

## Prevent Policy

The Counter-Terrorism and Security Act (July 2015) requires the proprietors of schools to "have due regard, in the exercise of their functions, to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism". This is known as the 'Prevent Duty'.

This policy has therefore been developed in accordance with the principles established by the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act July (2015) and also the Children Acts 1989 and 2004; the Education Act 2002, and in line with government publications „Prevent Duty Guidance: for England and Wales" (March 2015), „The Prevent Duty: Departmental Advice for schools and childminders" (June 2015), „The Use of Social Media for on-line radicalisation" (July 2015), „Working Together to Safeguard Children" (March 2015), Revised Safeguarding Statutory Guidance 2 „Framework for the Assessment of Children in Need and their Families"(2000) and „What to do if you are worried a Child is being Abused"(2003).

The guidance also reflects, „Keeping Children Safe in Education" (July 2015) and our responsibilities with regard to the Prevent Strategy.

This policy should be read in conjunction with the School's Safeguarding Policy and Prevent Duty should be seen as part of our existing safeguarding framework.

### Definition

For the purposes of this policy the definition of radical or extreme ideology is "a set of ideas which could justify vilification or violence against individuals, groups or self".

### Aims

To ensure all staff understand the risks of radicalisation within our School and how this risk may change from time to time.

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

Whilst following the Prevent Strategy the School also maintains its mission for diversity to be a core part of all that it does. The School places a strong emphasis on the common values that all communities share such as self-respect, understanding, tolerance and the sanctity of life. Pupils are taught to respect and value diversity as well as understanding how to make safe, well-considered decisions.

### Prevent Leads

The School Prevent lead is Andras Sztrokay, Director of Academic Development.

The School's Principal Safeguarding Lead is Tasmin Smith, Academic Manager.

The School's Operations Manager, Jonathan Morrissey is responsible for checking visitors to the school.

## **Vulnerability to radicalisation or extreme view points from the internet**

The School recognises its duty to protect our students from indoctrination into any form of extreme ideology which may lead to the harm of self or others. This is particularly important because of the electronic information available through the internet. The School will therefore aim to do the following:

- Encourage, as appropriate as part of the lessons, the appropriate use of social media and the dangers of downloading and sharing inappropriate material including that which is illegal under the Counter-Terrorism Act.
- Ensure that students are unable to access any inappropriate internet sites whilst using the school computers / laptops through the use of appropriate filtering, firewalls and security settings.
- Educate pupils through lessons, as appropriate, the concepts of radicalisation and extreme ideology.
- Inform students, as appropriate, on the importance of Internet Safety Please refer to the School's IT policy for further details.

## **Visitors to the School**

In order to safeguard students from visitors to the School who may have extreme or radical views the School will:

- Ensure all visitors to the School are carefully vetted and take immediate action if any individual or group is perceived to be attempting to influence members of the School community, either physically or electronically.
- 'Open source' check any organisations which wish to have relationships with the School.

## **Staff Training**

In order to fulfil the requirements of the Prevent Duty the School will:

- Ensure all members of staff undertake Prevent awareness training and thus be trained to be vigilant in spotting signs of extremist views and behaviours and that they always report anything to the Principal Safeguarding Lead, which may suggest a student, another staff member or a visitor is expressing opinions which may cause concern. Staff should follow the usual reporting procedures as for any other safeguarding concern as laid out in the School's Safeguarding Policy.
- Ensure staff understand the importance of monitoring student absences and promptly address concerns about irregular absence with parents and / or carers.
- Ensure staff are aware of how to identify and respond to risks to children from extreme or radical views.

## **Curriculum**

The School ensures its students are offered a broad and balanced range of topics as part of their English language lessons, which aim to prepare them for life in the UK, encouraging them to be inquisitive learners who are enriched, understand and become tolerant of difference and diversity, whilst also ensuring that they thrive, feel valued and are not marginalized.

Classroom practices include:

- developing questioning techniques to open up safe debate;
- building confidence to promote honesty about a plurality of views;

- ensuring freedom of expression and freedom from threat;
- debating fundamental moral and human rights principles;
- promoting open respectful dialogue; and
- affirming multiple identities.

The School values freedom of speech and the expression of beliefs / ideology as fundamental rights underpinning society's values. Students regularly participate in discussion, with speaking and listening being embedded in all subjects. Students and teachers speak freely and voice their opinions. However, there is an understanding that freedom comes with responsibility and free speech that is designed to manipulate the vulnerable or that leads to violence and harm of others goes against the moral principles in which freedom of speech is valued.

Curriculum content includes:

- promoting knowledge, skills and understanding to build the resilience of learners;
- exploring controversial issues;
- recognising local needs;
- challenging extremist narratives;
- promoting universal rights;
- promoting critical analysis; and
- promoting pro-social values

The school promotes syllabi that provide opportunities for students to engage in issues that raise awareness.