



PensMeadowSchool

Living, Growing, Learning

Anti Radicalisation

JUNE 2024

NEXT REVIEW DATE: JUNE 2025

Staff Responsible: DSL

Disclaimer

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Background

Pens Meadow School recognises that pupils can be vulnerable to extremist ideology and radicalisation, and we are committed to protecting pupils from this risk as part of our safeguarding responsibilities.

Our commitment to safeguarding pupils against extremism, radicalisation and terrorism includes interventions and collaboration with other agencies including the police and the LA where appropriate and as required.

We support and will adhere to guidance from the DfE which requires schools to actively promote fundamental British values in order to enable pupils to challenge extremist views and ensure that pupils are encouraged to regard people of all faiths, races and cultures with respect and tolerance.

This policy relates to the potential radicalisation of pupils at our school.

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

This policy has due regard to all relevant legislation and statutory guidance including, but not limited to, the following:

- Children Act 1989
- Education Act 1996
- Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015
- Childcare Act 2006
- Equality act 2010
- Data Protection Act 2018
- UK GDPR
- Home Office (2023) 'Prevent duty guidance: England and Wales'
- DfE (2023) 'Keeping children safe in education 2023'
- DfE (2023) 'The Prevent duty: safeguarding learners vulnerable to radicalisation'
- DfE (2018) 'Working Together to Safeguard Children'
- Home Office (2021) 'Channel Duty guidance: protecting people vulnerable to being drawn

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
- Safeguarding Policy
- Equality Policy
- Staff Code of Conduct
- Teaching and Learning Policies
- Visitors Policy
- Whistle-blowing Policy

Definitions

Radicalisation is defined as the process by which an individual or group comes to support terrorism and extremist ideologies associated with terrorist groups.

Extremism is defined as vocal or active opposition to fundamental British values, including democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and the mutual respect and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs. This includes calling for the death of members of the armed forces.

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

Terrorism is defined as violent threats or actions designed to influence government or intimidate the public with the purpose of advancing a political, religious or ideological cause. This includes endangering or causing serious violence to a person or people, serious damage to property, and seriously interfering or disrupting an electronic system.

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 a set of expected standards by which people resident in the UK must live, including democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and the mutual respect and tolerance of 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.

Roles and responsibilities

The governing board will be responsible for:

- Ensuring the appropriate measures are in place to protect pupils from radicalisation.
- Ensuring the Prevent duty is seen as part of the school's wider safeguarding duties.

The Headteacher is responsible for:

- The overall implementation and management of this policy.
- Ensuring every staff member is familiar with the scope of this policy.
- Ensuring pupils are taught about British values through the curriculum.
- Undertaking a risk assessment to determine whether pupils are at risk of being drawn into terrorism.
- Identifying extremist risks in the local area. – termly report to Full Governing Body.
- Ensuring any visitors and speakers at the school are appropriate vetted prior to them having access to pupils.
- Ensuring appropriate prevent training is undertaken by each member of staff

The DSL, and any deputies, are responsible for:

- Handling any referrals to Prevent and/or Channel and supporting staff who make referrals.
- Following up any referrals made to the Prevent.
- Providing advice and support to staff on protecting pupils from the risk of radicalisation.
- Delivering staff training on the Prevent duty.
- Working with external agencies to support pupils at risk of being drawn into terrorism.
- Providing guidance to other staff members to help them support pupils at risk of being drawn into terrorism.
- Understanding local procedures for making a Prevent referral and making Prevent referrals where appropriate.
- Considering if it would be appropriate to share any information with a new school or college in advance of a pupil leaving, e.g. if the pupil is currently receiving support through the 'Channel' programme and the information would allow the new setting to have support in place for when the pupil arrives.
- Undertaking specific prevent awareness training and providing advice and support to other staff on protecting pupils from the risk of radicalisation.
- Maintaining an awareness of the risks relating to extremism in the local area.
- Maintaining a clear understanding of prevent reporting and referral mechanisms.

All staff members are responsible for:

- Being alert to the risk factors of extremism and radicalisation and any changes in a pupil's behaviour which could indicate that they may be in need of help or protection.
- Raising any concerns with the DSL (or any deputies, in their absence).
- Notifying the DSL (or any deputies, in their absence) when they make any referrals to Prevent.
- Engaging in staff training on the Prevent duty.
- Using their professional judgement to identify pupils who may be at risk of radicalisation and acting

proportionately.

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

Safeguarding from extremism

The school protects the right to freedom of expression. This policy is not intended or designed to restrict or prevent legitimate and lawful congregation or debate.

The school has a dedicated DSL who deals with any incidents of extremism and/or terrorism within our school community. As is the school's responsibility under law, we will do our utmost to safeguard our pupils from being drawn into extremism and terrorism.

The school has strong relationships with our local safeguarding partners and will involve them at the earliest opportunity if safeguarding issues arise.

The school will encourage any pupil, parent, staff member or member of the wider school community to speak to the DSL if they have concerns about:

- Pupils becoming radicalised.
- Groups, clubs or societies with extremist or radical views.
- Friends and/or families of pupils becoming radicalised or involved in extremism.
- Pupils planning to visit known areas of conflict.
- Members of the school and wider community attempting to draw young and/or vulnerable pupils into extremism.

Visitors and speakers coming into the school will be vetted prior to them having access to pupils. All materials handed out to pupils, whether by teachers or visitors and speakers, will be checked by the headteacher. Due diligence checks will also be carried out on those hiring and using the school premises,

The school will incorporate appropriate filtering and monitoring systems to limit pupils' exposure to online risks, including extremist content.

The DSL and ICT team (RM) will work together to ensure that there is a clear reporting process in place where filtering systems raise safeguarding or prevent-related concerns.

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 Michal Pawlowicz.
- Staff members may make referrals using the Prevent national referral form if they deem it necessary – the DSL will be notified in all cases and will support staff members who do so.
- 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.
- The police will be notified immediately if someone is about to put themselves or others in immediate danger, or if they appear to be involved in planning to carry out a criminal offence and the school's emergency procedures will be followed.

Referrals made to Prevent will first be handled by Prevent Case Management, which will screen for genuine vulnerabilities. The Prevent Case Management will decide whether further action is required and, if so, will either refer the issue to mainstream services as required or carry the investigation forward to a Channel panel which will gather further information from partners and agree on the support required. The school will ensure that information is shared as required.

The school will cooperate with local panels involved in the Channel process. A representative of the school will attend meetings as required to aid the mitigation of identified risk and vulnerabilities. This includes contributing towards the support plan and sharing information necessary and proportionate to the effective working of the panel.

Training

All staff will attend safeguarding training including that, which concerns preventing people from being drawn into terrorism or extremist groups. Prevent training will be provided annually and will be updated as required. Training will focus on the importance of following the 'Notice, Check, Share' protocol.

Staff will be provided with regular updates, notices and emails regarding Prevent and anti-extremism as required. The SLT and DSL will receive additional support from local partnerships and training on local processes for Prevent. When identifying training needs, consideration will be given to the level of knowledge needed for different roles. Records will be maintained of training provided to ensure that training needs are being met and kept up to date. Training will be quality assured by the DSL and its effectiveness reviewed regularly. The school will make use of government quality assured prevent training resources.

Staff will be trained to be aware of and to identify concerning behaviour that may indicate a pupil is susceptible to radicalisation, e.g. voicing intolerant narratives.

Training will take account of, and be proportionate to, the risk of terrorism and extremism in the local area.

Further advice on training will be sought from the LA safeguarding team as appropriate.

Community links

The school will operate an open-door policy for community members to report concerns.

The school will, where appropriate, partake in community festivals, religious celebrations and other events. The school will select a range of charities to support across the year which represent our school community, including local community groups.

The school will develop effective partnerships with local prevent leads, the police and the LA through multi-agency forums.

The school will maintain an up-to-date awareness of the risk and threat posed in the local area and the latest developments in best practice through local partnerships.

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 (2023)*. 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 and monitoring 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 on a yearly basis, after the incident or when significant changes are required.

Appendix 1 – Referral Process

DUDLEY PREVENT REFERRAL PROCESS

