



# Abbey Meads Community Primary School

## PREVENT POLICY

### **Principles**

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

**This policy should be read in conjunction with Updated Prevent Guidance April 2019.**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/prevent-duty-guidance/revised-prevent-duty-guidance-for-england-and-wales>

### **Aims**

To ensure 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

Safeguarding children from all risks of harm is a key element of our school's responsibility, and protecting children from extremism and radicalisation is one aspect of that. We recognise that schools have an important part to play in both educating children about extremism and in recognising when children are at risk of becoming radicalised. We ensure that staff are vigilant for signs of radicalisation and that they overcome professional disbelief that such issues 'will not happen here'. We work alongside other professional bodies and agencies to ensure that our children are safe from harm.

### **Practice**

In addition to DBS checks we check the appropriateness of organisations, particularly those in the voluntary sector, wishing to work with the school.

We will ensure staff are aware of the risks to children and young people of being radicalised and provide awareness training as part of the Child Protection Update for Staff.

We actively promote and teach British Values through PSHE lessons, within curriculum areas and through the ethos of the school. We work hard to broaden our children's experiences in order to prepare them for life and work in modern Britain. We teach them to respect and value the diversity around them as well as understanding how to make safe, well-considered and informed choices.

We are committed to ensuring that our pupils are offered a broad and balanced curriculum. We encourage our pupils to be inquisitive learners who are open to new experiences and are understanding of others. Our values support the development of pupils as reflective learners within a safe, respectful and supportive learning environment.

Through our curriculum, pupils 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&C and SMSC provision is embedded across the curriculum, and underpins the ethos of the school.

### **Reporting and Managing Referrals**

Staff are trained to

- Spot the signs of radicalisation.
- Complete the Channel Awareness Training on a regular basis.
- Refer any child/ren at risk of being radicalised or extremism through the Local Authority MASH and Channel Referral and Intervention processes.
- When a person has been identified, a referral is made to a Channel Police Practitioner who will complete a preliminary assessment. Tel: 01793 464377.

**Staff are reminded to refer any concerns to the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL), BOB Buckley (Headteacher) or Mici Cunningham (Deputy HT).**

### **Raise Awareness**

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

#### ***Vulnerability to radicalisation or extreme view points***

- 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 open access to electronic information through the internet. The schools aims to safeguard young people through educating them on the appropriate use of social media and the dangers of downloading and sharing inappropriate material which is illegal under the Counter-Terrorism Act.
- The school vets all visitors carefully and will take firm action if any individual or group is perceived to be attempting to influence members of our school community, either physically or electronically.
- Our definition of radical or extreme ideology is 'a set of ideas which could justify vilification or violence against individuals, groups or self.'
- Staff are trained to be vigilant for spotting signs of extremist view and behaviours and to always report anything which may suggest a student is expressing opinions which may cause concern.
- Our core mission of diversity permeates all we do. We place a strong emphasis on the common values that all communities share such as self-respect, understanding, tolerance and the sanctity of life. We work hard to broaden our students' experience, to prepare them for life and work in contemporary Britain. We teach them to respect and value the diversity around them as well as understanding how to make safe, well-considered decisions.

## **Recognising extremism**

Early indicators of radicalisation or extremism may include:

- Showing sympathy for extremist causes
- Glorifying violence, especially to other faiths or cultures
- Making remarks or comments about being at extremist events or rallies outside school (but there are also very powerful narratives, programmes and networks that young people can come across online so particular individuals / groups may not become apparent)
- Evidence of possessing illegal or extremist literature
- Advocating messages similar to illegal organisations or other extremist groups
- Out of character changes in dress, behaviour and peer relationships
- Secretive behaviour
- Online searches or sharing extremist messages or social profiles
- Intolerance of difference, including faith, culture, gender, race or sexuality
- Graffiti art work or writing that displays extremist themes
- Attempts to impose extremist views or practices on others
- Verbalising anti-Western or anti-British views
- Advocating violence towards others.

## **Safer recruitment:**

We ensure our recruitment processes are rigorous, in line with statutory requirements, and based upon best practice by following Local Authority guidance which is, in turn, based on the statutory guidance published in Keeping Children Safe in Education. These processes include taking up references and the use of the DBS checks on all employees, governors and regular volunteers. We vet all visitors carefully and will take firm action if any individual or group is perceived to be attempting to influence members of the school community, either physically or through electronic communication. We apply this practice to individuals and groups who may wish to hire school facilities.

## **E-safety**

Pupils are taught how to stay safe when using the internet and 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. The internet provides children and young people with access to a wide-range of content, some of which is harmful. Extremists use the internet including social media, to share their messages. The filtering systems used in our school, managed by South West Grid for Learning (SWGfL), block inappropriate content, including extremist material, but pupils are regularly reminded to report any inappropriate material that may get through the school's filter so the matter can be addressed.