

St Martin's C of E Primary School

PREVENT Policy



St Martin's CE 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. This policy sets out our beliefs, strategies and procedures to protect vulnerable individuals from being radicalised or exposed to extremist views, by identifying who they are and promptly providing them with support.

Staff and Governors at St Martin's CE Primary School are fully aware of its responsibility under the Prevent Duty 2015. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/protecting-children-from-radicalisation-the-prevent-duty>

We recognise that our responsibilities to prevent and protect children from extremism fit within our duty of child protection and safeguarding.

Definition

Extremism can be defined as 'holding of extreme opinions: the holding of extreme political or religious views or the taking of extreme actions on the basis of those views'.

Extremist organisations can develop and popularise ideas which create an environment conducive to violent extremism and terrorism.

Aims and Principles

This policy is intended to provide a framework for dealing with issues relating to vulnerability, radicalisation and exposure to extreme views. We recognise that we are well placed to be able to identify safeguarding issues and this policy clearly sets out how the school will deal with such incidents and identifies how the curriculum and ethos underpins our actions.

The objectives are that:

All governors, teachers, teaching assistants and non-teaching staff will have an understanding of what radicalisation and extremism are and why we need to be vigilant in school.

All governors, teachers, teaching assistants and non-teaching staff will know what the school policy is on tackling extremism and radicalisation and will follow the policy guidance swiftly when issues arise.

All pupils will understand the dangers of radicalisation and exposure to extremist views; building resilience against these and knowing what to do if they experience them.

All 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 its systems to ensure they are appropriate and effective.

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.

Definitions and Indicators

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.

There are a number of behaviours which may indicate a child is at risk of being radicalised or exposed to extreme views. These include;

- Spending increased time in the company of other suspected extremists.
- Changing their style of dress or personal appearance to accord with the group.
- Day-to-day behaviour becoming increasingly centered on an extremist ideology, group or cause.
- Loss of interest in other friends and activities not associated with the extremist ideology, group or cause
- Possession of materials or symbols associated with extremist cause.
- Attempts to recruit others to the group/cause.
- Communication with others that suggests identification with a group, cause or ideology.
- Using insulting or derogatory names for another group.
- Increase in prejudice-related incidents committed by that person – these may include;
 - physical or verbal assault.
 - proactive behaviour
 - damage to property
 - derogatory name calling
 - possession of prejudice related materials
 - prejudice related ridicule or name calling
 - inappropriate forms of address
 - refusal to co operate
 - attempts to recruit to prejudice-related organisations
 - condoning or supporting violence towards others

Procedures for Referrals

Staff are reminded to suspend any 'professional disbelief' that instances of radicalisation 'could not happen here' and to be 'professionally inquisitive' where concerns arise. Staff should refer any concerns through the appropriate channels.

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 practise.

The Headteacher, Deputy Head and Inclusion Manager are trained as Designated Senior Leaders for Child Protection and Safeguarding. They will deal swiftly with any referrals made by staff or with any concerns reported by staff.

SLT 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.

Governors, Leaders and Staff

The Headteacher and Deputy Head are the leaders for referrals relating to extremism and radicalisation. In the unlikely event that no SLT members are available, the Inclusion Manager will deal with the referral.

Staff will be fully briefed about what to do if they are concerned about the possibility of radicalisation relating to a pupil, or if they need to discuss specific children whom they consider to be vulnerable to radicalisation or extremist views.

SLT will work in conjunction with external agencies to decide on the best course of action to address concerns which arise.

Training

Mr Matthew Seex (Headteacher), Mrs Kelly Lees (Deputy Head) are the PREVENT leads at St Martin's Primary. Mrs V Kavanagh and Mrs J Cooksey are the Governors who have responsibility for this area.

Staff undertaken the LA training for PREVENT.

Curriculum

Our curriculum is broad and balanced and promotes respect, tolerance and diversity. 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 SMSC provision is embedded across the curriculum. It directs our assemblies and underpins the ethos of our school. It is recognised that children with low aspirations are more vulnerable to radicalisation and therefore we strive to equip pupils with confidence, self-belief, respect and tolerance as well as setting high standards and expectations for themselves.

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 help if they are upset or concerned about anything they read or see on the internet.

Staff Training

Through INSET opportunities in school, we will ensure that our staff are fully aware of the threats, risks and vulnerabilities that are linked to radicalisation; are aware of the process of radicalisation and how this might be identified early on and are aware of how we can provide support as a school to ensure that our children are resilient and able to resist involvement in radical or extreme activities.

Visitors

If any member of staff wishes to invite a visitor in to school, they must discuss this with the Head or Deputy. After agreement from the Head or Deputy the visitor will first be subject to Safeguarding checks including DBS checks and photo identification.

Children are NEVER left unsupervised with external visitors, regardless of safeguarding check outcomes.

Upon arriving at the school, all visitors including contractors, will read the child protection and safeguarding guidance and will be made aware of who the DSLs are and how to report any concerns which they may experience.

Use of Online Technology and Social Media

Our school is aware of the risk of use of social media for online radicalisation.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-use-of-social-media-for-online-radicalisation>

At St Martin's we promote a positive and protective school ethos. The school has an acceptable use of ICT policy. Pupils are taught about internet safety as part of our curriculum. Pupils are reminded of the importance of speaking to a trusted adult either in school or at home if they feel vulnerable or unsafe. This would include any concerns they have about images, messages or contacts online.

Partnerships

St Martin's recognises that any attempt to counter extremism and prevent radicalisation cannot be achieved by one organisation alone but relies on the sharing of information and productive partnership working. In upholding the Prevent duty St Martin's works with a number of partners, including:

The Education Child Protection Service
The Police and PCSOs
Social Care
Community and religious leaders
Parents and the wider community

Policy reviewed: September 2022

Appendix 1 – Dealing with Referrals

We are aware of the potential indicating factors that a child is vulnerable to being radicalised or exposed to extreme views, including peer pressure, influence from other people or the internet, bullying, crime and anti-social behaviour, family tensions, race/hate crime, lack of self-esteem or identity, prejudicial behaviour and personal or political grievances.

In the event of prejudicial behaviour the following system will be followed:

- All incidents of prejudicial behaviour will be reported directly to the Headteacher or Deputy Head.
- All incidents will be fully investigated and recorded in line with our Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy and records will be kept in line with procedures for any other safeguarding incident.
- Parents/carers will be contacted and the incident discussed in detail, aiming to identify motivating factors, any changes in circumstances at home, parental views of the incident and to assess whether the incident is serious enough to warrant further referral. A note of this meeting is kept alongside the initial referral in the Safeguarding folder.
- The SLT follow up any referrals for a period of four weeks after the incident to assess whether there is a change in behaviour and / or attitude. A further meeting with parents would be held if there is not a significant positive change in behaviour.
- If school has a concern relating to an individual or family in regards to radicalisation they should treat it as a safeguarding matter as detailed in the national guidance, to be discussed in the first instance with your designated safeguarding leads, as you would with any other safeguarding concern. If after that discussion there is evidence there is evidence to suggest that a child is in need of protection in accordance with Sandwell SSCB Thresholds document then an early help assessment or MARF should be completed and submitted to the MASH if you believe that threshold has been met.
- If deemed necessary, serious incidents will be discussed and referred to Sarfraz Khan, PVE Officer in Sandwell on 0121 557 8804 or 08453527701 or Sarfraz_khan@sandwell.gov.uk via email using the correct referral form.

Appendix 2 – Further Reading

- The Prevent Strategy, GOV.UK- Home Office
- Keeping Children Safe I Education – DfE
- Working Together to Safeguard Children HM Gov
- 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-guidance>