



**St Francis Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School**

**Tackling Extremism and Radicalisation Policy**  
Within the PREVENT Framework

Developed by Administrator

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# Tackling Extremism and Radicalisation within the PREVENT Framework

The 2015 Counter Terrorism and Security Act places a duty on authorities such as schools to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism and to challenge extremist ideas.

The Government's overall counter-terrorism strategy is called CONTEST and the Prevent Framework forms part of this. CONTEST has four main objectives:

- Pursue – to stop terrorist attacks
- Prepare – where an attack cannot be stopped, to mitigate its impact
- Protect – to strengthen overall protection against terrorist attacks
- Prevent – to stop people becoming terrorists or supporting violent extremists

The aim of the Prevent Strategy is to reduce the threat to the UK from terrorism by stopping people from becoming terrorists or from supporting terrorism.

The Government has defined extremism 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.”

## **Risk Assessment**

The senior staff and Governors of St Francis Primary School will, when necessary, make an assessment of the risk of pupils being encouraged into terrorism, based on an understanding of the potential risk in the locality.

Safeguarding policies are in place to identify children at risk and to intervene as appropriate. These policies have clear protocols for instance, for ensuring that visiting speakers are suitable and supervised within the school.

Safeguarding vulnerable individuals from radicalisation is no different to safeguarding them from other risks.

St Francis seeks to ensure that fundamental 'British values' are promoted in the delivery of the curriculum and extra-curricular activities, and are reflected in the general ethos and conduct of the school.

The following are potential indicators of radicalisation or extremism but this is not a checklist nor is it an exhaustive list:

- Viewing extreme material online when not for educational purposes
- Communicating with extreme groups or individuals
- Seeking to recruit others to an extremist ideology
- Voicing opinions drawn from extremist ideologies and narratives
- Using extremist or 'hate' terms to exclude others or to promote violence
- Possession of violent extremist literature or advocating violent actions

- Graffiti, symbols, writing or art work promoting extremist messages or images
- A lack of understanding of religious or political views
- Becoming secretive, withdrawn or increasingly isolated
- Appearance drastically changing
- Parental concerns about behavioural changes or changes in friendships and social groups
- New addictions or obsessions
- Suffering bereavement or loss, or struggling to form healthy relationships

### **What to do if a concern is raised**

In the event of any concerns about a pupil or another member of staff, staff should meet with the Head Teacher or other Safeguarding Officers at St Francis.

### **Partnership**

St Francis School works in partnership with other schools in North Swindon and the Local Authority on safeguarding issues and our Safeguarding Policy describes procedures which are in accordance with Government guidelines for protecting pupils.

### **Training**

Governors and staff at St Francis School receive the necessary training that gives them the knowledge and confidence to identify children at risk of being drawn into terrorism and to “challenge extremist ideas which can be used to legitimise terrorism and are shared by terrorist groups”.

### **E-Safety**

The school is very aware of how the internet can be used to radicalise young people and children and our E-Safety Policy reflects this.

Appropriate levels of ‘filtering’ are used to avoid terrorist or extremist materials being seen by pupils.

### **Monitoring and Enforcement**

St Francis has implemented awareness of Prevent and British Values into its daily safeguarding functions and into the curriculum.

When inspecting schools, OFSTED already takes into account the school’s approach to keeping pupils safe from the risk of extremism and radicalisation and the procedures in place to deal with any suspected involvement.

# POLICY STATEMENT

St Francis Primary School is fully committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all of its pupils and staff.

Every staff member recognises that safeguarding against radicalisation and extremism is no different to safeguarding against any other vulnerability in today's society.

This **Tackling Extremism and Radicalisation Policy** sets out the school's beliefs, strategies and procedures to protect vulnerable individuals from being radicalised or exposed to extremist views, by identifying who they are and providing immediate support.

This Policy overlaps with the following St Francis policies:

- Safeguarding Policy
- Health and Safety Policy
- Anti-bullying Policy
- Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Policy
- Behaviour Policy
- E-Safety Policy

The following national guidelines are also important:

- PREVENT Strategy HM Government
- Keeping Children Safe in Education 2014 DfE
- Working together to Safeguard Children 2013 HM Government

## Aims

- All Governors, teachers, TAs and non-teaching staff will have an understanding of what radicalisation and extremism are and why vigilance in school is necessary – disbelief that such issues could not happen at St Francis School must be overcome
- All Governors, teachers, TAs and non-teaching staff will know the school policy on Tackling Extremism and Radicalisation and will follow the guidance swiftly when issues arise
- All pupils will understand the dangers of radicalisation and exposure to extremists' views; building resilience to them 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

Prejudicial behaviour can be a factor in radicalisation and extremism and St Francis has included procedures for dealing with this in the Behaviour Policy and the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Policy.

## **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.

Behaviours that may indicate a child is at risk of being radicalised or exposed to extremist views 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 centred 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 an extremist cause
- Attempts to recruit others to the group or cause
- Communications with others that suggest identification with a group, cause or ideology
- Using insulting or derogatory names for another group
- An increase in prejudice-related incidents committed by that person such as:
  - Physical or verbal assault
  - Provocative behaviour
  - Damage to property
  - Derogatory name calling
  - Possession of prejudice-related materials
  - Prejudice related ridicule or name calling
  - Inappropriate forms of address
  - Refusal to cooperate
  - Attempts to recruit to prejudice related organisations
  - Condoning or supporting violence towards others

## **Procedures for Referrals**

St Francis believes it is possible to intervene to protect people who are vulnerable. Early intervention is crucial and staff should be aware of the processes for referring concerns about individuals and/or groups.

- The Lead Safeguarding Officer deals with concerns immediately.
- The Head Teacher and SMT will discuss the most appropriate course of action on a case-by-case basis and will decide when a referral to an external agency is necessary (see Appendix One)
- As with any Safeguarding referral, staff must be made aware that if they do not agree with a decision not to refer, they can make the referral themselves and will be given the contact details to do this

## **Governors and Staff**

The Head Teacher and SMT are leads for referrals relating to extremism and radicalisation.

Staff are 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 who are considered vulnerable to radicalisation or extremist views.

Any incidents will be reported to St Francis Governors.

## **The Role of the Curriculum**

St Francis' curriculum promotes respect, tolerance and an appreciation of difference. Children are encouraged to share their views and recognise that they are entitled to have their own beliefs.

PSHCE provision is embedded across the curriculum and influences the ethos of the school and school assemblies.

It is recognised that children with low aspirations are more vulnerable to radicalisation and therefore confidence, self-belief, respect, and tolerance is imparted to the children and they are encouraged to set high expectations and standards for themselves.

Children are regularly 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. They are taught to seek adult help if they are upset or concerned about anything they read or see on the internet.

## **Training**

All staff are trained in Prevent at the beginning of the academic year, or have refresher training.

## **Visitors and the Use of School Premises**

- Visitors entering St Francis are given our Visitors' Health & Safety Handbook
- Children are never left unsupervised with external visitors without DBS checks
- Upon arriving at the school, visitors, including contractors, are made aware of safeguarding guidance, who the Lead Officer is and how to report concerns
- In the event of outside organisations using the school premises, appropriate checks will be carried out before confirming the contract. Usage will be monitored and should any behaviour not be in keeping with this Tackling Extremism and Radicalisation Policy the school will contact the police and terminate the contract

## APPENDIX ONE

### **NOTICE/CHECK/SHARE referral process**

Once the warning signals are recognised, what next?

