

Extremism and Radicalisation Information

Sheringham High School

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Schools have a statutory duty under the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 and the statutory Prevent Guidance 2015 to have due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism.

Definitions

Extremism is defined as vocal or active opposition to fundamental values of our society, including democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs.

Radicalisation is defined as the act or process of encouraging extremist views or actions in others, including forms of extremism leading to terrorism. There are a number of behaviours which may indicate a child is at risk of being radicalised or exposed to extremist views which could include becoming distant or showing loss of interest in friends and activities or possession of materials or symbols associated with an extremist cause.

Context

In order to fulfil the Prevent duty, it is essential that staff can identify children who may be vulnerable to radicalisation, and know what to do when they are identified. Protecting children from the risk of radicalisation is part of all of our wider safeguarding duties, and is similar in nature to protecting children from other harms (e.g. drugs, gangs, neglect, sexual exploitation), whether these come from within their family or are the product of outside influences.

We can also build pupils' resilience to radicalisation by promoting fundamental British Values (see Values and Ethos Policy) and enabling them to challenge extremist views. We do not intend to stop pupils talking about or debating controversial issues. On the contrary, in school, we want to provide a safe space in which children, young people and staff can understand the risks associated with terrorism and develop the knowledge and skills to be able to challenge extremist arguments. What is Extremism? "Extremism" 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. Included in the definition of extremism are calls for the death of members of the armed forces, whether in this country or overseas. Terrorist groups very often draw on extremist ideas developed by extremist organisations.

Risk Assessment

- We should be aware of the increased risk of online radicalisation, as terrorist organisations and those with extreme views seek to radicalise young people through the use of social media and the internet.
- There is no single way of identifying an individual who is likely to be susceptible to a terrorist ideology. As with managing other safeguarding risks, we should be alert to changes in children's behaviour which could indicate that they may be in need of help or protection. Children at risk of radicalisation may display different signs or seek to hide their views.
- School staff should use their professional judgment in identifying children who might be at risk of radicalisation and act proportionately.
- Even very young children may be vulnerable to radicalisation by others, whether in the family or outside, and display concerning behaviour. The Prevent duty does not require teachers or childcare providers to carry out unnecessary intrusion into family life but as with any other safeguarding risk, they must take action when they observe behaviour of concern.

Preventing extremism and/ or radicalisation

- Procedures are in place for protecting children at risk of radicalisation. These procedures are set out in existing safeguarding policies.
- All staff receive annual safeguarding training which includes extremism and radicalisation
- DSLs have received special individual training in accordance with their role in school as part of their DSL training
- Safer Recruitment Practices are implemented as per government guidance
- New staff will receive Prevent training as part of their induction
- We ensure that suitable filtering is in place.
- Internet safety is integral to our IT curriculum and is also be embedded in SMSC.
- We promote the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils and, within this, fundamental British values, (see Values and Ethos Policy). This is effective in providing pupils with time to explore sensitive or controversial issues, and equipping them with the knowledge and skills to understand and manage difficult situations.

What happens if there is a concern?

- All staff follow the school's normal safeguarding and child protection procedures as outlined in our Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy
- Possible Channel referrals will be made as deemed necessary by the DSL
- We may contact our local police force or dial 101 (the non-emergency number).

- The Department for Education has dedicated a telephone helpline (020 7340 7264) to enable you to raise concerns relating to extremism directly. Concerns can also be raised by email to counter.extremism@education.gsi.gov.uk . Please note that the helpline is not intended for use in emergency situations, such as a child being at immediate risk of harm or a security incident, in which case the normal emergency procedures should be followed.

Equality and Diversity

All developments are intended to ensure that no-one is treated in any way less favourably on the grounds of race, colour, national or ethnic or social origin, race, disability, gender, sexual orientation, gender reassignment, marriage & civil partnership, pregnancy & maternity, age, religion/ belief or political/ other personal beliefs.