



BEECHWOOD

Primary School

TACKLING EXTREMISM & RADICALISATION POLICY

SEPTEMBER 2023
Autumn Term

Approved by: **Leadership & Management Committee**

Date:

Last reviewed on: **September 2023**

Next review due by: **September 2025**

TACKLING EXTREMISM & RADICALISATION

The following national guidelines should also be read when working with this policy:

- PREVENT Strategy HM Government
- **Keeping Children Safe in Education DfE September 2023**
- Working Together to Safeguard Children HM Government July 2018

1. Rationale:

Staff at Beechwood Primary School are wholly committed to ensuring that all members of the school community are fully safeguarded at all times and recognise that the welfare of children is everyone's responsibility. This policy is intended to provide a framework for dealing with issues relating to vulnerability, radicalisation and exposure to extreme views. We recognise that school staff are well placed to be able to identify safeguarding issues and this policy clearly sets out how the school will deal with such incidents and identifies how the curriculum and ethos underpins our actions.

2. Aims:

The 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 at the school and ensure that they work alongside other professional bodies and agencies to ensure that our pupils are safe from harm.

We aim that:

- all governors, teachers, teaching assistants and non-teaching staff will have an understanding of what radicalisation and extremism are and why we need to be vigilant in school;
- all governors, teachers, teaching assistants and non-teaching staff will know what the school policy is on tackling extremism and radicalisation and will follow the policy guidance swiftly when issues arise;
- as appropriate to their age/stage of development, all pupils will be taught the dangers of radicalisation and exposure to extremist views and how to build resilience against these, knowing what to do if they experience them;
- all 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 its systems to ensure they are appropriate and effective.

3. Definitions and Indicators:

Radicalisation is defined as the act or process of making a person more radical or favouring of extreme or fundamental changes in political, economic or social conditions, institutions or habits of the mind.

Extremism is defined as the holding of extreme political or religious views.

There are a number of behaviours which may indicate a child is at risk of being radicalised or exposed to extreme views.

These include:

- spending increasing time in the company of other suspected extremists;
- changing their style of dress or personal appearance to accord with the group;
- day-to-day behaviour becoming increasingly centred on an extremist ideology, group or cause;

- loss of interest in other friends and activities not associated with the extremist ideology, group or cause;
- possession of materials or symbols associated with an extremist cause;
- attempts to recruit others to the group/cause;
- communications with others that suggests identification with a group, cause or ideology;
- using insulting to derogatory names for another group;
- increase in prejudice-related incidents committed by that person - these may include:
 - physical or verbal assault;
 - provocative behaviour;
 - damage to property;
 - possession of prejudice-related materials;
 - prejudice related ridicule or derogatory name calling;
 - inappropriate forms of address;
 - refusal to co-operate;
 - attempts to recruit to prejudice-related organisations;
 - condoning or supporting violence towards others.

4. Procedures for Referrals:

We must be constantly vigilant and remain fully informed about the issues which affect the local community/local authority. Staff are reminded to suspend any 'professional disbelief' that instances of radicalisation 'could not happen here' and to be 'professionally inquisitive' where concerns arise, referring any concerns through the appropriate channels.

The Headteacher (Designated Safeguarding Lead - DSL) and Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead (DDSL) will deal with any concerns brought to them through the PREVENT strategy.

The Headteacher and DDSL will discuss the most appropriate course of action on a case-by-case basis and will decide when a referral to external agencies is needed.

As with any child protection referral, staff must be made aware that if they disagree with a decision *not* to refer, they are at liberty to make the referral themselves by contacting;

- The Local Police (dial 101 - the non-emergency number),
- The Department for Education dedicated helpline (020 7340 7264),
- ChECS (0300 123 5012)
- Concerns can also be raised by email to counter.extremism@education.gov.uk.

Please note that these numbers are not intended for use in emergency situations, such as a child being at immediate risk of harm or a security incident, in which case the headteacher will dial 999 and set the emergency safeguarding procedures in motion.

In the unlikely event that members of the SLT and the DDSL are not available in school, the School Business Manager/Office Staff should be requested to contact the headteacher/DDSL by telephone unless it is an emergency situation when they will dial 999.

5. The Role of the Curriculum:

Our curriculum is broad and balanced; it promotes respect, tolerance and diversity. Children 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 provision is embedded across the curriculum; it directs our assemblies and underpins the ethos of the school. It is recognised that children with low aspirations are more vulnerable to radicalisation and therefore we strive to equip our pupils with confidence, self-belief, respect and tolerance as well as setting high standards, aspirations and expectations for themselves.

Children are regularly taught about how to stay safe when using the internet and are 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.

6. Staff Training:

All staff, including governors, undertake online PREVENT training (Course 1 Awareness Course) and are fully aware of:

- the threats, risks and vulnerabilities that are linked to radicalisation;
- the process of radicalisation and how this might be identified early on;
- how we can provide support as a school to ensure that our children are resilient and able to resist involvement in radical or extreme activities.

They then complete an annual Refresher Awareness Course. All certificates kept in the Safeguarding Log File.

In addition to Course 1, the DSL and DDSL also complete Course 2 Referrals Course and Course 3 Channel or Prevent Multi-Agency Panel (PMAP) Course.

EXTREMISM & RADICALISATION POLICY

This policy was adopted at a meeting of the: Leadership and Management Committee sub-committee held on:

Date to be reviewed: **September 2025**

Signed:

Name of signatory :

S. Harper

J. Cargill

Role of signatory:

Headteacher

Chair of Governors

