

Preventing Extremism and Radicalisation Policy

Introduction

This 'Preventing Extremism and Radicalisation Policy' is part of our commitment to keeping children safe.

All staff working in Seva Independent School (SIS) recognise that safeguarding is everyone's responsibility, irrespective of the role they undertake and whether their role has direct contact with or responsibility for students.

When operating this policy, SIS uses the following Government 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'.

In July 2015, new statutory duties were placed on schools by the Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015 which means they must have due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism.

This policy draws on both statutory and non-statutory guidance: Statutory Duties

- Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015
- Keeping Children Safe in Education (version effective September 2016)
- Prevent Duty Guidance (2015)
- Working together to Safeguard Children (2015)
- Channel Guidance (2015) Non-statutory Guidance
- The Prevent Duty: Departmental advice for schools and childcare providers (DfE 2015)
- Promoting fundamental British values as part of SMSC in schools: Departmental advice for maintained schools (DfE 2014)
- Improving the spiritual, moral, social and cultural (SMSC) development of pupils:

Departmental advice for independent schools, academies and free schools and supplementary information (DfE 2014)

- Resources available via www.educateagainsthate.com

At SIS we recognise that extremism and exposure to extremist materials and influences can lead to poor outcomes for students and so should be addressed as a safeguarding concern as set out in this policy and the School's Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy and Procedures.

We also recognise that if we fail to challenge extremist views, we are failing to protect our students.

Roles and responsibilities

Role of the Board of Directors

It is the role of the Board of Directors to ensure that that the School meets its statutory duties with regard to preventing radicalisation. In particular, this requires the them to:

- Establish or use existing mechanisms for understanding the risk of radicalisation;
- Task senior leaders appropriately to ensure that staff understand the risk and build the capabilities to deal with it;
- Communicate and promote the importance of the duty; and
- Task senior leaders to ensure that staff implement the duty effectively.

Role of the Headteacher

It is the Headteacher's role to:

- Ensure that the School and its staff respond to preventing radicalisation on a day-to-day basis;
- Ensure that the School's curriculum addresses the issues involved in radicalisation;
- Ensure that staff conduct is consistent with preventing radicalisation;
- Report to the governing body on these matters.

Role of Designated Safeguarding Lead

It is the role of the Designated Safeguarding Lead to:

- Ensure that staff understand the issues of radicalisation, are able to recognise the signs of vulnerability of radicalisation and know how to refer their concerns through an ongoing training programme for all School employees including induction training for all new teaching staff, and where appropriate support staff;
- Receive safeguarding concerns about children and young people who may be vulnerable to the risk of radicalisation or are showing signs of radicalisation.
- Share information and make referrals to ensure that a person at risk of radicalisation is given appropriate support whilst taking into account factors such as necessity and proportionality, consent, the power to share and relevant legislation.
- Ensure that those within the school community suspected or identified as already engaged in illegal terrorist-related activity are referred to the police.
- Liaise with partners, including the local authority and police.
- Offer support and advice to staff.
- Keep and maintain records of staff training on the Prevent duty.
- Monitor the keeping, confidentiality and storage of records in relation to the Prevent duty.
- Co-ordinate the Prevent duty procedures in the School.

Role of staff

It is the role of staff to understand the issues of radicalisation and be confident about recognising signs of vulnerability or radicalisation and know to refer concerns to the Designated Safeguarding Lead promptly. This includes staff accepting the following challenges:

- Understand how an extremist narrative which can lead to harm can be challenged by staff in schools.
- Understand how diverse views can be heard, analysed and challenged in a way which values freedom of speech and freedom from harm.
- Understand how to prevent harm to pupils by individuals, groups or others who promote violent extremism, and manage risks within the School.

- Understand how to support individuals who are vulnerable through strategies to support, challenge and protect.
- Increase the resilience of pupils and of the School community through helping pupils acquire skills and knowledge to challenge extremist views and promoting an ethos and values that promotes respect for others.
- Use teaching styles and curriculum opportunities which allow grievances to be aired, explored and demonstrate the role of conflict resolution and active citizenship.

Curriculum and teaching approaches

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 skills. We will ensure that all our teaching staff (and where appropriate support staff) are equipped to recognise extremism and are skilled and confident enough to challenge it.

We will 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 may make it harder for them to challenge or question these radical influences.

In our School this will be achieved primarily through PSHE. We will be flexible to adapt our teaching approaches, as appropriate, so as to address specific issues as to become even more relevant to the current issues 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 restorative approach addressed through the curriculum and the behaviour policy.

At SIS 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 students safe and prepare them for life in modern multi-cultural Britain and globally.

IT at SIS

We will ensure that children are safe from terrorist and extremist material when accessing the internet in school by having secure filters which will block inappropriate content.

All internet access by pupils and staff over the school network is therefore filtered and all activity recorded. There is a specific category for terrorist and extremist material.

Staff training Statutory guidance refers to the importance of Prevent awareness training to equip staff to identify children at risk of being drawn into terrorism and to challenge extremist ideas.

The National Counter Terrorism Policing Headquarters in conjunction with the College of Policing have developed a general awareness e-learning package for Channel.

Teaching staff at SIS have completed this and for those teaching staff that are new in post will as part of their induction complete this (accessed at http://course.ncalt.com/Channel_General_Awareness/01/index.html).

Working in partnership

We will work in partnership with local partners, families and communities in our efforts to raise awareness of radicalisation and to support us with implementing the Prevent Duty. SIS will engage effectively with parents/families to assist and advise of support mechanisms if concerns are raised. The School will ensure that safeguarding arrangements take into account the policies and procedures of Ealing Safeguarding Children Board.

Referral process

If a member of staff has a concern about a particular pupil/s they must follow the School's normal safeguarding procedures, including discussing with the School's Designated Safeguarding Lead as set out in the Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy.

The Designated Lead will consider whether to contact the Ealing Prevent Team

There is also a DfE dedicated telephone helpline and mailbox for non-emergency advice for staff and governors: 020 7340 7264 and counter-extremism@education.gsi.gov.uk .

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