



Tackling Extremism & Radicalisation Policy

Policy Statement

East Boldon Infant School is fully committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all of its pupils. As a school we recognise that safeguarding against radicalisation and extremism is no different from safeguarding against any other vulnerability in today's society. At East Boldon Infant School 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.

In formulating this policy the Governors have taken into account the guidance from the Department of Education (DfE) who has called for all public bodies to make explicit their preventative measures to minimise the threat of extremism in their setting.

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.

At East Boldon Infant School we have a zero tolerance approach to extremist behaviour for all community members. We aim to ensure the pastoral care of our pupils protects them from exposure to negative influences and that we equip our pupils with the skills to reject violence in all forms.

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 or derogatory names for another group.
- Increase in prejudice-related incidents – these may include;
 - physical or verbal assault
 - provocative behaviour
 - damage to property
 - derogatory name calling
 - possession of prejudice-related materials
 - prejudice related ridicule or name calling
 - inappropriate forms of address
 - refusal to co-operate
 - attempts to recruit to prejudice-related organisations
 - condoning or supporting violence towards others.

Aims and Principles

The main aims of this policy statement are to ensure that all 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 objectives are that:

- Pupils are encouraged to adopt our core values, which complement the key “British Values” of tolerance, respect, understanding, compassion and harmonious living.
- Pupils are helped to understand the importance of democracy and freedom of speech through PSHE curriculum (personal, social, health and emotional development), SEAL (social, emotional aspects of learning), assemblies and through the elected School Council.
- Pupils are taught how to keep themselves safe, in school and when using the internet.
- Pupils are encouraged to participate in local community events so that they appreciate and value others from different cultures and religious backgrounds.
- Pupil’s wellbeing, confidence and resilience is promoted through our planned curriculum and after school learning opportunities.
- Pupils are supported in making good choices, so they understand the impact and consequences of their actions on others.
- Governors, teachers, teaching assistants and non-teaching staff demonstrate an understanding of what radicalisation and extremism are and why we need to be vigilant in school.

Links To Other Policies

This policy should be read alongside the following school policies;

- Behaviour and Anti-Bullying Policies
- Child Protection
- Safeguarding
- Equality Policy
- E-Safety

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

- PREVENT Strategy HM Government
- Keeping Children Safe in Education DfE 2015
- Working Together to Safeguard Children HM Government 2015

Procedures For Referrals

Although serious incidents involving radicalisation have not occurred at East Boldon Infant School to date, it is important for us to be constantly vigilant and remain fully informed about the issues which affect the local region in which we teach. Staff are reminded to suspend any professional disbelief that instances of radicalisation ‘could not happen here’ and refer any concerns through the appropriate channels. (See appendix 1 – Dealing with referrals)

Concerns should be reported to the Child Protection/Safeguarding Co-ordinator (Headteacher or Deputy Head) who will liaise with LA Lead Prevent Officer, Graeme Littlewood, who can be contacted at: graeme.littlewood@southtyneside.gov.uk or Tel: 0191-4247935.

The Role of The Curriculum

Our curriculum 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. The RE, PSHE (Personal, Social, Health and Citizenship and SMSC (Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural) provision is embedded across the curriculum and

underpins the ethos of the school. Children learn about different faiths and cultures and visit different places of worship. The children are also taught how to keep themselves safe when using the internet.

Staff Training

Through INSET opportunities in school, we will ensure that our staff are fully aware of the threats, risks and vulnerabilities that are linked to radicalisation; are aware of the process of radicalisation and how this might be identified early on.

Policy Review

The Tackling Extremism and Radicalisation Policy will be reviewed annually as part of the overall Child Protection and Safeguarding policy review.

This policy was agreed by the Governing Body in March 2017

Signed..... Chair of Governors

Date:

This policy will be reviewed in March 2018

Appendix 1 – Dealing with referrals

We are aware of the potential indicating factors that a child is vulnerable to being radicalised or exposed to extreme views, including peer pressure, influences from other people or the internet, bullying, crime and anti-social behaviour, family tensions, race/hate crime, lack of self-esteem or identity, prejudicial behaviour and personal or political grievances.

In the event of prejudicial behaviour the following system will be followed;

- All incidents of prejudicial behaviour will be reported directly to the Headteacher or SLT
- All incidents will be fully investigated and recorded in line with the Behaviour policy and records will be kept in line with procedures for any other safeguarding incident.
- Parents/carers will be contacted and the incident discussed in detail, aiming to identify motivating factors, any changes in circumstances at home, parental views and to assess whether the incident is serious enough to warrant a further referral. A record of this meeting will be kept alongside the initial referral. The situation will be monitored and a further meeting will be arranged with parents if required.
- The Headteacher will liaise on individual cases with South Tyneside Lead Prevent Office, Graeme Littlewood, who can be contacted on: graeme.littlewood@southtyneside.gov.uk or Tel: 01914247935.
- In the event of a referral relating to serious concerns about potential radicalisation or extremism, the school in liaison with the LA Lead Prevent Officer, will contact Northumbria Police Counter Terrorism Unit (**contact details**)