



# **WILLASTON PRIMARY ACADEMY**

## **PREVENT POLICY**

**(Prevention of Extremism and Radicalisation -  
Safeguarding)**

Person responsible for the Policy:	<i>Miss Joanna Wright</i>
Date Approved:	<i>March 2021</i>
Approved by:	<i>Mr Aaron Perrin/Governing Body</i>
Date for Review:	<i>March 2023</i>

## **PURPOSE AND AIMS**

Willaston Primary Academy is fully committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all its pupils. As a school we recognise that safeguarding against radicalisation is no different from safeguarding against any other vulnerability. All staff are expected to uphold and promote the fundamental principles of British values, including democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect, and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs.

This Prevention of 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 pupils from being radicalised or exposed to extremist views.

At Willaston Primary Academy the main aims of this policy statement are to ensure that staff are fully engaged in being vigilant about 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 pupils are safe from harm. The principle aims are 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 pupils/students.
- Parents/carers and pupils will know that the school has policies in place to keep pupils safe from harm and that the school regularly reviews these systems to ensure they are appropriate and effective.

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

## **DEFINITION AND INDICATORS**

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. It includes calls for the death of members of the British armed forces (HM Government, 2011). Radicalisation is the process through which a person comes to support or be involved in extremist ideologies. It can result in a person becoming drawn into terrorism and is in itself a form of harm.

### **SCHOOL ETHOS AND PRACTICE**

Prevent Duty Guidance can be viewed at:

**<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/prevent-duty-guidance/revised-prevent-duty-guidance-for-england-and-wales>**

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.

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

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 Policy for pupils and the Code of Conduct for staff.

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 of our staff are equipped to recognise extremism and are skilled and confident enough to challenge it.

Our 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 schools approach to the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils and will include assemblies. Our goal is to build mutual respect and understanding and to promote the use of dialogue not violence as a form of conflict resolution.

Our school will closely follow any locally agreed procedures as set out by the Local Safeguarding Children Board's agreed processes and criteria for safeguarding individuals vulnerable to extremism and radicalisation. In the event of concerns about a person becoming radicalised, consideration will be given to using the LA Channel process. Channel is a bespoke panel which meets to address issues of individuals who have been identified as being at risk of radicalisation but have not committed any terrorism offence.

## **ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

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 pupils at this school.

The Governing Body of Willaston Primary Academy is accountable for ensuring the effectiveness of this policy and our compliance with it. The Governing Body will ensure that:

- This policy is reviewed bi-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 Headteacher and Designated Safeguarding Lead will assess the risk of pupils 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 pupils.
- Appropriate safeguarding arrangements are in place by working in partnership with other agencies and communities as required.
- There are systems in place for keeping pupils safe from extremist material when accessing the internet in our school by using effective filtering and usage policies.
- The Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) will act as the point of contact within our school for any concerns relating to radicalisation and extremism.
- The DSL at Willaston Primary Academy will make referrals in accordance with Cheshire East Channel procedures to ChECS, where appropriate, and will represent our school at Channel Panels as required.
- The DSL is 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.

## **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 pupils 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.

## **THE ROLE OF THE CURRICULUM**

At Willaston Primary Academy we will provide pupils with a broad and balanced curriculum and promote the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of our pupils. Pupils will be encouraged to regard people of all faiths, races and cultures with respect and tolerance.

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 our fundamental responsibility to keep our pupils safe and prepare them for life in modern multi-cultural Britain and globally.

Through our curriculum we will aim to:

- Enable pupils to develop their self-knowledge, self-esteem and self-confidence
  - Enable pupils to distinguish right from wrong and to respect the civil and criminal law of England
  - Encourage pupils 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 pupils 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 pupils to acquire an appreciation of and respect for their own and other cultures
- 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.
- Encourage respect for other people

#### **VISITORS AND THE USE OF SCHOOL PREMISES**

At Willaston Primary Academy we recognise the role that external agencies and speakers can play in enhancing the learning experiences of our pupils. Where we use external agencies and individuals in this way, we will positively vet them to ensure that their messages are consistent with, and not in opposition to, the school's values and ethos.

Our school 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

Any guest speakers or external agencies will be appropriately supervised at all times and asked to follow the school's Safeguarding procedures.

When an agreement is made to allow non-school groups or organisations to use the school premises, appropriate checks will be made before agreeing the contract. Usage will be

monitored and in the event of any behaviour not in keeping with the Prevention of Extremism and Radicalisation Policy, the school will contact the Prevent Officer and terminate the arrangement.

### **PROCEDURES FOR MANAGING CONCERNS**

At Willaston Primary Academy 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 Working Together to Safeguard Children (2020).

The Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) 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 DSL or, if unavailable, to the Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead or Headteacher.

Following receipt of any information raising concern about vulnerability to radicalisation, the DSL 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 or Chair of Governors immediately in line with the procedures outlined in our Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy and the Whistleblowing Policy.

**POLICY WRITTEN BY MISS JOANNA WRIGHT – MARCH 2021**

**TO BE REVIEWED – MARCH 2023**

## **Appendix 1: NSPCC guidance Feb 2020**

### **Recognising and Responding**

#### **How does radicalisation happen?**

*The process of radicalisation may involve:*

- *being [groomed](#) online or in person*
- *exploitation, including [sexual exploitation](#)*
- *psychological manipulation*
- *exposure to violent material and other inappropriate information*
- *the risk of physical harm or death through extremist acts.*

*It happens gradually so children and young people who are affected may not realise what it is that they are being drawn into.*

#### **Vulnerability factors**

*Anyone can be radicalised but there are some factors which may make a young person more vulnerable. These include:*

- *being easily influenced or impressionable*
- *having low self-esteem or being isolated*
- *feeling that rejection, discrimination or injustice is taking place in society*
- *experiencing community tension amongst different groups*
- *being disrespectful or angry towards family and peers*
- *having a strong need for acceptance or belonging*
- *experiencing grief such as loss of a loved one.*

*These factors will not always lead to radicalisation.*

#### **Indicators of radicalisation**

*If a child or young person is being radicalised their day-to-day behaviour may become increasingly centred around an extremist ideology, group or cause. For example, they may:*

- *spend increasing amounts of time talking to people with extreme views (this includes online and offline communication)*
- *change their style of dress or personal appearance*

- *lose interest in friends and activities that are not associated with the extremist ideology, group or cause*
- *have material or symbols associated with an extreme cause*
- *try to recruit others to join the cause*

*(Home Office, 2015).*

### **What to do if you think a child is being radicalised**

*If you think a child or the people around them are involved in radicalisation and there is an immediate risk of harm, call 999 straight away.*

*If it isn't an emergency, follow your organisation's procedures. This might include:*

- *contacting your nominated child protection lead*
- *calling the police anti-terrorism hotline on [0800 789 321](tel:0800789321)*
- *calling our [radicalisation helpline](#)*
- *[reporting suspicious activity online](#).*

*The Department for Education has a dedicated telephone helpline for schools in England who have non-emergency concerns about extremism: [020 7340 7264](tel:02073407264)*