

Preventing Extremism and Radicalisation Policy



Uffington
Church of England
Primary School

Our Vision

We are a family-orientated school where everyone is welcome, a place where we strive to provide the best possible education in a caring Christian environment; an education that allows everyone to flourish and have the confidence to make a positive contribution. We seek to develop the individual strengths of everyone within our school community, where each unique personality can be recognised and valued.

Our Christian values underpin everything we do: Thankfulness, Kindness, Forgiveness, Fairness, Friendship, Trust, Hope and Inclusion are key priorities for all pupils and adults in our school.

Introduction

Uffington Church of England Primary School is committed to providing a secure environment for pupils, where children feel safe and are kept safe. All adults in our 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.

In adhering to this policy and procedures, staff and visitors will contribute to our school's delivery of the outcomes to all children, as set out in Section 10 of the Children Act 2004⁽¹⁾.

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 set out at Section 175 of the Education Act 2002 (Section 157 of the Education Act 2002.)

School Ethos and Practice

When operating this policy, we use the following accepted Governmental definition of extremism which 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; and/or calls for the death of members of our armed forces, whether in this country or overseas'

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 explore controversial issues safely, and where our teachers encourage and facilitate this – we have a duty to ensure this happens.

As a school we recognise that extremism and exposure to extremist materials and influences can lead to poor outcomes for children and so should be addressed as a safeguarding concern as set out

Preparing for the Future; Living Life in all its Fullness

in this policy. We also recognise that if we fail to challenge extremist views, we are failing to protect our pupils.

(1) the physical, mental health and emotional well-being of children; the protection of children from harm and neglect; the education, training and recreation of children; the contribution made by them to society; and their social and economic well-being.

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 thereby limiting 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 way.

We will therefore provide a broad and balanced curriculum, delivered by skilled professionals, so that our pupils are enriched, understand and become tolerant of difference and diversity, and also to ensure that they thrive, feel valued and not marginalized.

We are also aware that young people can be exposed to extremist influences or prejudiced views from an early age which emanate from a variety of sources and media, including via the internet, and at times pupils may themselves reflect or display views that may be discriminatory, prejudiced or extremist, including using derogatory language.

Any prejudice, discrimination or extremist views, including derogatory language, 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.

Where misconduct by a teacher is proven, the matter will be referred to the Department of Education for their consideration as to whether to a Prohibition Order is warranted.

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, especially where pupils have not actively sought these out.
- Graffiti symbols, writing or art work promoting extremist messages or images
- Pupils accessing extremist materials on line, 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 of 'hate' terms to exclude others or incite violence
- Intolerance of difference, whether secular or religious or, in line with our Equality and Diversity Policy, views based on, but not exclusive to gender, disability, homophobia, race, colour or culture or any other protected characteristics as defined in the Equality Act 2010
- 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 Lincolnshire Safeguarding Children Partnership's agreed processes and criteria for safeguarding individuals vulnerable to extremism and radicalisation.

Preparing for the Future; Living Life in all its Fullness

Teaching Approaches

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 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, primarily via PSHEE but also by adopting the methods outlined in the Government's guidance 'Teaching approaches that help build resilience to extremism among young people' DfE 2011.

We will ensure that all of our teaching approaches help our pupils build resilience to extremism and give pupils a positive sense of identity through the development of critical thinking skill. We will ensure that all of our staff are equipped to recognize 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 so as to become even more relevant to the current issues of extremism and radicalisation. In doing so we will apply the 'key ingredients' for success as described in 'Teaching approaches that help build resilience to extremism among young people':

- Making a connection with young people through good [teaching] design and a pupil-centred approach.
- Facilitating a 'safe space' for dialogue, and
- 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. This will work in conjunction with our school's approach to the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils. 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 understands and embraces our local context and values in challenging extremist views and to assist in the broadening of our pupil's experiences and horizons. We will help support pupils who may be vulnerable to such influences as part of our wider safeguarding responsibilities seeking external support from the Local Authority as necessary.

At our school 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.

Use of External Agencies and Speakers

Preparing for the Future; Living Life in all its Fullness

We encourage the use of external agencies or speakers to enrich the experiences of our pupils, however we will positively vet those external agencies, individuals or speakers whom we engage to provide such learning opportunities or experiences for our pupils.

We will assess the suitability and effectiveness of input from external agencies or individuals to ensure that:

- Any messages communicated to pupils are consistent with the ethos of the school and do not marginalise any communities, groups or individuals
- Any messages do not seek to glorify criminal activity or violent extremism or seek to radicalise pupils through extreme or narrow views of faith, religion or culture or other ideologies
- Activities are properly embedded in the curriculum and clearly mapped to schemes of work to avoid contradictory messages or duplication
- Activities are matched to the needs of pupils
- Activities are carefully evaluated by schools to ensure that they are effective

We recognise, however, that the ethos of our school is to encourage pupils to understand opposing views and ideologies, appropriate to their age, understanding and abilities, and to be able to actively engage with them in informed debate, and we may use external agencies or speakers to facilitate and support this.

By delivering a broad and balanced curriculum, augmented by the use of external sources where appropriate, we will strive to ensure our pupils recognise risk and build resilience to manage any such risk themselves where appropriate to their age and ability, but also to help pupils develop the critical thinking skills needed to engage in informed debate.

Whistleblowing

Where there are concerns of extremism or radicalisation Pupils and Staff will be encouraged to make use of our internal systems to raise any issue in confidence.
Please refer to the School Whistleblowing Policy.

Child Protection

Please refer to our Safeguarding and Child Protection policies for the full procedural framework on our child protection duties.

Staff at our school will be alert to the fact that whilst Extremism and Radicalisation is broadly a safeguarding issue, there may be some instances where a child or children may be at direct risk of harm or neglect. For example; this could be due to a child displaying risky behaviours in terms of the activities they are involved in or the groups they are associated with or staff may be aware of information about a child's family that may equally place a child at risk of harm.

Therefore, all adults working at our school (including visiting staff, volunteers and students on placement) are required to report instances where they believe a child may be at risk of harm or neglect to the Designated Safeguarding Lead.

Role of the Designated Safeguarding Lead

The Designated Safeguarding Lead is Mrs HR Simms (Headteacher)

The Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead is Miss S Waters (SENCO / Senior Teacher)

The Designated Safeguarding Lead works in line with the responsibilities as set out at Annex

Preparing for the Future; Living Life in all its Fullness

B of the DfE Guidance 'Keeping Children Safe in Education'.

The Designated Safeguarding Lead is the first point of contact for school staff, and others, who may have concerns about an individual child's safety or well-being and for external agencies.

In line with Recommendation 2 of Peter Clarke's Report; in Uffington Church of England Primary School, the role of the Designated Safeguarding Lead will be extended, at the appropriate time, to include the responsibilities of the PREVENT strand of the Government's counter-terrorism strategy.

Training

Whole school in-service training on Safeguarding Children and Young People will be organised for all staff on an annual basis and will comply with the prevailing arrangements agreed by the Local Authority and the Safeguarding Children Board and will, in part, include training on extremism and radicalisation and its safeguarding implications.

The Designated Safeguarding Lead will attend training courses as necessary and the appropriate inter-agency training organised by the Safeguarding Children Board at least every two years, again this will include training on extremism and radicalisation and its safeguarding implications.

The nominated governor with responsibility for Safeguarding, Mrs L Lovell, will also undergo training on a regular basis.

Recruitment

The arrangements for recruiting all staff, permanent and volunteers, to our school will follow LA 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 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 schools 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 on-going culture of vigilance within our school and staff team we will minimise the opportunities for extremist views to prevail.

Role of Governing Body

The Governing Body of our School will undertake appropriate training to ensure that they are clear about their role and the parameters of their responsibilities as Governors, including their statutory safeguarding duties.

The Governing Body of our school will support the ethos and values of our school and will support the school in tackling extremism and radicalisation.

In line with Recommendation 13 of Peter Clarke's report, details of our Governing Body will be published on our school website to promote transparency.

Monitoring and Review

Preparing for the Future; Living Life in all its Fullness

The Headteacher will actively evaluate the effectiveness of this policy by monitoring the staff group's understanding and application of the procedures within this policy as their overall duty to safeguard children, and by evaluating the impact of the promotion of British values on the attitudes and behaviour of pupils.

In line with the provisions set out in the DfE guidance 'Keeping Children Safe in Education', the governing body will challenge the school's senior management team on the delivery of this policy and monitor its effectiveness.

This policy will be reviewed on an annual basis by the full governing body at their spring term meeting. They will, however, make arrangements to review the policy 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.

.....

This policy was considered and adopted by the Governing body in line with their overall duty to safeguard and promote the welfare of children as set out in the DfE guidance 'Keeping Children Safe in Education'.

It has links to a number of other school policies, namely: Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development, Behaviour, Safeguarding, eSafety. Equality and Diversity, Whistleblowing, British Values, PSHEE and RE.

This policy will be made available to parents via the school website. Hard copies are available on request.

.....

The full Government Prevent Strategy can be viewed at https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/97976/prevent-strategy-review.pdf

Contacts

- Prevent Police Team - CTP-EM-Prevent-Referral@lincs.police.uk
- Channel Referrals - CTP-EM-Prevent-Referral@lincs.police.uk
- LCC Prevent - Prevent@lincolnshire.gov.uk

Policy reviewed by the governing body	February 2024
Next review	February 2025

Preparing for the Future; Living Life in all its Fullness