

# Oaks Park High School

**Title of Policy:** Preventing Radicalisation

**Person responsible:** K Wyre

**Date for review:** Annually

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The Preventing Radicalisation Policy is part of our commitment to keeping our students safe. Since the Education and Inspections Act 2006, schools have a duty to promote community cohesion. Over the last few years, global events have led to a growth of extremist viewpoints, including advocacy of violent extremism.

Schools have an important part to play in both educating children and young people about extremism and recognising when students start to become radicalised. In March 2015, new statutory duties were placed on schools by the Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015 to prevent children being drawn into extremism.

Safeguarding children from all risks of harm is an important part of a school's work and protecting them from extremism is one aspect of that.

## **Ethos**

At Oaks Park High School we ensure that through our vision, values, relationships and teaching we promote tolerance and respect for all cultures, faiths and lifestyles. The Senior Management Team also ensures that this ethos is reflected and implemented effectively through school policy and practice and there are effective safeguarding policies in place to safeguard and promote the welfare of students.

We have a duty to prepare our students for life in modern Britain and to keep them safe. Everyone at Oaks Park High School has the right to learn and work in safety. Bullying of any kind is not tolerated and derogatory language and behaviour towards others will be challenged.

## **Statutory Duties**

The duty to prevent children and young people being radicalised is set out in the following documents:

- Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015
- Keeping Children Safe in Education 2015
- Prevent Duty Guidance 2015
- Working Together to Safeguard Children 2015

## **Non-statutory Guidance**

- Promoting fundamental British values as part of SMSC in schools: DfE Departmental advice for maintained schools 2014.

## **Related Safeguarding Policies**

- E-Safety and Internet use Policy
- Behaviour Policy
- Child Protection Policy
- Equality Opportunities Policy
- Code of Conduct and Personal Behaviour Policy
- Curriculum Policy
- Whistle-blowing Policy

## **Definitions**

**Extremism** is defined in the 2011 Prevent strategy 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. We also include in our definition of extremism calls for the death of members of our armed forces, whether in this country or overseas.

**Radicalisation** refers to the process by which a person comes to support terrorism and all extremist ideologies associated with terrorist groups.

### **British Values are:**

- Democracy
- The rule of law
- Individual liberty
- Mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs.

## **Roles and Responsibilities**

### **Role of the Senior Management Team**

It is the role of the Senior Management Team to ensure that the school meets its statutory duties in preventing radicalisation.

The school has a nominated person who will liaise with the Headteacher and other staff on issues around protecting students from radicalisation.

### **Role of the Headteacher**

It is the role of the Headteacher to:

- ensure that the school and its staff respond to preventing radicalisation on a day-to-day basis;
- ensure that the school's curriculum addresses the issues involved in radicalisation;
- ensure that staff conduct is consistent with preventing radicalisation.

### **Role of Designated Anti-Radicalisation Lead**

It is the role of the designated Safeguarding Lead to:

- ensure that staff understand the issues of radicalisation; are able to recognise the signs of vulnerability or radicalisation and know how to refer their concerns;
- receive safeguarding concerns about students who may be vulnerable to the risk of radicalisation or are showing signs of radicalisation;
- make referrals to appropriate agencies with regard to concerns about radicalisation;
- liaise with partners, including the local authority and the police;
- report to the school on these matters.

### **Role of Staff**

It is the role of all staff to understand the issues of radicalisation; be able to recognise the signs of vulnerability or radicalisation and know how to refer their concerns.

## **Curriculum**

Oaks Park High School is committed to ensuring that all students are offered a broad and balanced curriculum to prepare them for life in modern Britain. Our students are encouraged to be inquisitive learners who are open to new experiences and tolerant of others. Our values support the development of the whole child as a reflective learner within a safe, respectful learning environment. Teaching the school's core values alongside fundamental British values supports quality teaching and learning, whilst making a positive contribution to the development of a fair, just and civil society.

## **Internet Safety**

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 at our school block inappropriate content, including extremism. Where staff, students or visitors find unblocked extremist content, they must report this to a senior member of staff.

We are aware that students have access to unfiltered internet when using their mobile phones and staff are alert to the need for vigilance in these circumstances.

The e-Safety and Internet User Policy refers to preventing radicalisation and related extremist content. Students and staff know how to report internet content that is inappropriate or of concern.

## **Staff Training**

Staff will be given training to help them understand the issues of radicalisation; recognise the signs of vulnerability or radicalisation and know how to refer their concerns. This information also forms part of annual safeguarding training.

## **Safer Recruitment**

Oaks Park High School strives to ensure that appropriate staff are appointed. Our recruitment procedures are rigorous and we follow the statutory guidance published in Part 3 of **Keeping Children Safe in Education 2015**. Vetting and barring checks are undertaken on relevant people, including volunteers.

## **Visitors**

Visitors to the school are made aware of our Safeguarding and Child Protection policies on arrival and receive information on what to do if they are concerned about any aspect of child welfare.

We undertake due diligence in ensuring that visiting speakers are suitable for the task in hand. Speakers will be supervised at all times and only be allowed to speak to students when a member of staff is present.

Staff must not invite speakers into school without first obtaining permission from the Headteacher.

## **Signs of Vulnerability**

There are no known definitive indicators that a young person is vulnerable to radicalisation; however there are number of signs that increase the risk. Signs of vulnerability include:

- underachievement;
- possession of extremist literature;
- poverty;
- social exclusion;
- traumatic events;
- global or national events;
- religious conversion;
- change in behaviour;
- extremist influences;
- conflict with family over lifestyle;
- confused identity;
- victim or witness to race or hate crimes;
- rejection by peers, family, social groups or faith.

## **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 attending extremist events or rallies outside school;
- 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 (there are also very powerful narratives, programmes and networks that young people can encounter online, therefore involvement with particular groups may not necessarily be apparent);
- secretive behaviour;
- online searches or sharing extremist messages or social profiles;
- intolerance of difference including faith, culture, gender, race or sexuality;
- graffiti, artwork 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.

## **Referral Process**

Staff and visitors to the school **must** refer all concerns regarding students who show signs of vulnerability or radicalisation to the **Designated Safeguarding Lead** using the usual methods for reporting other safeguarding concerns.

When there are significant concerns about a student, the Designated Safeguarding Lead, in liaison with the Headteacher, will make a referral to the appropriate body.

## **Monitoring and Review**

This policy will be monitored and reviewed annually by receipt of a report from the Designated Safeguarding Lead.