



Somerford Primary School

PREVENT POLICY

Updated: September 2023

Review: September 2024

The Prevent Policy applies to the whole school including the Early Years Foundation Stage. It should be read in conjunction with the Child Protection Policy.

Somerford Primary School is fully committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all of its pupils. Every member of staff recognises that safeguarding against radicalisation and extremism is no different to safeguarding against any other vulnerability in today's society.

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.

The National Prevent Strategy aims to stop people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism. Somerford Primary School, working with other local partners, families and communities, seeks to play a key role in ensuring that the children and young people who attend the School are safe from the threat of terrorism. Prevent is part of the School's wider responsibility for Safeguarding and this policy is therefore linked to the School's Child Protection Policy.

Aims and Principles

The main aims of this policy statement 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. The principle objectives are that:

- All Staff and Governors will have an understanding of what radicalisation and extremism are and why we need to be vigilant in school.
- All Staff and Governors will know what the school policy is on anti-radicalisation and extremism and will follow the policy when issues arise.
- 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.

Definitions

“Extremism” is defined by the Government 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, whether in this country or overseas.”

Not every part of this definition has to be satisfied for a particular individual or organisation to be regarded as extremist.”

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.

In order to fulfil our Prevent Duty, we undertake to do the following:

- Carry out an annual risk assessment for the school in order to prevent children being drawn in to extremism
- Actively promote Fundamental British Values, including mutual respect, tolerance and democratic participation, as part of our wider SMSC/ Life Skills (PSHE) programmes as well as within other subject areas and assemblies
- Respect pupil and staff diversity, encouraging freedom and openness
- Assess the potential risk of children in our school being drawn into terrorism
- Maintain robust safeguarding policies which take into account the policies and procedures set out by the Pan-Dorset Safeguarding Children Partnership and identify extremism/ radicalisation as issues to be reported promptly to the Designated Safeguarding Lead
- Ensure all Governors, teachers, teaching assistants, non-teaching staff and volunteers will know what the school policy is on tackling extremism and radicalisation and will follow the policy guidance swiftly when issues arise
- Conduct due diligence checks on groups/ individuals seeking to hire or use school premises
- Conduct due diligence checks on visitors to school, particularly visiting speakers, whether invited by children or staff
- Conduct due diligence checks on contractors working on the school sites
- Ensure children are safe from terrorist and extremist material when accessing the internet in School
- Conduct due diligence checks on new staff being recruited to employment in the school
- Review our policies annually.

As part of wider safeguarding responsibilities school staff will be alert to:

- 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 especially where the pupils have not actively sought them out.
- Graffiti symbols, writing or artwork promoting extremist messages or images.
- Pupils accessing extremist material online, including through social networking sites.
- Parental report of changes in behaviour, friendship or actions and request for assistance.
- Partner schools, local authority services, and police report of issues affecting pupils in other schools or settings.
- Pupils voicing opinions drawn from extremist ideologies and narratives.
- Attempts to impose extremist views or practices on others.
- 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, sexual orientation, race, colour or culture.
- Travel for extended periods of time to international locations known to be associated with extremism

Written and Printed Communication

Somerford Primary School has the right to exercise control over the content of any written or printed material that identifies itself as associated with the school. It will not allow the use of its facilities in the production of such material, or permit the use of its name, or of any identifying marks relating to the school, in such material, if that material appears to

- Promote discriminatory views in relation to the protected characteristics listed in the Equality Act 2010
- Promote or glorify terrorism
- Promote extreme ideological, religious or political beliefs.

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.

Reporting Concerns

Although serious incidents involving radicalisation have not occurred at Somerford Primary School to date, it is important for us to be constantly vigilant and remain fully informed about the issues which affect the region in which we teach. 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.

When any member of staff has concerns that a child or young person may be at risk of radicalisation or involvement in terrorism, they should speak with the school's Single Point of Contact (SPOC) **Helen Frampton**, for safeguarding pupils from radicalisation and involvement in terrorism

We believe that it is possible to intervene to protect people who are vulnerable. Early intervention is vital and staff must be aware of the established processes for front line 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 Lead for Child Protection and Safeguarding and the Headteacher will deal swiftly with any referrals made by staff or with concerns reported by staff.

The Headteacher 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. School staff have a responsibility to act on concerns. Staff will have training on how to recognise a potential issue with the promotion of extremism in school.

Staff will also record their concerns in writing on My Concern.

Training

Mrs Helen Frampton (Headteacher) is the PREVENT lead at Somerford Primary School. Rev Paul O'Connor is the Governor who has responsibility for this area.

The school will ensure that all Governors and staff, including temporary staff and volunteers will receive appropriate training in the issues raised by this policy. Whole school in-service training on Safeguarding and Child Protection will be organised for staff and governors at least every three years and will comply with the prevailing arrangements agreed by the Local Authority and the Pan Dorset Safeguarding Children Partnership and will, in part, include training on extremism and radicalisation and its safeguarding implications.

The Designated Safeguarding Lead will attend training courses as necessary and the appropriate inter-agency training organised by the Pan Dorset Safeguarding Children Partnership or LA at least every two years, again this will include training on extremism and radicalisation and its safeguarding implications.

Links to other policies:

- Child Protection
- Anti-bullying policy
- Behaviour policy
- Computing and ICT policy

Recruitment

The arrangements for recruiting all staff, permanent and volunteers, to our school will follow safer recruitment best practice in education settings, including, but not limited to, ensuring that DBS checks are always made at the appropriate level, that references are always received and checked and that we complete and maintain a single central record of such vetting checks. We will apply safer recruitment best practice principles and sound employment practice in general and in doing so will deny opportunities for inappropriate recruitment or advancement.

We will be alert to the possibility that persons may seek to gain positions within our school so as to unduly influence our schools character and ethos. We are aware that such persons seek to limit the opportunities for our pupils thereby rendering them vulnerable to extremist views and radicalisation as a consequence. Therefore, by adhering to safer recruitment best practice techniques and by ensuring that there is an ongoing culture of vigilance within our school and staff team we will minimise the opportunities for extremist views to prevail.

Online searches are also carried out for selected candidates. Details can be found in the Recruitment and Selection Policy.

Role of the Governing Body

The Governing Body of our School will undertake appropriate training to ensure that they are clear about their role and the parameters of their responsibilities as Governors, including their statutory safeguarding duties.

The Governing Body will support the ethos and values of our school and will support the school in tackling extremism and radicalisation. In line with the provisions set out in the DfE guidance 'Keeping Children Safe in Education 2023' the governing body will challenge the school's senior management team on the delivery of this policy and monitor its effectiveness.

Further Reading

The Prevent Strategy, GOV.UK- Home Office

Keeping Children Safe In Education – DfE

Learning Together to be Safe: a Toolkit to help schools contribute to the prevention of violent extremism was published in 2008 by the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF), a predecessor of the Department for Education.

Prevent duty guidance <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/prevent-duty->