

Prevent: Tackling violent extremism

Outcome:

Little Acorns School is fully committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all its pupils. As a school we recognise that safeguarding against radicalisation is no different from safeguarding against any other vulnerable group. All staff are expected to uphold fundamental British Values, including democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect, and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs.

Although incidents involving radicalisation have not occurred at Little Acorns to date, it is important to be constantly vigilant and remain fully informed about issues surrounding this.

This policy establishes formal procedures to enable members of the Company and its Service Users to report concerns they may have about activities or behaviour related to violent extremism.

Completed: July 2023

Review Date: July 2024



This policy is part of our commitment to keeping children 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.

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 (2023)
- Prevent Duty Guidance (2015- updated April 2019)

- Working together to Safeguard Children (2018)

Non-statutory Guidance

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

1. Aims and Objectives:

The main aims of this policy are to ensure that all staff are fully engaged in being vigilant about radicalisation; that they overcome professional disbelief that such issues will not arise at our school and that we work alongside the care setting and other care professionals to ensure all children are safe. The key objectives are that:

- All staff will have an understanding of radicalisation and extremism and why we need to be vigilant.
- All staff know what the policy is and will be able to follow it when issues arise.
- All carers and pupils will know that the school has policies in place to keep pupils safe from harm and that the school regularly reviews these systems in place.

2. Definition:

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.

3. 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
- 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, programs and networks that young people can come across online so involvement with particular groups may not be apparent)
- secretive behaviour
- online searching 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

4. Referrals:

Although incidents involving radicalisation have not occurred at Little Acorns to date, it is important to be constantly vigilant and remain fully informed about issues surrounding this. Staff are reminded to suspend any professional disbelief that instances of radicalisation 'could not happen here' and to refer any concerns through the appropriate channels (DSL/Head Teacher). Staff receive refresher training in this through staff meetings / safeguarding training and the completion of online courses.

Early intervention is vital and staff must be aware of the established processes for frontline 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 Designated Safeguarding Lead/ Head Teacher (Alison Neal) and Deputy DSL (Joanna Curley) will deal swiftly with any referrals made by staff or with concerns reported by staff. They 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.

The DSL's will log all concerns raised and a chronology of these started. These records will be saved on CPOMS.

5. Role of the Curriculum:

Our curriculum promotes diversity, tolerance and mutual respect. One of our aims is to ensure that the pupils are well prepared for life in modern Britain. Children are encouraged to share their views and recognise that they are entitled to have their own different beliefs which should not be used to influence others. Our PSHE and SMSC work is embedded across the whole curriculum. Teaching the core British Values alongside the values of the school. Encourage and support the children in making a positive contribution to the development of a fair, just and civil society. Children are regularly taught online safety and how to stay safe.

It is strictly forbidden to use the Company's website or IT facilities for the promotion, planning or execution of violent extremism. These facilities must not be used to engage in any unlawful activity. The Company reserves the right to exercise control over all activities on its IT facilities and networks, including monitoring of systems and electronic communications.

6. Role of Designated Safeguarding Lead

It is the role of the designated safeguarding leads to:

- ensure that staff understand the issues of radicalisation, are able to recognise the signs of vulnerability or radicalisation and know how to refer their concerns
- receive safeguarding concerns about children and young people 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 governing body on these matters.

Little Acorns DSL is Alison Neal: alison.neal@littleacornstc.com

Deputy DSL is Joanna Curley: joanna.curley@choicelifestyles.net

7. Policy Review:

This policy is reviewed at least every five years or sooner if necessary in the light of specific events or relevant statutory changes.