

WESTHAVEN SCHOOL

Business & Enterprise College

All policies are developed to be compliant with and supportive of the ethos and values of Westhaven School

November 2021

Preventing Radicalisation Policy

Background

This Preventing Radicalisation Policy is part of our commitment to keeping our pupils 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 Westhaven School we ensure that through our school vision, values, relationships and small group teaching we promote tolerance and respect for all cultures, faiths and lifestyles. The leadership team also ensures that this ethos is reflected and implemented effectively through school policy and practice and that there is an effective suite of safeguarding policies in place to safeguard and promote pupils' welfare.

We have a duty to prepare our pupils for life in modern Britain and to keep them safe. Everyone at Westhaven School has the right to learn and work 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 2019
- Prevent Duty Guidance 2015
- Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018

Non-statutory Guidance

- Promoting fundamental British values as part of SMSC in schools: DfE Departmental advice for maintained schools 2014

Related Policies

- E-Safety and Internet Use Policy
- Behaviour Policy
- Child Protection Policy
- Equal Opportunities Policy
- Staff Handbook
- Anti-Bullying Policy
- Whistleblowing Policy

This policy also recognises our Statement of British Values

Definitions

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.

Radicalisation refers to the process by which a person comes to support terrorism and extremist ideologies associated with terrorist groups.

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

Roles and Responsibilities

Role of the Head Teacher / Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)

It is the role of the DSL to ensure that the school meets its statutory duties with regard to preventing radicalisation. The DSL at Westhaven is the Head Teacher.

Role of the Deputy Head Teacher

It is the role of the Deputy Head Teacher to:

- ensure that the school and its staff respond to preventing radicalisation on a day-to-day basis
- ensure that the School curriculum addresses the issues involved in radicalisation
- ensure that staff conduct is consistent with preventing radicalisation

Role of Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads

It is the role of the designated safeguarding lead to:

- ensure that staff understand the issues of radicalisation, that they are able to recognise the signs of vulnerability or radicalisation and know how to refer their concerns
- receive safeguarding concerns about pupils who may be vulnerable to the risk of radicalisation or are showing signs of radicalisation
- make referrals to appropriate agencies with regard to concerns about radicalisation

- liaise with partners, including the local authority and the police
- Report to the DSL / LADO on these matters

Role of staff

It is the role of staff to understand the issues of radicalisation, that they are able to recognise the signs of vulnerability or radicalisation and know how to refer their concerns.

Curriculum

We are committed to ensuring that our pupils are offered a broad and balanced curriculum that aims to prepare them for life in modern Britain. We encourage our pupils to be inquisitive learners who are open to new experiences and are tolerant of others. Our values support the development of the whole child as a reflective learner within a safe respectful learning environment. Teaching the School's core values alongside the fundamental British values supports quality teaching and learning, whilst making a positive contribution to the development of a fair, just and civil society.

Internet Safety

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 at our School blocks inappropriate content, including extremist content.

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

We are aware that children and young people have access to unfiltered internet when using their mobile phones. Pupils are not allowed access to their phones during lessons. Staff are alert to the need for vigilance when pupils are using their phones during breaks.

The e-safety and internet user policy refers to preventing radicalisation and related extremist content. Pupils and staff know how to report internet content that is inappropriate or of concern.

Staff Training

Staff will be given training to help them understand the issues of radicalisation, so that they are able to recognise the signs of vulnerability or radicalisation and know how to refer their concerns. This information also forms part of annual safeguarding training.

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 2019. Vetting and barring checks are undertaken.

Visitors

Visitors to the school are made aware of our safeguarding and child protection policies on arrival at the school and are given information about what to do if they are concerned about any aspect of child welfare.

We undertake due diligence to ensure that visiting speakers are appropriate. Speakers will be supervised at all times and will not be allowed to speak to pupils without a member of staff being present.

Staff must not invite speakers into school without first obtaining permission from the Head Teacher.

Signs of vulnerability

There are no known definitive indicators that a young person is vulnerable to radicalisation, but there are a 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 identity
- 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 college
- 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 (there are also very powerful narratives, programmes and networks that young people can come across online)
- 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

Referral Process

Staff and visitors to the school must refer all concerns about pupils who show signs of vulnerability or radicalisation to the Designated Safeguarding Lead using the usual methods for reporting other safeguarding concerns.

When there are significant concerns about a pupil, the Designated Safeguarding Lead / Head Teacher will make a referral to the appropriate body.

Useful Contact 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

If someone 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.

Monitoring and Review

This policy will be monitored and reviewed by the Governing Body annually by receiving a report from the Designated Safeguarding Lead.

Written:	November 2021
Review Date:	n/a – First Version
Signed by Chair of Governors / Chair of Committee:	
Date:	25/11/2021
Date of Next Review:	November 2022

History of Document

Version No.	Author/ Owner	Date Reviewed	Approved by Governors on	Comments	Next Review Date
1	P&F Comm		25/11/21		Nov 2022