

Holy Cross Catholic Primary School



Safeguarding Pupils At Risk Of Extremism.

September 2023-24

Preventing Extremism and Radicalisation Safeguarding Policy 2023-24

Holy Cross Catholic Primary is committed to providing a secure environment for pupils, where children feel safe and are kept safe. All adults in our school recognise that safeguarding is everyone's responsibility irrespective of the role they undertake or whether their role has direct contact or responsibility for children or not.

This policy is one element within our overall school arrangements to Safeguard and Promote the Welfare of all Children in line with our statutory duties set out at s175 of the Education Act 2002 (s157 of the Education Act 2002.)

School Ethos and Practice

Holy Cross Catholic Primary school's vision and values place children's rights to be safe and respected at the heart of all our policies.

When operating this policy we use the following accepted Governmental definition of extremism which 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; and/or calls for the death of members of our armed forces, whether in this country or overseas'.**

The full Government Prevent Strategy can be viewed at:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/97976/preventstrategy-review.pdf

As a school we recognise that extremism and exposure to extremist materials and influences can lead to poor outcomes for children and so should be addressed as a safeguarding concern as set out in this policy. We also recognise that if we fail to challenge extremist views, we are failing to protect our pupils.

We therefore will provide a broad and balanced curriculum, delivered by skilled professionals, so that our pupils are enriched, understand and become tolerant of difference and diversity and also to ensure that they thrive, feel valued and not marginalized. Full details of our curriculum are published on the school's website,

We are also aware that young people can be exposed to extremist influences or prejudiced views from an early age which emanate from a variety of sources and media, including via the internet, and at times pupils may themselves reflect or display views that may be discriminatory, prejudiced or extremist, including using derogatory language. 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 and Discipline Policy for pupils and the Code of Conduct for staff.

As part of wider safeguarding responsibilities school staff will be alert to:

- Disclosures by pupils of their exposure to the extremist actions, views or materials of others outside of school, such as in their homes or community group especially where pupils have not actively sought these out.
- Graffiti symbols, writing or art work promoting extremist messages or images
- Pupils accessing extremist material online, including through social networking sites. We have applied EXA fusion internet filtering and monitoring software to ensure this is effectively managed and monitored.
- Parental reports of changes in behaviour, friendship or actions and requests for assistance
- Partner schools, local authority services, and police reports of issues affecting pupils in other schools or settings
- Pupils voicing opinions drawn from extremist ideologies and narratives
- Use of extremist or 'hate' terms to exclude others or incite violence
- Intolerance of difference, whether secular or religious or, in line with our equalities
- policy, views based on, but not exclusive to, gender, disability, homophobia, race, colour or
- Attempts to impose extremist views or practices on others • Anti-Western or Anti-British views

Our school

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

Our school will closely follow any locally agreed procedure as set out by the Local Authority and/or Wirral Safeguarding Children Board's agreed processes and criteria for safeguarding individuals vulnerable to extremism and radicalisation.

When a member of staff has concerns about a child they must report this to the Safeguarding lead; Mrs Clare Higgins (Headteacher), the Deputy Headteacher; Mrs Paula Brás or the Assistant Headteacher; Mr Christopher Hall. In the event that concerns are about a person becoming radicalised consideration will be given to using the Channel process. Checking with the safeguarding lead will utilise existing internal safeguarding processes.

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.

The Channel Panel meets when a referral has been made and there are significant safeguarding risks which require support. In the latter case, completion of the MARF (Multi Agency Referral Form) is required.

Referrals can be made by anyone and advice can be sought from the Channel Police Practitioner at any stage i.e. at the initial noting of concerns, during the information gathering process when the safeguarding lead has been informed and where it is deemed that concerns remain.

CHANNEL

To report a concern:

Landline: 0151 777 8328

Mobile: 07739 822 286

E-mail: special.branch@merseyside.police.uk

PREVENT CONTACTS

Darren Taylor from Merseyside Police

Landline: 0151 777 8311

E-mail: prevent@merseysidepolice.uk or Darren.F.Taylor@merseyside.police.uk [Twitter: @merpolprevent](#)

Child Protection

Please refer to our Child Protection/Safeguarding Policy for the full procedural framework on our Child Protection duties.

Staff at our school will be alert to the fact that whilst Extremism and Radicalisation is broadly a safeguarding issue there may be some instances where a child or children may be at direct risk of harm or neglect. For example; this could be due to a child displaying risky behaviours in terms of the activities they are involved in or the groups they are associated with or staff may be aware of information about a child's family that may equally place a child at risk of harm. (These examples are for illustration and are not definitive or exhaustive) Therefore all adults working at our school (including visiting staff, volunteers' contractors, and students on placement) are required to report instances where they believe a child may be at risk of harm or neglect to the Designated Safeguarding Lead or Headteacher.

Role of the Designated Safeguarding Lead

The Designated Safeguarding Lead is: Mrs Clare Higgins (Headteacher)

The Designated Safeguarding Lead is the focus person for school staff, and others, who may have concerns about an individual child's safety or well-being and is the first point of contact for external agencies. The role of the Designated Safeguarding Lead will include the responsibilities of the PREVENT duty.

The Prevent Duty is included as part of school's whole school training and induction package using Educare online training.

Role of Governing Body

The Governing Body of our School will undertake appropriate training to ensure that they are clear about their role and the parameters of their responsibilities as Governors, including their statutory safeguarding duties. The safeguarding governor is Mrs Marie Wallace.

The Governing Body of our school will support the ethos and values of our school and will support the school in tackling extremism and radicalisation.

Governors will review this policy regularly (every two years) and may amend and adopt it outside of this timeframe in accordance with any new legislation or guidance or in response to any quality assurance recommendations pertaining to the delivery of this policy and the overall safeguarding arrangements made.

Governors will ensure that our internet monitoring is suitable for restricting access to inappropriate extremist materials. We use a software called fusion to monitor all internet use.

Training

Whole school in-service training on Safeguarding and Child Protection will be organised for staff and governors at least every two years and will comply with the prevailing arrangements agreed by the Local Authority and the Safeguarding Children Board and will, in part, include training on extremism and radicalisation and its safeguarding implications.

The Designated Safeguarding Lead will attend training courses as necessary and the appropriate inter-agency training organised by the Safeguarding Children Board at least every two years, again this will include training on extremism and radicalisation and its safeguarding implications. Attention is also drawn to the free NCALT Channel/Prevent General Awareness E-Learning Module by clicking on the link below:

[NCALT Channel/Prevent General Awareness E-Learning Module](#)

Appendix 1

Indicators Of Vulnerability To Radicalisation

1. Radicalisation refers to the process by which a person comes to support terrorism and forms of extremism leading to terrorism.
2. 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.
3. 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.
4. 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.
5. 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.

6. Indicators of vulnerability include:

- Identity Crisis – 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; 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 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 – which may include involvement with criminal groups, imprisonment, and poor resettlement / reintegration;
- Special Educational Need – students / pupils may experience difficulties with social interaction, empathy with others, understanding the consequences of their actions and awareness of the motivations of others.

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

8. 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.

Appendix 2

Preventing Violent Extremism - Roles And Responsibilities Of The Single Point Of Contact (SPOC)

The SPOC for Holy Cross Catholic Primary School is Mrs Clare Higgins, who is responsible for:

- Ensuring that staff of the school are aware that you are the SPOC in relation to protecting students/pupils from radicalisation and involvement in terrorism;
- Maintaining and applying a good understanding of the relevant guidance in relation to preventing students/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 Holy Cross Catholic Primary School in relation to protecting students/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 students/pupils from radicalisation and involvement in terrorism;
- Acting as the first point of contact within the school for case discussions relating to students / pupils who may be at risk of radicalisation or involved in terrorism;
- Collating relevant information from in relation to referrals of vulnerable students / 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 Merseyside 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.