



**PensMeadowSchool**

*Living, Growing, Learning*

# Anti Radicalisation

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FEBRUARY 2018

NEXT REVIEW DATE: FEBRUARY 2020

Staff Responsible: DSL: Michal Pawlowicz

## **Background**

This 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 Pens Meadow School we ensure that through our school vision, values, code of conduct, 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 (2015)
- Prevent Duty Guidance (2015)
- Working Together to Safeguard Children (2015)

Since 1<sup>st</sup> July, schools now have a duty to safeguard children from radicalization under the Terrorism and Security Act (2015).

## **Non-statutory Guidance**

- Promoting fundamental British values as part of SMSC in schools: Departmental advice for maintained schools (DfE 2014)
- Improving the spiritual, moral, social and cultural (SMSC) development of pupils: supplementary information (DfE 2014)

## Related Policies

- Acceptable Use Agreement
- Behaviour Policy
- Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy
- Equality Policy
- Staff Code of Conduct
- Teaching and Learning Policy
- Visitors Policy
- Whistle-blowing Policy

## Definitions

**Radicalisation** is a process by which an individual or group comes to adopt increasingly extreme political, social, or religious ideals and aspirations.

**Extremism** is defined in the 2011 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.

**Propaganda** is information, especially of a biased or misleading nature, used to promote a political cause or point of view.

**Terrorism** is the unofficial or unauthorised use of violence and intimidation in the pursuit of political aims.

**Bias** is inclination or prejudice for or against one person or group, especially in a way considered to be unfair.

**Refugee** is a person who has been forced to leave their country in order to escape war, persecution, or natural disaster.

**Migrant** is a person who moves from one place to another in order to find work or better living conditions.

**Far-right politics** are right-wing politics to the right of the mainstream centre right on the traditional left-right spectrum. They often involve a focus on tradition as opposed to policies and customs that are regarded as reflective of modernism.

**British Values** are democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs.

**PREVENT** government strategy to target terrorist groups in the UK and abroad. The main focus is to prevent repeats of terrorist acts. There are four strands to the strategy:

Pursue – to stop terrorist attacks

Prevent – To stop people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism

Protect – to strengthen our protection against a terrorist attack

Prepare – to mitigate the impact of terrorist attacks

## **Aims & Principles**

All staff are committed to safeguarding at Pens Meadow School and are fully aware of the dangers of radicalisation for our children and young people. This policy supports our responsibility to protect pupils in association with other local and national agencies.

The key principals are that teachers, non-teaching staff and governors will:

- Have received training on this policy and understand the signs related to radicalisation. In addition, they know the procedures in any disclosures or concerns about a child or young person.
- Understand the importance of promoting British Values as part of the ethos of the school and listen to the child about fears or concerns that they may have in light of any terrorist event.

## **Signs of vulnerability**

Pens Meadow School is a tolerant and safe environment for pupils to learn and achieve. In tackling extremism, we will be vigilant in looking for signs of extremist behaviour and all staff will be aware of the procedures in place for reporting concerning behaviour.

Whilst there are no known definitive indicators that a young person is vulnerable to radicalisation, but there are 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

## **Referrals**

It is important to highlight that this process is there for genuine concerns about an individual and not someone who has radical ideas about a subject. Many people who begin to show signs that they are being radicalised show other characteristics such as mental health problems, drug or alcohol abuse and other symptoms which make them vulnerable. We must remember that many young people develop opinions and ideas as they become more independent and this does not necessarily mean that they are being radicalised.

In line with our safeguarding procedures, staff are fully aware of reporting extremist behaviour. The following system for referrals is as follows:

- **Any disclosures or concerns of extremist behaviour should be referred to the named Single Point of Contact (SPOC). At Pens Meadow School this is the Designated Safeguarding Lead Jodie Colbourne.**
- All incidents will be investigated in line with current policies and evidence will be recorded and retained for school records.
- Parents/carers will be contacted and the issue will be discussed with them to investigate whether there are any mitigating home circumstances. A decision will be made at this meeting to look at any further external agency support and whether a referral should be made.
- The DSL will follow up any referrals and the child or young person will be monitored for a period of time to look at whether there has been any change in attitude or behaviour. Parents/carers will be consulted during this period of time.
- **If concerns are still expressed, the DSL will follow the Dudley Prevent Referral Process. This can be found in Appendix 1.**

## **Channel**

This is a multi-agency approach to support individuals who are being radicalised by others. Once a person has been identified, positive action is taken by representatives from the police, social care and education to engage the person in alternative activities. They are also given a mentor to help them discuss their views and ideas which is especially useful if they have distorted views on religion or politics.

## **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 (2015)*. Vetting and barring checks are undertaken on relevant people, including governors and volunteers.

## **Staff Training**

Staff will receive safeguarding and child protection training at least every two years in line with the relevant policies. Anti-radicalisation is also incorporated into online safety training and is updated in line with emerging online behaviours. Staff also receive regular updates through briefing and knowledge and understanding sessions.

## **Curriculum/British Values**

Pens Meadow school is committed to ensuring that all of our pupils have the opportunity to experience and develop the values that underpin our British society. We recognise the multi-cultural, multi-faith and ever-changing nature of both our school population and the communities in which we live. More information can be found within the 'Promoting British Values at Pens Meadow School' document.

## **ICT Services**

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.

The school purchases technical services and connectivity from Dudley RM Education and is committed to safeguarding children and staff when using the school network. The ICT infrastructure has a filtering solution in place to block inappropriate content and if a breach occurred and access to radicalisation material happened, the school would follow its e-safety incident management procedure to blacklist the site.

Where staff, students or visitors find unblocked extremist content they must report it to a senior member of staff.

## **Use of External Speakers**

Vetting of all external speakers/visitors follows our safeguarding procedures and we would not allow any such speaker that undermined the principles and ethos of the British Values endorsed by the school.

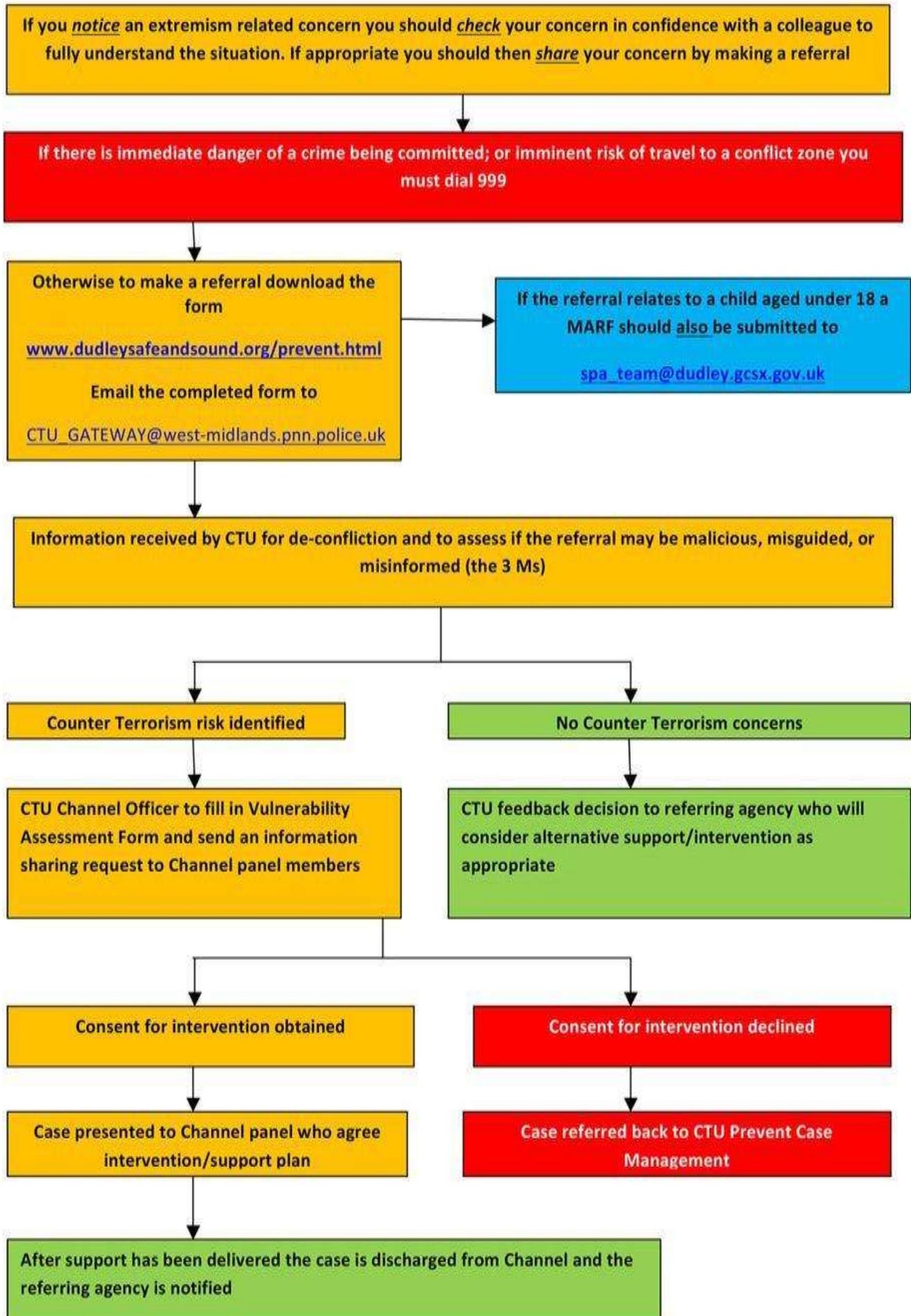
## **'No platform for extremists'**

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.

## **Policy Review**

This policy is linked to the safeguarding policy and will be reviewed regularly

### DUDLEY PREVENT REFERRAL PROCESS



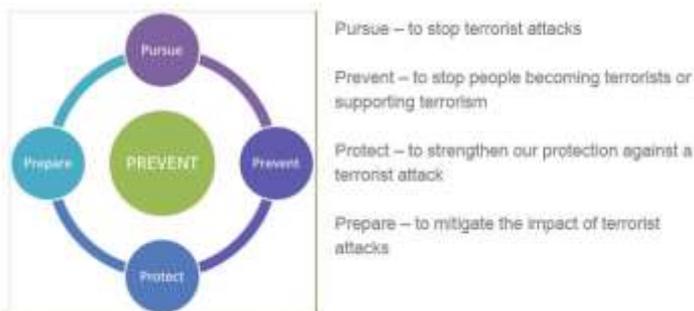
## What is the Prevent duty?

From 1 July 2015, all schools and childcare providers must have due regard to the need to prevent people being drawn into terrorism.

Schools subject to the Prevent duty will be expected to demonstrate activity in the following areas:

- Assessing the risk of children being drawn into terrorism.
- Demonstrate that they are protecting children and young people from being drawn into terrorism by having robust safeguarding policies.
- Ensure that their safeguarding arrangements take into account the policies and procedures of the Local Safeguarding Children Board.
- Make sure that staff have training that gives them the knowledge and confidence to identify children at risk of being drawn into terrorism, and to challenge extremist ideas which can be used to legitimise terrorism
- Expected to ensure children are safe from terrorist and extremist material when accessing the internet

## The 4 P's of Prevent



## What is extremism?

The government has defined extremism 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” (HM Government Prevent Strategy 2011).

## What is 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. The aims of Channel are to support and protect people who may be susceptible to radicalisation and ensure they have the resilience to resist all forms of violent extremism. Channel is not about prosecuting or stigmatising individuals who have been referred.

For work within Dudley please see <http://www.dudleysafeandsound.org/prevent.html>

## What do I do if I have concerns?

All concerns in regards to radicalisation or extremist behaviour should be reported to the Designated Safeguarding Lead, Michal Pawlowicz using the Pens Meadow School Cause for Concern for.

## **Appendix 2 – Radicalisation Risk Assessment**

All pupils at Pens Meadow School have complex needs including those with profound and multiple learning difficulties/severe learning difficulties, including autism and challenging behaviour. Many of our pupils also have communication difficulties.

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.

### **Pupils maybe vulnerable to radicalisation for the following reasons:**

- Level of cognition (Special Educational Needs)
- Inability to understand the consequences of their actions and their own vulnerability
- Experience problems with social interaction
- Low self-confidence and low self esteem
- Inappropriate filtering on home internet services allows access to violent extremist websites
- Parents/carers who are not aware of the threat of radicalisation
- Attachment issues including isolation from peers, a desire to 'belong'
- Unaware of the motivation of others
- Easily influenced
- Seeking answers to questions about their identity, faith and belonging
- Feeling of failure

### **In order to minimise these risks Pens Meadow School staff will:**

- Undertake training in their duty to countering radicalisation and extremism
- Provide advice, support and guidance for parents and carers through newsletters, information on website, individual multi-agency support
- Provide advice, support and guidance for pupils through direct teaching across the curriculum
- Teach pupil's (particularly at Post 16) to evaluate websites and printed materials (e.g. books/leaflets) for inappropriate content or content that makes them feel uncomfortable
- Make governing body members aware of their duty, enabling access to appropriate training
- Be vigilant to changes in pupil's behaviours that might indicate they are being radicalised
- Promote Pens Meadow School core values and British Values across the curriculum
- Have an appropriate level of filtering to prevent access to extremist sites
- Work collaboratively with multi-agency staff to safeguard pupils
- Identify individual pupils as being higher risk to vulnerability and provide personalised support and guidance to meet their needs, where appropriate.

