



Sunningdale School

Tackling Extremism and Radicalisation Policy 2021-2022

Sunningdale School is fully committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all its pupils. Every member of staff recognises that safeguarding against radicalisation and extremism is no different to safeguarding against any other vulnerability in today's society. The Tackling Extremism and Radicalisation Policy sets out our beliefs, strategies and procedures to protect vulnerable individuals from being radicalised or exposed to extremist views, by identifying who they are and promptly providing them with support.

The Sunningdale School Tackling Extremism and Radicalisation Policy links to the following policies:

- Child Protection Policy
- Equality and Diversity Policy
- Peer on Peer Abuse Policy
- Behaviour and Discipline Policy
- British Values Policy
- Teaching and Learning Policy

The following national guidelines should also be read when working with this policy:

- PREVENT Strategy (HM Government)
- Prevent Duty Guidance
- Keeping Children Safe in Education
- Working Together to Safeguard Children

Aims and Principles:

This Policy is intended to provide a framework for dealing with issues relating to vulnerability, radicalisation and exposure to extreme views. We recognise that we are well placed to be able to identify safeguarding issues and this policy clearly

sets out how the school will deal with such incidents and identifies how the curriculum and ethos underpins our actions.

Objectives:

- All governors, Teachers, Teaching Assistants and non-teaching staff will have an understanding of what radicalisation and extremism is and why we need to be vigilant in school.
- All governors, Teachers, Teaching Assistants and non-teaching staff will know what the school policy is on tackling extremism and radicalisation and will follow the policy guidance swiftly when issues arise.
- Staff will offer support at the appropriate level with parent/carers and children to raise awareness of dangers of radicalisation and exposure to extremist views; building resilience against these and knowing what to do if they experience them.
- All parents/carers and pupils will know that the school has policies in place to keep pupils safe from harm and that the school regularly reviews its systems to ensure they are appropriate and effective.

The main aims of this policy is to ensure that staff are fully engaged in being vigilant about radicalisation; that they overcome professional disbelief that such issues will not happen here and ensure we work alongside other professional bodies and agencies to ensure that our pupils are safe from harm.

Definitions:

Radicalisation is defined as the act or process of making a person more radical or favouring of extreme or fundamental changes in political, economic or social conditions, institutions or habits of the mind.

Extremism is defined as the holding of extreme political or religious views.

There are a number of behaviours which may indicate that a child/family is at risk of being radicalised or exposed to extreme views. Staff need to be vigilant and pass on any concerns or information to the Designated Person (Headteacher) or Deputy Designated People (Senior Leadership Team).

Procedures for Referrals:

- Although serious incidents involving radicalisation have not occurred at Sunningdale School to date, it is important for us to be constantly vigilant and remain fully informed about the issues which affect the local area, city and society in which we teach.

- Staff are reminded to suspend any ‘professional disbelief’ that instances of radicalisation ‘could not happen here’ and to be ‘professionally inquisitive’ where concerns arise, referring any concerns through the appropriate channels.
- We believe that it is possible to intervene to protect people who are vulnerable. **Early intervention is vital** and staff must be aware of the established processes for front line professionals to refer concerns about individuals and/or groups. We must have the confidence to challenge, the confidence to intervene and ensure that we have strong safeguarding practices based on the most up to date guidance and best practice.

The Channel Programme:

- [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. It provides a mechanism for schools to make Prevent referrals if they are concerned that an individual might be vulnerable to radicalisation. An individual’s engagement with the programme is entirely voluntary at all stages. In addition to information sharing, if a staff member makes a Prevent referral, it will be considered to see if it meets the criteria for a Channel panel, and staff may be asked to attend the panel (chaired by the local authority) to discuss the individual referred to determine whether support is required. An e-learning channel awareness programme for staff is available at: [Channel General Awareness](#). Schools and colleges that are required to have regard to ‘[Keeping children safe in education](#)’ are listed in the Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015 as partners required to co- operate with local Channel panels

All members of the Senior Leadership Team (SLT) are trained as Designated Safeguarding Leads for Child Protection and Safeguarding and will deal swiftly with any referrals made by staff or with concerns reported by staff.

The Head Teacher/ Senior Leadership Team will discuss the most appropriate course of action on a case-by-case basis and will decide when a referral to external agencies is needed.

As with any child protection referral, staff must be made aware that if they do not agree with a decision not to refer, they can make the referral themselves and will be given the contact details to do this via the notice board next to the staff room.

Governors, Leaders and Staff:

- The Senior Leadership Team undertakes an annual risk assessment and action plan that ensures the school adheres to all statutory guidance and advice. This also ensures the PREVENT duty remains high profile across school.
- The Head Teacher and all members of the SLT are the leaders for referrals relating to extremism and radicalisation.
- There is a designated 'safeguarding' Governor who assists the Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSLs) in ensuring the school meets its PREVENT duties.
- The safeguarding Governor meets with DSL(s) or more frequently when required to discuss safeguarding or issues arising.
- Staff will be fully briefed about what to do if they are concerned about the possibility of radicalisation relating to a pupil, or if they need to discuss specific children whom they consider to be vulnerable to radicalisation or extremist views.
- The Senior Leadership Team/ DSLs and external agencies will look at all facts and decide the best course of action to address concerns which arise.

Promoting British Values:

The Department for Education (2014) published guidance on promoting British values in schools to ensure young people leave school prepared for life in modern Britain.

Sunningdale School is an inclusive setting and our curriculum intent and implementation enables children to be independent learners, to make choices and to build strong relationships with their peers and adults.

Pupils achieve and develop when their personal, social and emotional needs are met and where there are clear and developmentally appropriate expectations for their behaviour. We expect all pupils, staff, parents and other stakeholders to model and adhere to fundamental British values.

The Role of the Curriculum:

The curriculum at Sunningdale School is personalised and may include a range of experiences both within school and the local community. Community events include: festivals, sporting events, musical shows, work with local and regional bodies (e.g. Baltic Arts) and engagement with other stakeholders.

It is important to facilitate opportunities to be part of the communities the school belongs to locally, regionally and nationally as pupils, families and staff have a lot to offer in the development of community cohesion.

Tolerance of different faiths and beliefs:

- We are part of a school and local community where each person is respected and valued equally without regard to ability, gender, faith, heritage or race.
- Cultural appreciation and development forms part of our curriculum. We place great emphasis on providing activities and encouraging participation in events and celebrations to broaden all pupils' experiences and awareness of others.

Pupils take part in assembly-like activities relevant to their developmental needs. These help all pupils to find out about themselves and develop links to the wider communities in which they belong. The themes cover the areas:

- Problem solving.
- Communication.
- Teamwork.
- Resilience.
- Confidence.
- Initiative.
- Organisation.
- Creativity.

Pupils are encouraged to experience British Culture through our curriculum connectors. For example, pupils have visited many local places. We also take part in relevant sporting activities which helps to instil 'fair play' and engender a 'team spirit'.

Although some of our pupils may find it difficult to articulate their feelings and concerns; staff are skilled in observing pupil's presentation of Engagement and well-being that may indicate anxiety. If staff have concerns regarding the wellbeing of a pupil, our accepted practice links to the Child Protection Policy and

Keeping Children Safe in Education that establishes a duty of care to all staff to actively protect and promote the welfare of children.

Staff Training:

Through INSET opportunities in school, we will ensure that our staff are fully aware of the threats, risks and vulnerabilities that are linked to radicalisation; are aware of the process of radicalisation and how this might be identified early on and are aware of how we can provide support as a school to ensure that our children are resilient and able to resist involvement in radical or extreme activities.

As part of their induction all new staff will be made aware of the School's PREVENT duty.

Senior leaders ensure **key messages and staff are updated on developments through** regular updates shared at staff briefings, CPD sessions and electronically via email or the staff message boards.

Resources:

On-line safety:

- **Trust Me:** Childnet has created a resource designed to support Teachers in exploring critical thinking online. The 'Trust Me' resource <http://www.childnet.com/resources/trust-me> has been created with Teachers in mind after hearing from schools that they wanted a resource which would start the conversations around extremism and extreme online content. It has a primary pack and a secondary pack with lesson plans and activities to empower Teachers and young people to discuss themes around Content, Contact and Propaganda. It is ideal for PSHE citizenship and digital literacy with application across the curriculum www.childnet.com/resources/trust-me
- **CEOP Thinkuknow:** The CEOP [Thinkuknow](http://www.thinkuknow.co.uk) website has lots of resources for all ages, including cyber-bullying, relationships, sex and the internet www.thinkuknow.co.uk
- The **UK Safer Internet Centre** has tips, advice, guides and resources for parents, carers, Teachers and other professionals on how to help keep children and young people safe online <https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/advice-centre>
- **360 degree safe:** This is an online safety self-review tool for schools <https://360safe.org.uk/> which is a free tool available to assess your school's wider online safety provision and used by over 7,000 UK schools.
- **Extreme Measures** is an article that explores the dangers to children's wellbeing posed by political extremists on social media and outlines the

steps schools can take to protect students from indoctrination online
http://www.leadermagazine.co.uk/articles/extreme_measures/

Useful numbers:

- Anti- Terrorist Hotline Tel:0800 789 321
- Department of Education Counter Extremism helpline Tel: 020 7340 7264 to enable staff and governors to raise concerns relating to extremism directly. Concerns can also be raised by email to counter.extremism@education.gsi.gov.uk
- Northumbria Police’s Prevent Team Tel: 101 extension 63854 or email specialbranch@northumbria.pnn.police.uk
- Integrated Contact and Referral Team (Together for Children) Tel: 0191 561 7007 (or out of hours 0191 520 5552)
- Adult Safeguarding (Council customer service network) Tel: 0191 5205552
- If the child/ young person is at immediate risk of harm, the matter should be reported to the police straight away on 999 or by calling the Anti-Terrorist hotline on the number above.

Policy review

This policy will be reviewed and amended at least annually or sooner of significant changes occur.

Role	Name	Ratification Date
Policy Author (if not the Headteacher)	n/a	
Headteacher	J. Waller	
Chair of Governors	V. Ingleton (2021) C. Stewart (2022)	November 2021 (Reviewed November 2022)