

Prevent Policy

Bonneygrove and Millbrook Primary School Federation



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Approved by:	Shen Hasekilerden (Chair of Governors) Jane Acreman (Vice Chair of Governors)



BONNEYGROVE AND MILLBROOK PRIMARY SCHOOL FEDERATION

Prevent Policy

Preventing Extremism and Radicalisation Policy Statement

Introduction

Bonneygrove and Millbrook Primary School Federation is committed to providing a secure environment for pupils, where children feel safe and are kept safe, in accordance with our values of 'Safe, Kind and Brilliant'. All adults in our 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 procedures, staff and visitors will contribute to our school's delivery of the outcomes to all children, as set out in s10 (2) of the Children Act 2004. This Preventing Extremism and Radicalisation Safeguarding Policy Statement 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 (s157 of the Education Act 2002.)

Our school's Preventing Extremism and Radicalisation Safeguarding Policy Statement also draws on:

- DfE Guidance "Keeping Children Safe in Education, 2024"

We aim for all pupils, parents/carers and staff, to feel safe and confident when attending our school. This is achieved through the development of inclusive cultures, policies and practices. We take account of disability, race and gender to create a secure and accepting community where everyone feels valued. We aim to provide an enriching and creative learning experience for all pupils, in which we broaden the horizons of our children with experiences, knowledge and skills that equip them for life in school, in the community and prepares them for their next stage of education. We respond to the diversity of need through our commitment to equality: overcoming potential barriers to learning and setting suitable personal targets. We have high expectations of all children and believe all should reach their full potential, recognising personal strengths and celebrating the achievement of themselves and others; both within the school and wider community.

School Ethos and Practice

When operating this policy we use 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'.

The Revised Government Prevent Duty Guidance can be viewed at:

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

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. We therefore will 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.

Bonneygrove and Millbrook Primary School Federation's balanced approach is exemplified by our Jigsaw PSHE programme.

We are also aware that young people can be exposed to extremist influences or prejudiced views from an early age that 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 will always be challenged and where appropriate dealt with in line with our Behaviour Policy for pupils and the Code of Conduct for Staff.

As part of wider safeguarding responsibilities school staff will be 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 will closely follow any locally agreed procedure as set out by the Local Authority and/or our Safeguarding Policy's agreed processes and criteria for safeguarding individuals vulnerable to extremism and radicalisation. In the event of concerns about a person becoming radicalised, the Hertfordshire Children Services Consultation HUB for child protection are now able to sign post anyone with concerns to the Prevent Programme Manager to discuss the case where it is felt that the concerns evidence a likely risk of harm. They will be able to support with a referral to the Prevent Police team and Hertfordshire's Channel Programme.

Where there are clear significant or immediate safeguarding concerns, it is still expected that schools' DSLs refer to the Prevent Police and/or Children's Services immediately via the normal reporting routes using the Prevent national referral form. This can be found at <https://thegrid.org.uk/safeguarding-and-child-protection/prevent-in-education>

Teaching Approaches

We will all 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. At Bonneygrove, this will be achieved by good teaching, primarily via our Jigsaw PSHE curriculum.

We will 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 skill. We will ensure that all of our staff are equipped to recognise extremism and are skilled and confident enough to challenge it. We will be 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 through assemblies or circle time activities. This approach will be 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.

Parental and Community Involvement

We will also work with local partners, families and communities in our efforts to ensure our school understands and embraces our local context and values in challenging extremist views and to assist in the broadening of our pupil's experiences and horizons.

Use of External Agencies and Speakers

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 all pupils. Our school will therefore assess the suitability and effectiveness of input from any external agencies or individuals to ensure that:

- All messages communicated to pupils are consistent with the ethos of the school and do not marginalise any communities, groups or individuals
- All activities are properly embedded in the curriculum and clearly mapped to schemes of work and matched to the needs of pupils

By delivering a broad and balanced curriculum, augmented by the use of external sources where appropriate, we will 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 will be encouraged to make use of our internal systems to Whistle Blow or raise any issue in confidence. Please refer to School Whistle Blowing Policy.

Child Protection

Please refer to our Child Protection Policy for the full procedural framework on our Child Protection duties. Staff at our school will be 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 at our school (including visiting staff, volunteers' contractors, and students on placement) are required to report any concerns they may have or instances where they believe a child may be at risk of harm or neglect, to the Designated Safeguarding Lead or Head of School.

Role of the Designated Safeguarding Lead

The Designated Safeguarding Lead is The Executive Headteacher – Craig Hamilton

The Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads are: Haylely Stevens, Jocelyn Hurry, Emine Gursoy

The Designated Safeguarding Lead works in line with the responsibilities as set out in the DfE Statutory Guidance 'Keeping Children Safe in Education, 2023'.

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. At Bonneygrove, 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 will be organised for staff and governors and will comply with the prevailing arrangements agreed by the Local Authority and will, in part, include training on extremism and radicalisation and its safeguarding implications. The Designated Safeguarding Lead will attend training courses as necessary and the appropriate inter-agency training at least every three years, again this will include training on extremism and radicalisation and its safeguarding implications.

Recruitment

The arrangements for recruiting all staff, permanent and volunteers, to our school will follow LA 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 will apply safer recruitment best practice principles and sound employment practice in general and in doing so will deny opportunities for inappropriate recruitment or advancement. We will be alert to the possibility that persons may seek to gain positions within our school so as to unduly influence our school's 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 on-going culture of vigilance within our school and staff team, we will minimise the opportunities for extremist views to prevail.

Role of Governing Body

The Governing Body of our School will undertake 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 will support the ethos and values of our school and will support the school in tackling extremism and radicalisation. The Governing Body will challenge the school's senior leadership team on the delivery of this policy and monitor its effectiveness. Governors will review this policy regularly (every two years) 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

Parents will be issued with a hard copy of this policy on request. This policy will also be made available to parents via the school website.

The Head of School will actively evaluate 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.