



# Preventing Extremism and Radicalisation Policy

Summer 2022



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### Introduction

At Whinless Down Academy Trust we recognise that safeguarding is fundamental to the welfare and wellbeing of our pupils. We are committed to providing a secure environment for *all* 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.

Preventing Extremism and Radicalisation is one element within our overall school arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children. This policy should be read in conjunction with our Safeguarding policy and wider safeguarding documents referred to within that policy, particularly:

- Kent and Medway Safeguarding Children Procedures
- Keeping Children Safe in Education DfE September (updated every year)
- The Prevent Duty DfE June 2015
- Prevent – Kent Police Advice
- Prevent Strategy

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/97976/prevent-strategy-review.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/97976/prevent-strategy-review.pdf)

When operating this policy, we follow the accepted Government definition of extremism:

***'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'***

### Trust Ethos and Practice (All Schools within the Trust)

There is no place for extremist views of any kind in our schools, whether from internal sources – pupils, staff or governors/trustees, or external sources - school community, external agencies or individuals.

Extremism and exposure to extremist materials and influences can lead to poor outcomes for children and so should be addressed as a safeguarding concern. We recognise that if we fail to

challenge extremist views we are failing to protect our pupils. Extremists of all persuasions aim to develop destructive relationships between different communities by promoting division, fear and mistrust of others based on ignorance or prejudice and thereby limiting the life chances of young people. Education is a powerful weapon against this; equipping young people with the knowledge, skills and critical thinking, to challenge and debate in an informed way and to understand, and become tolerant of difference and diversity. Whinless Down Academy Trust schools are a safe place where pupils can explore controversial issues safely and where our teachers encourage and facilitate this.

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 Policy for pupils and Code of Conduct for staff.

### **Teaching Approaches**

Good teaching of a broad and balanced curriculum will help pupils build resilience to extremist ideas, give pupils a positive sense of identity, develop critical thinking skills and equip them to challenge myths and assumptions.

We strive to:

- Make a connection with young people through good teaching and a pupil centred approach
- Allow dialogue, discussion and safe debate within the curriculum
- Develop self-esteem and resilience.
- Promote British Values
- Build mutual respect and understanding and promote the use of dialogue not violence as a form of conflict resolution through Restorative Approaches
- Allow pupils to develop as well-rounded individuals being mindful of the Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural aspects of their development
- Understand what is safe and acceptable behaviour

### **Use of External Agencies and Speakers**

We encourage visits/visitors to enrich the experiences of our pupils; however we will positively vet any external agencies/speakers to ensure that we do not unwittingly use agencies whose messages are inconsistent with the school's values and ethos. We ensure:

- Any messages communicated to pupils are consistent with the ethos of the school and do not marginalise any communities, groups or individuals
- Any messages do not seek to glorify criminal activity or violent extremism or seek to radicalise pupils through extreme or narrow views of faith, religion or culture or other ideologies
- Activities are properly embedded in the curriculum and clearly mapped to schemes of work to avoid contradictory messages or duplication.
- Activities are matched to the needs of pupils
- Activities are carefully evaluated by schools to ensure that they are effective

Should any member of staff have concerns that the content of material being used by an external speaker, staff will discuss their concerns with any other members of staff present. Depending on the level of concern and actions taken may include:

- Challenge the speaker about the content being delivered to clarify any possibly ambiguity or misunderstanding
- Remove the children immediately from the situation –*this would always be the case where it was clear there was a clear Radicalisation/Extremist message being delivered*
- Alert the Office Manager who will ensure this provider is not used in future
- Report to DSL who will report concerns via Channel as necessary

### **Safeguarding**

As part of wider safeguarding responsibilities school staff will be alert to pointers that pupils are vulnerable to extremism and radicalisation:

- 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 groups, 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
- 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 based on, but not exclusive to, gender, disability, homophobia, race, colour or culture
- Attempts to impose extremist views or practices on others
- Anti-Western or Anti-British views

Concerns will be dealt with following procedures detailed within the Safeguarding Policy – concerns will be recorded using the 'Cura' and the DSL made aware. The DSL will use the Channel procedure as appropriate.

### **Recruitment**

We will be alert to the possibility that persons may seek to gain positions within our school so as to unduly influence our schools' character and ethos. We are aware that such persons seek to limit the opportunities for our pupils thereby rendering them vulnerable to extremist views and radicalisation as a consequence.

Therefore, by adhering to safer recruitment best practice techniques and by ensuring that there is an on-going culture of vigilance within our school and staff team we will minimise the opportunities for extremist views to prevail. Where there are concerns that a member of staff may be showing traits of extremist or radical behaviours Staff will be encouraged to Whistle Blow - Please refer to School Whistle Blowing Policy.

## **Training**

All staff members receive Safeguarding training with regular updates (see Safeguarding Policy. Staff also complete College of Policing Channel General Awareness, e Learning module (for new staff this is part of their induction programme) to be aware of dangers of Extremism and Radicalisation, and signs to be alert to.

## **Governance**

The Trustees and Local Governors of our Academy Trust will undertake appropriate training to ensure that they are clear about their statutory safeguarding duties; this will include the College of Policing Channel General Awareness, e learning module. The Governing Bodies and Trust Board of our Academy Trust our school will support the ethos and values of our school and will support the school in tackling extremism and radicalisation.

In line with Recommendation 13 of Peter Clarke's report details of our Governing Bodies and Trust Board will be published on our school website to promote transparency.

To be Reviewed Summer 2026