 Links to Other Policies

This Prevent Policy links to the following policies:

- Child Protection
- Safeguarding
- E-safety
- Whistle-blowing
- Equal Opportunities
- Anti-bullying
- PSHE
- Promoting British Values Statement
- Staff Code of Conduct & Behaviour

12 Statutory Duties

The duty to prevent children and young people becoming radicalised is set out in the following documents:

- Counter Terrorism and Security Act (2015)
- Keeping Children Safe In Education (2020)
- Prevent Duty Guidance (2015)
- Working Together To Safeguard Children(2018)

13 Non-Statutory Guidance

- Promoting Fundamental British Values As Part Of SMSC In Schools: Departmental Advice For Maintained Schools (DfE 2014)

Signed:

Mrs S.M.G. Fletcher
Headmistress

Dated: September 2020

Review: September 2022