



# Benington C of E Primary School

## Anti Radicalism Policy

Written	Reviewed	Next Review Date	Author	Adopted by Governors	Sub-Policies
April 2017	April 2020	April 2021	Mrs Tyler		

This policy is prepared using the following publications

DFE "The Prevent duty. Departmental advice for schools and childcare providers. June 2015"

DFE "Keeping children safe in schools July 2015"

HM Gov. channel Guidance - Preventing vulnerable people from being drawn into terrorism. 2015

### **POLICY STATEMENT**

From 1 July 2015 all schools, registered early years' childcare providers and registered later years childcare providers (referred to in this advice as 'childcare providers') are subject to a duty under section 26 of the Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015, in the exercise of their functions, to have "due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism". This duty is known as the Prevent duty. It applies to a wide range of public-facing bodies.

### **Aims and Principles**

The main aims of this policy 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 objectives are that:**

- All trustees, teachers and non-teaching staff will have an understanding of what radicalisation and extremism are and why we need to be vigilant in school.
- All trustees, teachers and non-teaching staff will know what the school policy is on anti-radicalisation and extremism and will follow the policy when issues arise

### **What is Radicalism?**

Radicalism refers to the process by which a person comes to support terrorism and forms of Extremism. Protecting children from the risk of radicalisation is seen as part of Benington Schools wider safeguarding duty and is similar in nature to protecting children from other forms of harm and abuse. During the process of radicalisation, it is possible to intervene to prevent vulnerable people being radicalised.

There is no single way of identifying an individual who is likely to be susceptible to an extremist ideology. It can happen in many different ways and settings. Specific background factors may contribute to vulnerability which are often combined with specific influences such as family, friends or online, and with specific needs for which an extremist or terrorist group may appear to provide an answer.

The internet and the use of social media in particular has become a major factor in the radicalisation of young people.

## **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. We also include in our definition of extremism calls for the death of members of our armed forces, whether in this country or overseas.

## **Constant practice and Procedure**

At Benington Primary School it is essential that staff are able to identify children who may be vulnerable to radicalisation and know what to do when they are identified. Protecting children from the risk of radicalisation should be seen as part of schools' and childcare providers' wider safeguarding duties, and is similar in nature to protecting children from other harms (e.g. drugs, gangs, neglect, sexual exploitation), whether these come from within their family or are the product of outside influences.

We can also build pupils' resilience to radicalisation by promoting fundamental British values and enabling them to challenge extremist views.

All staff are instructed to challenge extremist and radical views

It is important to emphasise that the Prevent duty is not intended to stop pupils debating controversial issues. On the contrary, in the older classes we will always provide a safe space in which children, young people and staff can understand the risks associated with terrorism and develop the knowledge and skills to be able to challenge extremist arguments.

In the School, we can emphasise this in daily work such as assisting the children's personal, social and emotional development and understanding of the world.

All staff are DBS checked with a view to a s128 direction. Also, the school will check any QTS employees via the government secure access portal.

## **Risk assessment**

All the school staff, particularly the staff who work directly with the children are expected to assess the risk of children being drawn into terrorism, including support for extremist ideas that are part of terrorist ideology.

This means being able to demonstrate both a general understanding of the risks affecting children and young people in the area and a specific understanding of how to identify individual children who may be at risk of radicalisation and what to do to support them.

As with managing other safeguarding risks, staff should be alerting to changes in children's behaviour which could indicate that they may be in need of help or protection.

Staff should use their professional judgement in identifying children who might be at risk of radicalisation and act proportionately, which may include making a referral to the Channel program (see appendix one for further information on Channel)

All staff will be updated during INSET days and expected to take the CHANEL awareness training.

## **Indicators of Vulnerability that could lead to radicalism**

### **Identity**

- the student / pupil is distanced from their cultural / religious heritage and experiences;
- discomfort about their place in society;
- personal crisis - the student / pupil may be experiencing family tensions;
- a sense of isolation;
- low self-esteem;
- they may have dissociated from their existing friendship group and become involved

with a new and different group of friends;

- they may be searching for answers to questions about identity, faith and belonging.

### **Personal Circumstances**

- migration;
- local community tensions; and
- events affecting the student/pupil's country or region of origin may contribute to a sense of grievance that is triggered by personal experience of racism or discrimination or aspects of Government policy

### **Unmet Aspirations**

- the student/pupil may have perceptions of injustice;
- a feeling of failure;
- rejection of civic life.

### **Experiences of Criminality**

- involvement with criminal groups
- imprisonment; and
- poor resettlement/reintegration on release

### **Special Educational Needs**

- difficulties in social interaction
- difficulties in empathizing with others
- difficulties in understanding the consequences of their actions; and awareness of the motivations of others.

### **More critical risk factors could include:**

- being in contact with extremist recruiters;
- accessing violent extremist websites, especially those with a social networking element;
- possessing or accessing violent extremist literature;
- using extremist narratives and a global ideology to explain personal disadvantage;
- justifying the use of violence to solve societal issues;
- joining or seeking to join extremist organisations; and
- significant changes to appearance and/or behaviour;
- experiencing a high level of social isolation, resulting in issues of identity crisis and/or personal crisis.

### **Procedure for reporting concerns**

If a member of staff in a school has a concern about a particular pupil they should follow the school's normal safeguarding procedures, including discussing with the school's designated safeguarding lead, who will, where deemed necessary, with children's social care.

You can also contact

your local police force or dial 101 (the non-emergency number).

They can talk to you in confidence about your concerns and help you gain access to support and advice. Also, they can advise if this would be a case for Channel

The Department for Education has dedicated a telephone helpline (020 7340 7264) to enable staff and governors to raise concerns relating to extremism directly.

Concerns can also be raised by email to [counter.extremism@education.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:counter.extremism@education.gsi.gov.uk)

**Appendix one**

**Channel**

Channel is a programme which focuses on providing support at an early stage to people who are identified as being vulnerable to being drawn into terrorism. It provides a mechanism for schools to make referrals if they are concerned that an individual might be vulnerable to radicalisation. An individual’s engagement with the programme is entirely voluntary at all stages.

Section 36 of the CTSA 2015 places a duty on local authorities to ensure Channel panels are in place. The panel must be chaired by the local authority and include the police for the relevant local authority area. Following a referral, the panel will assess the extent to which identified individuals are vulnerable to being drawn into terrorism, and, where considered appropriate and necessary consent is obtained, arrange for support to be provided to those individuals.

Channel is available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/channel-guidance>

**Appendix Two**

**Contacts;**

- School DPS..... Barbara Swann 01438 869254
- Deputy School DPS..... Anja Tyler 01438 869254
- Designated Governor for Child Protection..... Louise Beckham 01438 869254

- The Department for Education has dedicated a telephone helpline to enable staff and governors to raise concerns relating to extremism directly.

Tel **020 7340 7264**

This is open Monday to Friday from 9am to 6pm (excluding bank holidays)

Concerns can also be raised by email to [counter.extremism@education.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:counter.extremism@education.gsi.gov.uk)