



## **Preventing Extremism and Radicalisation Safeguarding Policy**

**November 2018  
(Review July 2020)**

## **Introduction**

Our Lady and St Philip Neri RC Primary School is committed to providing a secure environment for its pupils, where they feel safe and are kept safe. All adults at Our Lady and St Philip Neri RC Primary School recognise that safeguarding is everyone's responsibility irrespective of the role they undertake or whether their role has direct contact or responsibility for children or not.

In adhering to this policy, and the procedures therein, staff and visitors contribute to Our Lady and St Philip Neri RC Primary School's delivery of the outcomes to all children, as set out in s10 (2) of the Children Act 2004<sup>1</sup>. This Preventing Extremism and Radicalisation Safeguarding Policy is one element within our overall school arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children in line with our statutory duties set out at s175 of the Education Act 2002.

Our school's Preventing Extremism and Radicalisation Safeguarding Policy also draws upon the guidance contained in the "London Child Protection Procedures" and DfE Guidance "Keeping Children Safe in Education, 2014"; and specifically DCSF Resources "Learning Together to be Safe", "Prevent: Resources Guide", "Tackling Extremism in the UK", DfE's "Teaching Approaches that help Build Resilience to Extremism among Young People" and Peter Clarke's Report of July 2014.

## **School Ethos and Practice**

When operating this policy Our Lady and St Philip Neri Primary School uses the following accepted Governmental definition of extremism which is:

*'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; and/or calls for the death of members of our armed forces, whether in this country or overseas'.*

There is no place for extremist views of any kind in our school, whether from internal sources – pupils, staff or governors, or external sources - school community, external agencies or individuals. Our pupils see our school as a safe place where they can explore controversial issues safely and where our teachers encourage and facilitate this – we have a duty to ensure this happens.

As a school we recognise that extremism and exposure to extremist materials and influences can lead to poor outcomes for children and so should be addressed as a safeguarding concern as set out in this policy. We also recognise that if we fail to challenge extremist views we are failing to protect our pupils.

Extremists of all persuasions aim to develop destructive relationships between different communities by promoting division, fear and mistrust of others based on ignorance or prejudice and thereby limiting the life chances of young people. Education is a powerful weapon against this; equipping young people with the knowledge, skills and critical thinking, to challenge and debate in an informed way.

Therefore, at Our Lady and St Philip Neri RC Primary School we provide a broad and balanced curriculum, delivered by skilled professionals, so that our pupils are enriched, understand and become tolerant of difference and diversity and also to ensure that they thrive, feel valued and not marginalized.

Furthermore we are aware that young people can be exposed to extremist influences or prejudiced views from an early age which emanate from a variety of sources and media, including via the internet and, at times, pupils may themselves reflect or display views that may be discriminatory, prejudiced or extremist, including using derogatory language.

Any prejudice, discrimination or extremist views, including derogatory language, displayed by pupils or staff is always challenged and where appropriate dealt with in line with our Behaviour and Policy for pupils and the Code of Conduct for staff.

Where misconduct by a teacher is proven the matter will be referred to the National College for Teaching and Leadership for their consideration as to whether to a Prohibition Order is warranted.

*<sup>1</sup> the physical, mental health and emotional well-being of children; the protection of children from harm and neglect; the education, training and recreation of children; the contribution made by them to society; and their social and economic well-being.*

As part of wider safeguarding responsibilities school staff are 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 pupils have not actively sought these out
- graffiti symbols, writing or art work promoting extremist messages or images
- pupils accessing extremist material online, including through social networking sites
- parental reports of changes in behaviour, friendship or actions and requests for assistance
- partner schools, local authority services, and police reports of issues affecting pupils in other schools or settings
- pupils voicing opinions drawn from extremist ideologies and narratives
- 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, homophobia, race, colour or culture
- attempts to impose extremist views or practices on others
- Anti-Western or Anti-British views

Our school closely follows any locally agreed procedure as set out by the Local Authority and Lewisham's Safeguarding Children Board's agreed processes and criteria for safeguarding individuals vulnerable to extremism and radicalisation.

## Teaching Approaches

All members of staff strive to eradicate the myths and assumptions that can lead to some young people becoming alienated and disempowered, especially where the narrow approaches children may experience elsewhere may make it harder for them to challenge or question these radical influences. In our school this is achieved by good teaching, primarily via PSHE; but also by adopting the methods outlined in the Government's guidance 'Teaching approaches that help build resilience to extremism among young people' DfE 2011.

We ensure that all of our teaching approaches help our pupils build resilience to extremism and give pupils a positive sense of identity through the development of critical thinking skills. We ensure that all of our staff are equipped to recognise extremism and are skilled and confident enough to challenge it.

We are flexible enough to adapt our teaching approaches, as appropriate, so as to address specific issues so as to become even more relevant to the current issues of extremism and radicalisation. In doing so we apply the 'key ingredients' for success as set out in the Table at Page 15 of that document, see Appendix A, and we apply the methodologies set out in that document following the three broad categories of:

- making a connection with young people through good [teaching] design and a pupil centered approach
- facilitating a 'safe space' for dialogue, and
- equipping our pupils with the appropriate skills, knowledge, understanding and awareness for resilience.

Therefore this approach is embedded within the ethos of our school so that pupils know and understand what safe and acceptable behaviour is in the context of extremism and radicalisation. This works in conjunction with our school's approach to the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils as defined in OfSTED's School Inspection Handbook and includes the sound use of assemblies and liturgies to help further promote this rounded development of our pupils.

Our goal is to build mutual respect and understanding and to promote the use of dialogue not violence as a form of conflict resolution. We achieve this by using a curriculum that includes:

- discussions and lessons on how to be a good citizen
- PSHE programmes
- open discussion and debate
- work on respecting others and a restorative approach addressed throughout curriculum, especially in religious Education and PSHE

We also work with local partners, families and communities in our efforts to ensure that we understand and embrace our local context and values in challenging extremist views and assist in the broadening of our pupil's experiences and horizons. We help support pupils who may be vulnerable to such influences as part of our wider safeguarding responsibilities and where we believe a pupil is being directly affected by extremist materials or

influences we ensure that that pupil is offered mentoring. Additionally in such instances our school can seek external support from the Local Authority and/or local partnership structures working to prevent extremism.

At OLSPN RC Primary School we promote the values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, mutual respect and tolerance for those with different faiths and beliefs. We teach and encourage pupils to respect one another and to respect and tolerate difference, especially those of a different faith or no faith. It is indeed our most fundamental responsibility to keep our pupils safe and prepare them for life in modern multi-cultural Britain and globally.

## **Use of External Agencies and Speakers**

At OLSPN RC Primary School we encourage the use of external agencies or speakers to enrich the experiences of our pupils, however we positively vet those external agencies, individuals or speakers who we engage to provide such learning opportunities or experiences for our pupils. To do this we can use the Lambeth Toolkit for Managing the Work of External Agencies.

Such vetting is to ensure that we do not unwittingly use agencies that contradict each other with their messages or that are inconsistent with, or are in complete opposition to, the school's values and ethos. We must be aware that in some instances the work of external agencies may not directly be connected with the rest of the school curriculum so we need to ensure that this work is of benefit to pupils.

Our school assesses the suitability and effectiveness of input from external agencies or individuals to ensure that:

- any messages communicated to pupils are consistent with the ethos of the school and do not marginalise any communities, groups or individuals
- any messages do not seek to glorify criminal activity or violent extremism or seek to radicalise pupils through extreme or narrow views of faith, religion or culture or other ideologies
- activities are properly embedded in the curriculum and clearly mapped to schemes of work to avoid contradictory messages or duplication.
- activities are matched to the needs of pupils
- activities are carefully evaluated by schools to ensure that they are effective

We recognise, however, that the ethos of our school is to encourage pupils to understand opposing views and ideologies, appropriate to their age, understanding and abilities, and to be able to actively engage with them in informed debate, and we may use external agencies or speakers to facilitate and support this.

Therefore by delivering a broad and balanced curriculum, augmented by the use of external sources where appropriate, we strive to ensure our pupils recognise risk and build resilience to manage any such risk themselves where appropriate to their age and ability but also to help pupils develop the critical thinking skills needed to engage in informed debate.

## **Whistle Blowing**

Where there are concerns of extremism or radicalisation Pupils and Staff are encouraged to make use of our internal systems to Whistle Blow or raise any issue in confidence.

Please see our Whistle blowing Policy for further information.

## **Child Protection**

Please refer to our Child Protection Policy for more information on our Child Protection duties.

Members of staff at OLSPN RC Primary School are alert to the fact that whilst Extremism and Radicalisation is broadly a safeguarding issue there may be some instances where a child or children may be at direct risk of harm or neglect. For example; this could be due to a child displaying risky behaviours in terms of the activities they are involved in or the groups they are associated with or staff may be aware of information about a child's family that may equally place a child at risk of harm. (These examples are for illustration and are not definitive or exhaustive)

Therefore all adults working in OLSPN RC Primary School (including visiting staff, volunteers' contractors, and students on placement) are required to report instances where they believe a child may be at risk of harm or neglect to the Designated Safeguarding Lead who is the Headteacher.

In OLSPN's RC Primary School our Child Protection reporting arrangements are set out fully in our Child Protection Policy and are summarised here, as follows;

- Inform the DSL immediately of any concern you have regarding the safety and well being of a child
- In the DSL's absence or their unavailability, immediately inform the deputy DSL of any concern you have regarding the safety and well being of a child
- You will be asked to complete a Safeguarding Concern Form (Buff form) available from the school office room and the staffroom
- You must complete this form as soon as possible and hand it the DSL (or the deputy DSL) as soon as possible and before the end of the school day / leaving for home

### **Role of the Designated Safeguarding Lead**

**The Designated Safeguarding Lead is: Matthew Ringham**

**The Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead is:** The Deputy Headteacher, Rachel Ronan

**The Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead is:** The Assistant Headteacher, Andrew Barber (in Mrs Ronan's absence)

The Designated Safeguarding Lead works in line with the responsibilities as set out at Annex B of the DfE Guidance 'Keeping Children Safe in Education'.

The Designated Safeguarding Lead is the focus person and local 'expert' for school staff, and others, who may have concerns about an individual child's safety or well-being and is the first point of contact for external agencies

In line with Recommendation 2 of Peter Clarke's Report; In OLSPN RC Primary School the role of the Designated Safeguarding Lead will be extended, at the appropriate time, to include the responsibilities of the PREVENT strand of the Government's counter-terrorism strategy.

## **Training**

Whole school in-service training on Safeguarding and Child Protection is organised for staff and governors at least every three years and complies with the prevailing arrangements agreed by the Local Authority and Lambeth's Safeguarding Children Board and does, in part, include training on extremism and radicalisation and its safeguarding implications.

The Designated Safeguarding Lead attends Lewisham training courses as necessary and the appropriate inter-agency training organised by the Lewisham's Safeguarding Children Board at least every two years, again this includes training on extremism and radicalisation and its safeguarding implications.

## **Recruitment**

The arrangements for recruiting all staff, permanent and volunteers, to our school closely follows Lewisham's guidance for 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 apply safer recruitment best practice principles and sound employment practice in general and in doing so deny opportunities for inappropriate recruitment or advancement.

We are 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 aim to minimise the opportunities for extremist views to prevail.

## **Role of Governing Body**

The Governing Body of our School undertakes 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 of our school fully supports the ethos and values of our school and supports the school in tackling extremism and radicalisation.

In line with Recommendation 13 of Peter Clarke's report details of our Governing Body is published on our school website to promote transparency.

In line with the provisions set out in the DfE guidance 'Keeping Children Safe in Education, 2014' the governing body regularly challenge the school's senior management team on the delivery of this policy and monitor its effectiveness.

Governors review this policy regularly annually and may amend and adopt it outside of this timeframe in accordance with any new legislation or guidance or in response to any quality assurance recommendations pertaining to the delivery of this policy and the overall safeguarding arrangements made.

## **Policy Adoption, Monitoring and Review**

This policy was considered and adopted by the Governing body in line with their overall duty to safeguard and promote the welfare of children as set out in the DfE guidance 'Keeping Children Safe in Education'

Parents are issued with a hard copy of this policy on request. This policy is also available to parents via the school's website.

In OLSPN's RC Primary School the Headteacher actively evaluates the effectiveness of this policy by monitoring the staff group's understanding and application of the procedures within this policy as their overall duty to safeguard children.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Chair of Governors

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Headteacher

## Appendix A:

'Key Ingredients' for successful teaching in the context of 'push' and 'pull' factors.

PUSH FACTORS – factors that push an individual/make an individual vulnerable to extremist messages	KEY INGREDIENTS	PULL FACTORS – Factors that draw young people into extremist messages
<p>Lack of excitement; frustration</p> <p>Lack of sense of achievement – seen as significant. 'lack of purpose' // Confidence in the future, life goals.</p> <p>Lack of an outlet for views.</p> <p>Gaps in knowledge or understanding of Islam – both young people and their parents</p> <p>Sense of injustice</p> <p>Actual or perceived humiliating experiences. (including bullying, racial discrimination as well as perceived humiliating experiences. Perhaps linked closely to sense of injustice)</p> <p><i>Exclusion – lack of belonging to peer or community networks, associations etc.</i></p>	<p><b>Teacher confidence</b> in many cases it will be the use of existing teaching skills and methods which may well be the most effective approach. From prison settings, staff who are more confident in their abilities tend to perform much better even though they have not received specialist training</p> <p><b>Teacher attitudes and behaviours</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Willingness to admit you don't know</li> <li>•Acknowledging controversial issues exist</li> <li>•Awareness that I have a role to play</li> <li>•Willingness to turn to others for help when you don't know about something</li> </ul> <p><b>Specific knowledge:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Understanding other cultures and religions as well as alternative values and beliefs (whilst being careful to avoid 'othering')</li> <li>•Knowledge of an alternative values framework</li> </ul> <p><b>Teaching practice/pedagogy:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Boosting critical thinking (seeing through propaganda, singular messages etc)</li> <li>•Helping to see multiple perspectives</li> <li>•Using multiple resources/methods</li> <li>•Embedding or sustaining dialogue following specialist interventions.</li> <li>•Enabling students to tackle difficult issues.</li> <li>•Linking school work to the wider community</li> <li>•Drawing evidence from across the curriculum</li> <li>•Developing in young people a sense of multiple identities. help young people become aware of, and comfortable with, multiple personal identity</li> </ul>	<p>Charismatic/confident individuals (recruiters).</p> <p>Networks/sense of belonging</p> <p>Broader community views which enable or do not oppose extremism.</p> <p>Persuasive, clear messages. Exploiting knowledge gaps</p>
<p><b>Below the line: factors that are out of scope of this study</b></p> <p>Disruptive home life.</p> 	<p>Other factors</p> <p>Support from senior leaders</p> <p>Pupil support processes</p> 	<p>Sense of dignity and importance and loyalty</p> <p>Exciting (non-teaching) activities.</p> <p>Sense of purpose in life</p> 