

PREVENTING RADICALISATION POLICY

DATE OF REVIEW: Spring 2024

DATE OF NEXT REVIEW: Spring 2026

TO BE REVIEWED BY: Resources committee



This policy should be read in conjunction with our Child protection and Safeguarding policy

SAFEGUARDING PUPILS WHO ARE VULNERABLE TO EXTREMISM

Background

This 'Preventing Radicalisation Policy' is part of our commitment to keeping children safe. Since the 'Education and Inspections Act 2006' schools have a duty to promote community cohesion. Over the last few years, global events have led to a growth of extremist viewpoints, including advocacy of violent extremism.

Schools have an important part to play in both educating children and young people about extremism and recognising when pupils start to become radicalised. In March 2015, new statutory duties were placed on schools by the Counter Terrorism and Security Act (2015) which means they must work to prevent children being drawn into extremism.

Safeguarding children from all risks of harm is an important part of a school's work and protecting them from extremism is one aspect of that.

Ethos

At Hatherleigh Community Primary School we ensure that through our school vision, values, rules, diverse curriculum and teaching we promote tolerance and respect for all cultures, faiths and lifestyles. The Governing Body also ensures that this ethos is reflected and implemented effectively in school policy and practice and that there are effective risk assessments in place to safeguard and promote pupils' welfare. We have a duty to prepare our children for life in modern Britain and to keep them safe. Pupils who attend our school have the right to learn in safety. We do not tolerate bullying of any kind and will challenge derogatory language and behaviour towards others.

Statutory Duties

The duty to prevent children and young people being radicalised is set out in the following documents:

- Counter Terrorism and Security Act (2015)
- Keeping Children Safe in Education (2024)
- Prevent Duty Guidance (2015 updated 2021)
- Working Together to Safeguard Children (2018)

Non-statutory Guidance

- Promoting fundamental British values as part of SMSC in schools: Departmental advice for maintained schools (DfE 2014)

Hatherleigh Community Primary School values freedom of speech and the expression of beliefs as fundamental rights underpinning our society's values. Both children and adults have the right to speak freely and voice their opinions. However, freedom comes with responsibility and free speech that is designed to manipulate the vulnerable or that leads to violence and harm of others goes against the moral principles in which freedom of speech is valued. Free speech is not an unqualified privilege; it is subject to laws and policies governing equality, human rights, community safety and community cohesion.

The current threat from terrorism in the United Kingdom may include the exploitation of vulnerable people, to involve them in terrorism or in activity in support of terrorism. The normalisation of extreme views may also make children and young people vulnerable to future manipulation and exploitation. Hatherleigh Community Primary School is clear that this exploitation and radicalisation should be viewed as a safeguarding concern.

Definitions of radicalisation and extremism, and indicators of vulnerability to radicalisation are in Appendix 1.

Hatherleigh Community Primary School seeks to protect children and young people against the messages of all violent extremism including, but not restricted to, those linked to Islamist ideology, or to Far Right / Neo Nazi / White Supremacist ideology, Irish Nationalist and Loyalist paramilitary groups, and extremist Animal Rights movements.

Risk

The Governors, the Head Teacher and the Designated Safeguarding Leads will assess the level of risk within the school and put actions in place to reduce that risk. Risk assessment may include consideration of the school's RE curriculum, SEND policy, assembly policy, the use of school premises by external agencies, integration of pupils by gender and SEND, anti-bullying policy and other issues specific to the school's profile, community and philosophy.

This risk assessment will be reviewed as part of the annual s175 return that is monitored by the local authority and the local safeguarding children board.

Response

The School's Prevent Single Point of Contact (SPOC) in relation to protecting individuals from radicalisation and involvement in terrorism is the Designated Safeguarding Lead. The responsibilities of the SPOC are described in appendix 2.

When any member of staff has concerns that a pupil may be at risk of radicalisation or involvement in terrorism, they should speak with the SPOC and to the Designated Safeguarding Lead if this is not the same person. The process can be found in appendix 3

Numerous factors can contribute to and influence the range of behaviours that are defined as violent extremism, but most young people do not become involved in extremist action. For this reason the appropriate interventions in any particular case may not have any specific connection to the threat of radicalisation, for example they may address mental health, relationship or drug/alcohol issues.

Internet Safety

The internet provides children and young people with access to a wide-range of content, some of which is harmful. Extremists use the internet, including social media, to share their messages. The filtering systems used in our school blocks inappropriate content, including extremist content. We also filter out social media, such as Facebook. Searches and web addresses are monitored and staff will alert senior staff where there are concerns and prevent further access when new sites that are unblocked are found. Where staff, pupils or visitors find unblocked extremist content they must report it to a senior member of staff. Children who need mobile phones for travelling more safely have to store them in the school office during the day.

The Acceptable Use of ICT Policy (AUP) refers to preventing radicalisation and related extremist content. Pupils and staff are asked to sign the AUP annually to confirm they have understood what is acceptable. Pupils and staff know how to report internet content that is inappropriate or of concern.

Staff Training

Staff will be given training to help them understand the issues of radicalisation and to ensure that they are able to recognise the signs of vulnerability or radicalisation and know how to refer their concerns. This information also forms part of induction safeguarding training. Staff are updated as necessary in INSET and staff meetings.

Safer Recruitment

We ensure that the staff we appoint to the school are suitable, our recruitment procedures are rigorous and we follow the statutory guidance published in part 3 of *Keeping Children Safe in Education (2021)*. Vetting and barring checks are undertaken on relevant people, including governors and volunteers.

Visitors

Visitors to the school are made aware of our safeguarding and child protection policies on arrival at the school and are given information about what to do if they are concerned about any aspect of child welfare.

Visitors who are invited to speak to pupils will be informed about our preventing extremism policy where appropriate and relevant vetting checks will be undertaken. We undertake due diligence to ensure that visiting speakers are appropriate. Speakers will be supervised at all times and will not be allowed to speak to children without a member of staff being present. Staff must not invite speakers into school without first obtaining permission from the Headteacher.

'No platform for extremists'

The school is vigilant to the possibility that out-of-hours hire of the school premises may be requested by people wishing to run an extremist event. The school does not accept bookings from individuals or organisations that are extremist in their views

Signs of vulnerability

There are no known definitive indicators that a young person is vulnerable to radicalisation, but there are a number of signs that together increase the risk. Signs of vulnerability include:

- Underachievement
- being in possession of extremist literature
- poverty
- social exclusion
- traumatic events
- global or national events
- religious conversion
- change in behaviour
- extremist influences
- conflict with family over lifestyle
- confused identify
- victim or witness to race or hate crimes
- rejection by peers, family, social groups or faith

Recognising Extremism

Early indicators of radicalisation or extremism may include:

- showing sympathy for extremist causes
- glorifying violence, especially to other faiths or cultures
- making remarks or comments about being at extremist events or rallies outside school
- evidence of possessing illegal or extremist literature
- advocating messages similar to illegal organisations or other extremist groups
- out of character changes in dress, behaviour and peer relationships (but there are also very powerful narratives, programmes and networks that young people can come across online so involvement with particular groups may not be apparent.)
- secretive behaviour
- online searches or sharing extremist messages or social profiles
- intolerance of difference, including faith, culture, gender, race or sexuality
- graffiti, art work or writing that displays extremist themes
- attempts to impose extremist views or practices on others
- verbalising anti-Western or anti-British views
- advocating violence towards others

Monitoring and Review

This policy will be monitored by the Governing Body at least annually.

INDICATORS OF VULNERABILITY TO RADICALISATION

Radicalisation refers to the process by which a person comes to support terrorism and forms of extremism leading to terrorism.

Extremism is defined by the Government in the Prevent Strategy as:

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.

Extremism is defined by the Crown Prosecution Service as:

The demonstration of unacceptable behaviour by using any means or medium to express views which:

Encourage, justify or glorify terrorist violence in furtherance of particular beliefs;
 Seek to provoke others to terrorist acts;
 Encourage other serious criminal activity or seek to provoke others to serious criminal acts; or
 Foster hatred which might lead to inter-community violence in the UK.

There is no such thing as a “typical extremist”: those who become involved in extremist actions come from a range of backgrounds and experiences, and most individuals, even those who hold radical views, do not become involved in violent extremist activity.

Pupils may become susceptible to radicalisation through a range of social, personal and environmental factors - it is known that violent extremists exploit vulnerabilities in individuals to drive a wedge between them and their families and communities. It is vital that school staff are able to recognise those vulnerabilities.

Indicators of vulnerability include:

Identity Crisis – the pupil is distanced from their cultural / religious heritage and experiences discomfort about their place in society;
 Personal Crisis – the pupil may be experiencing family tensions; a sense of isolation; and 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 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 pupil may have perceptions of injustice; a feeling of failure; rejection of civic life;
 Experiences of Criminality – which may include involvement with criminal groups, imprisonment, and poor resettlement / reintegration;
 Special Educational Need – pupils may experience difficulties with social interaction, empathy with others, understanding the consequences of their actions and awareness of the motivations of others.

However, this list is not exhaustive, nor does it mean that young people experiencing the above are at risk of radicalisation for the purposes of violent extremism.

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.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE SINGLE POINT OF CONTACT (SPOC)

The SPOC for Hatherleigh Community Primary School is the Headteacher who is responsible for:

Ensuring that staff of the school are aware that you are the SPOC in relation to protecting pupils from radicalisation and involvement in terrorism;

Maintaining and applying a good understanding of the relevant guidance in relation to preventing pupils from becoming involved in terrorism, and protecting them from radicalisation by those who support terrorism or forms of extremism which lead to terrorism;

Raising awareness about the role and responsibilities of the school in relation to protecting pupils from radicalisation and involvement in terrorism;

Monitoring the effect in practice of the school's RE curriculum and assembly policy to ensure that they are used to promote community cohesion and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs;

Raising awareness within the school about the safeguarding processes relating to protecting pupils from radicalisation and involvement in terrorism;

Acting as the first point of contact within the school for case discussions relating to pupils who may be at risk of radicalisation or involved in terrorism;

Collating relevant information from in relation to referrals of vulnerable pupils into the Channel* process;

attending Channel* meetings as necessary and carrying out any actions as agreed;

Reporting progress on actions to the Channel* Co-ordinator; and sharing any relevant additional information in a timely manner.

* *Channel is a multi-agency approach to provide support to individuals who are at risk of being drawn into terrorist related activity.*

It is led by the Devon and Cornwall Police Counter-Terrorism Unit, and it aims to

- *establish an effective multi-agency referral and intervention process to identify vulnerable individuals;*
- *safeguard individuals who might be vulnerable to being radicalised, so that they are not at risk of being drawn into terrorist-related activity; and*
- *provide early intervention to protect and divert people away from the risks they face and reduce vulnerability.*

WHAT WE DO WHEN WE ARE CONCERNED

Where risk factors are present but there is no evidence of a particular risk then our DSL /SPOC advises us on preventative work that can be done within school to engage the pupil into mainstream activities and social groups. The DSL may well be the person who talks to and has conversations with the pupil/student's family, sharing the school's concern about the young person's vulnerability and how the family and school can work together to reduce the risk.

In this situation, depending on how worried we are and what we agree with the parent and the young person (if possible)

- The DSL/SPOC can decide to notify the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) of the decision so that a strategic overview can be maintained and any themes or common factors can be recognised; and
- The school will review the situation after taking appropriate action to address the concerns.
- The DSL/SPOC will also offer and seek advice about undertaking an early help assessment.
- If the concerns about the pupil/student are significant and meet the additional needs/complex need criteria, they will be referred to the MASH. This includes concerns about a child/young person who is affected by the behaviour of a parent or other adult in their household.

If deemed necessary, serious incidents will be discussed and referred to the Prevent Team at Devon and Cornwall Police.