



## Somerford Primary School

### Prevent Duty; Department for Education DfE Advice to Schools Keeping Children Safe in Education; Department for Education (DfE) Information to Schools

Updated : January 2017

Review: January 2018

From 1 July 2015 specified authorities, including all schools **are subject to a duty under Section 26 of the Counter-terrorism & Security Act ('the CTSA 2015') .... (must) have "due regard" to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism. This duty is known as the 'Prevent' duty.** (see paragraphs 57-76 of Prevent guidance that specifically refers to schools).

#### Prevent Duty : Obligation for Schools

- \* Staff to be able to identify children vulnerable to radicalisation.
- \* Protecting children from risk of radicalisation is part of the school's wider safeguarding duties
- \* Build pupils resilience to resist radicalisation via promotion of British Values.
- \* Schools to be a safe place for debating controversial issues.

#### 4 Key Requirements on Schools

##### 1. Risk Assessment

This means being able to demonstrate a general understanding of the risks affecting children and more specifically to understand how to identify children who may be at risk of radicalisation and what should be done to support them.

- \* Schools need to be aware of potential dangers presented via online threats
- \* Staff should be alert to changes in children's behaviour which could indicate that they may be in need of help or protection eg displaying signs or hiding their views. School staff should apply their professional judgement when identifying children who may be at risk of radicalisation and act proportionately.
- \* If staff are concerned that a child/family may be vulnerable or at risk of being drawn into terrorism, staff must inform the EHT/HoS **immediately** and a referral may be made to '**Channel**' (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/channel-guidance> and [http://course.ncalt.com/channel\\_general\\_awareness](http://course.ncalt.com/channel_general_awareness) )

but as a Dorset school, referrals are made to SRU (see over).

## **2. Partnership Working**

- \* Local Safeguarding Children Boards (LSCBs) are responsible for co-ordinating what is done by local agencies for the purposes of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in their local area.
- \* Effective engagement with parents / family is important as families remain in the key position to identify signs of radicalisation. It is school's role to assist and advise families if concerns are raised and direct them to the correct support mechanisms.
- \* Display for parents in school foyer, leaflets 'Preventing Terrorism within our Communities'.

## **3. Staff Training**

- \* EHT and Designated Safeguarding Lead will undertake 'Prevent' awareness training to provide advice and support to other members of staff on protecting children from the risk of radicalisation.
- \* See also page 12-14 of 'Keeping Children Safe in Education' (July/Sept 2015).

## **4. IT Policies**

- \* The statutory guidance makes clear the need for schools to ensure that children are safe from terrorist and extremist material when accessing the internet in schools and schools should therefore ensure that suitable filters are in place.
- \* As with other online risks of harm, all staff need to be aware of the risks posed by the online activity of extremist and terrorist groups.
- \* There is a dedicated internet page where inappropriate content can be reported. [www.direct.gov.uk/reportingonlineterrorism](http://www.direct.gov.uk/reportingonlineterrorism)

### Building Children's Resilience

- \* Schools are already expected to promote the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils and, within this, fundamental British Values.
- \* Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE) is an effective way of providing children with the time to explore sensitive or controversial issues and equip them with the knowledge and skills to understand and manage difficult situations.
- \* Citizenship helps pupils with the knowledge, skills and understanding to prepare them to play a full and active part in society.
- \* Local authorities and the local police are available to advise on the resources which schools could access.

### What To Do If You Have A Concern

- \* If a member of staff has a concern about a particular child they should follow the school's normal safeguarding procedures and discuss the concern with the EHT/HoS and also the school's designated safeguarding lead who may deem it necessary to also contact children's social care.

- \* In Prevent priority areas, the local authority will have a Prevent lead who can also provide support. In Dorset this is The Safeguarding Referral Unit who can be contacted on [MASH@dorset.pnn.police.uk](mailto:MASH@dorset.pnn.police.uk)
- \* Contact your local police or dial 101 (the non-emergency number) who will listen in confidence to concerns and help you access relevant support and advice.
- \* Local/County Police Officer : Gary Thorpe 01202 229336.
- \* The Department for Education has dedicated a telephone helpline (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](mailto:counter.extremism@education.gsi.gov.uk). Please note that the helpline is not intended for use in emergency situations, such as a child being at immediate risk of harm or a security incident, in which case the normal emergency procedures should be followed.
- \* See school's Safeguarding Policy.

#### Channel

- \* Channel is a National programme which focuses on providing support at an early stage to people who are identified as being vulnerable to being drawn into terrorism.
- \* Dorset has a Channel Panel in place, in accordance with its duties under the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015. This is a multi-agency meeting which discusses individuals who have been referred by the Police as being vulnerable to being drawn into terrorism. Where pupils at this school are being discussed, the DSL or Headteacher will attend the Panel meetings.
- \* It is the mechanism for schools to make referrals.

#### Excerpt from School's Child Protection Policy

##### **Anti-radicalisation and extremism**

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

Extremism is defined by HM Government 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; and/or calls for the death of members of our armed forces, whether in this country or overseas'.

#### School Statement

- \* In this school we recognise that safeguarding against radicalisation and extremism is no different from safeguarding against any other vulnerability.
- \* Our curriculum promotes respect, tolerance and diversity.
- \* Children are encouraged to share their views and to understand that they are entitled to have their own different beliefs which should not be used to influence others.
- \* We recognise that children with low aspirations might be more vulnerable to radicalisation and therefore we strive to equip our pupils with confidence, self-belief, respect and tolerance as well as setting high standards and expectations for themselves.

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

Any concerns about pupils becoming radicalised or being drawn into extremism will be reported to the DSL who will not speak to parents/carers or other family members at this stage but will take prompt advice from the Police and e-mail the Safeguarding Referral Unit: [MASH@dorset.pnn.police.uk](mailto:MASH@dorset.pnn.police.uk)