



## Prevent Policy

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### Principles

This policy has been developed in accordance with the principles established by the Children Acts (1989 and 2004); the Education Act (2002), and inline with government publications: *'Working Together to Safeguard Children'* (2018), Revised Safeguarding Statutory Guidance 2 *'Framework for the Assessment of Children in Need and their Families'* 2000, *'What to do if You are Worried a Child is Being Abused'* (2003). The guidance reflects *'Keeping Children Safe in Education'* (2020) and our responsibilities with regard to the Prevent Strategy (2019).

The Prevent strategy, published by the Government in 2011, is part of the Government's overall counter-terrorism strategy, CONTEST. The aim of the Prevent strategy is to reduce the threat to the UK from terrorism by stopping people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism. In the Act this has simply been expressed as the need to *"prevent people from being drawn into terrorism"*.

The 2011 Prevent strategy has three specific strategic objectives:

- respond to the ideological challenge of terrorism and the threat we face from those who promote it
- prevent people from being drawn into terrorism and ensure that they are given appropriate advice and support
- work with sectors and institutions where there are risks of radicalisation that we need to address.

Terrorist groups often draw on extremist ideology, developed by extremist organisations. Some people who join terrorist groups have previously been members of extremist organisations and have been radicalised by them. The Government has defined extremism in the 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"*.

The Prevent strategy was explicitly changed in 2011 to deal with all forms of terrorism and with non-violent extremism, which can create an atmosphere conducive to terrorism and can popularise views which terrorists then exploit. It also made clear that preventing people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism requires challenge to extremist ideas where they are used to legitimise terrorism and are shared by terrorist groups. And the strategy also means intervening to stop people moving from extremist (albeit legal) groups into terrorist-related activity.

Please refer to the Prevent Duty directly for further, detailed information.

At Merton Junior School, we will ensure that:

- All staff, volunteers and governors, have an understanding of what radicalisation and extremism is and why we need to be vigilant in school;
- Through training, staff, volunteers and governors will know what the school policy is on tackling extremism and radicalisation and how to respond when concerns arise;
- Through our curriculum, we will promote the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils;
- 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 these systems to ensure they are appropriate and effective.

Merton Junior 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 vulnerability. All staff are expected to uphold and promote the fundamental principles of British values, including democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect, and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs.

## **Aims and Principles**

The main aims of this policy are 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 that we work alongside other professional bodies and agencies to ensure that our pupils are safe from harm.

All parents 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.

*Our main principles of this policy are:*

- To ensure all staff and governors are aware of the Prevent Strategy and able to protect children and young people who are vulnerable or at risk of being radicalised;
- To provide a secure environment for pupils, where children feel safe and are kept safe;

- To ensure staff are aware of the Prevent Strategy and able to protect children and young people who are vulnerable or at risk of being radicalised;
- To ensure that 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.

#### Practice

- In addition to DBS checks we 'open source' check organisations, particularly those in the voluntary sector;
- We will ensure staff are aware of the risks to children and young people of being radicalised;
- We will ensure that all staff complete (and pass successfully) annual e-learning about the Prevent Duty.

#### We will:

- Ensure that everyone vigilant and, although we haven't had any cases at Merton Junior School, has an '*it could happen here*' understanding when approaching this;
- Assess the risk of children being drawn into terrorism;
- Demonstrate that they we are protecting children and young people from being drawn into terrorism by having robust safeguarding policies;
- Ensure that our safeguarding arrangements take into account the policies and procedures of the Local Safeguarding Children Board;
- Make sure that staff have training that gives them the knowledge and confidence to identify children at risk of being drawn into terrorism, and to challenge extremist ideas which can be used to legitimise terrorism;
- Ensure that there are measures in place so that children are safe from terrorist and extremist material when accessing the internet in school.

#### Managing Referrals

- To refer any child/ren at risk of being radicalised or extremism through the Local Authority Channel Referral and Intervention processes, as well as via an Inter Agency Referral Form to Children's Services, if appropriate.

#### Raise Awareness

- Ensure staff and governors are aware of how to identify and respond to risks to children from extreme or radical views.

#### Staff will be alert to issues including:

- 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, recording these on CPOMs, our safeguarding recording system;
- 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;
- Use of extremist or 'hate' terms to exclude others or incite violence;
- Intolerance of difference, whether secular or religious or, in line with our equalities policy, views based on, but not exclusive to, gender, disability, homophobia, race, colour or culture.

**The Designated Safeguarding Lead and Deputy Safeguarding Leads will act swiftly if they become aware of a case or concerns.**

### **The role of the curriculum**

**Our curriculum promotes respect, tolerance and diversity. 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.**

**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 (Personal, Social and Health Education), Citizenship and SMSC (Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural) provision is embedded across the curriculum, and underpins the ethos of the school.**

**Teaching the schools' 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.**

**Children are regularly taught about how to stay safe when using the Internet and are encouraged to recognise that people are not always who they say they are online. They are taught to seek adult help if they are upset or concerned about anything they read or see on the Internet.**

**This policy should be read in conjunction with the school' Safeguarding Policy and Child Protection Policy.**