



Meadows First School

Preventing Extremism & Radicalisation Policy

Date: July 2024
Date of review: July 2026
Head Teacher: L Satchwell
Chair of Governors: J Barrow

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POLICY STATEMENT

Meadows First School is fully committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all 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. The Preventing Extremism and Radicalisation 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.

We are a Rights Respecting school. The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child is an important agreement by countries who have promised to protect children's rights. All the rights are connected, they are all equally important and they cannot be taken away from children.

GENERAL STATEMENT

Since 2010, when the Government first published the Prevent Strategy, there has been an awareness of the specific need to safeguard children, young people and families from violent extremism. There have been several occasions nationally in which extremist groups have attempted to radicalise vulnerable children and young people to hold extreme views including views justifying political, religious, sexist or racist violence, or to steer them into a rigid and narrow ideology that is intolerant of diversity and leaves them vulnerable to future radicalisation.

LINKS TO OTHER POLICIES

Meadows First School Preventing Extremism and Radicalisation Policy links to the following School policies;

- Child Protection and Safeguarding
- Equality Policy
- Anti-bullying Policy
- Positive Behaviour Management Policy
- E-Safety Policy.

The following national guidelines should also be read when working with this policy

- [Keeping Children Safe in Education DfE 2023](#)
- [Working Together to Safeguard Children](#)
- [Promoting British Values through SMSC](#)
- Improving SMSC development of pupils in independent schools
- [Prevent duty guidelines](#)

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.

RISK

The current threat from terrorism in the United Kingdom may include the exploitation of vulnerable people, to involve them in terrorism or in activity in support of terrorism. The normalisation of extreme views may also make children and young people vulnerable to future manipulation and exploitation. Meadows First School is clear that this exploitation and radicalisation should be viewed as a safeguarding concern.

RISK REDUCTION

The Head, Governors and the Designated Safeguarding Person will assess the level of risk within the school and put actions in place to reduce that risk. Risk assessment may include consideration of the school's RE curriculum, SEND policy, assembly themes, anti-bullying policy and other issues specific to the schools profile and community. The Office for Security & Counter Terrorism works to counter the threat from terrorism and their work is detailed in the counter terrorism strategy CONTEST.

This strategy is based on four areas of work:

- Pursue - To stop terrorist attacks
- Prevent - To stop people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism
- Protect - To strengthen our protection against a terrorist attack
- Prepare - To mitigate the impact of a terrorist attack

Our role, as a school, is outlined more specifically in the DCSF document 'Learning together to be safe: A toolkit to help schools contribute to the prevention of violent extremism.

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 increasing 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/cause.
- Communications with others that suggests identification with a group, cause or ideology.
- Using insulting to derogatory names for another group.
- Increase in prejudice-related incidents committed by that person – these may include;
 - 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 co-operate
 - attempts to recruit to prejudice-related organisations
 - condoning or supporting violence towards others.
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PROCEDURES FOR REFERRALS

Although serious incidents involving radicalisation have not occurred at Meadows First School to date, it is important for us to be constantly vigilant and remain fully informed about the issues which affect the local area, city and society in which we teach. Staff are reminded to suspend any 'professional disbelief' that instances of radicalisation 'could not happen here' and to be 'professionally inquisitive' where concerns arise, referring any concerns through the appropriate channels. (See appendix 1 – Dealing with referrals)

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 head teacher is a Prevent Trainer and all staff have had appropriate training. Members of the Senior Leadership Team (SLT) are trained as Designated Leaders for Child Protection and Safeguarding and will deal swiftly with any

referrals made by staff or with concerns reported by staff. Head Teacher 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 (see appendix 1 – Dealing with referrals)

GOVERNORS, LEADERS AND STAFF

The Head Teacher will make the referrals relating to extremism and radicalisation. In the unlikely event that the Head Teacher is not available, SLT will know the channels by which to make 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. The SLT will work in conjunction with the Head Teacher and external agencies to decide the best course of action to address concerns which arise.

THE ROLE OF THE CURRICULUM

Our curriculum 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 the school. It is recognised that children with low aspirations are 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 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, as outlined in the e-safety policy.

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. All staff in school receive 'PREVENT' training annually.

VISITORS AND THE USE OF SCHOOL PREMISES

If any member of staff wishes to invite a visitor in the school, this must be agreed by the Head Teacher. All visitors will 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, are given the child protection and safeguarding guidance and be made aware of whom to report any concerns which they may experience.

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;

<https://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2022-11/Prevention of Extremism and Radicalisation Referral Process 2022 02 21.pdf>

- All incidents of prejudicial behaviour will be reported directly to the SLT or the Head Teacher.
- All incidents will be fully investigated and recorded in line with the Positive Behaviour 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 a further referral. A note of this meeting is kept alongside the initial referral in the Safeguarding folder.
- The Head Teacher will 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 deemed necessary, serious incidents will be discussed and referred WEST MERCIA PREVENT TEAM
- In the event of a referral relating to serious concerns about potential radicalisation or extremism, prevent@warickshireandwestmercia.pnn.policw.uk 01386 591835 01386 591816 01386 591825

Additional materials

- Prevent strategy, GOV.UK – Home Office (Adobe pdf file)
https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/97976/preventstrategy-review.pdf
- 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.
- Promoting British Values through SMSC
- Improving SMSC development of pupils in independent schools
- Prevent duty guidelines