

Shadsworth Infant School



Prevent Policy

Created: January 2025
Review: January 2027

Shadsworth Infant School

Prevent Policy

Overview

Shadsworth Infant School takes seriously its duty contained in the Counter Terrorism and Security Act (2015), to prevent pupils and those working in school from being radicalised or drawn into extremism. This policy part of our commitment to keeping children safe. We ensure that through our school vision, rules and British Values curriculum we promote tolerance and respect for all cultures, faiths and lifestyles.

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.

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

British Values are democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect for and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs and for those without faith.

Roles and Responsibilities

Role of the Governing Body

It is the role of the governing body to ensure that the school meets its statutory duties with regard to preventing radicalisation. The governing body has a nominated person; our Safeguarding Governor, who will liaise with the Headteacher and other staff about issues to do with protecting children from radicalisation.

Role of the Head of School

It is the role of the Head of School:

- 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 the Prevent Lead – E Varey

It is the role of the prevent 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 children and young people 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 governing body on these matters.

Role of Staff

It is the role of staff to understand the issues of radicalisation and know how to refer their concerns.

Curriculum

We are committed to ensuring that our pupils are offered a broad and balanced curriculum that aims to prepare them for life in modern Britain. We encourage our pupils to celebrate differences and to be tolerant of others.

Our values support the development of the whole child as a reflective learner within a calm, caring, happy and purposeful atmosphere. Teaching the schools core values alongside the fundamental British values supports quality teaching and learning, whilst making a positive contribution to the development of a fair, just and civil society.

Picture News

Our classes have a weekly class assembly using Picture News packs. Picture News helps us effectively explain British Values to our infant pupils through real world news topics. Each week the news topic connects to and explains a British Value. By exploring and discussing topical issues, our pupils also exercise British Values by learning to respect and tolerate the views of people around them.

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 in our school blocks inappropriate content, including extremist content. Pupils are taught about e-safety through our computing curriculum, assemblies and during national events such as Safer Internet Day.

Staff Training

Staff will be given prevent training every two years to help them understand the issues of radicalisation so that they are able to recognise the signs of vulnerability or radicalisation and know how to refer their concerns.

Safer Recruitment

We ensure that the staff we appoint to the school are suitable, our recruitment procedures are rigorous and we follow the statutory guidance published in part 3 of Keeping Children Safe in Education (2018). DBS checks are undertaken on relevant people, including governors and volunteers.

Visitors

Visitors to the school are made aware of our safeguarding and child protection policies and are given information about what to do if they are concerned about any aspect of child welfare. Visitors are asked to sign in and are identified by a visitor badge.

Signs of Vulnerability

There are no known definitive indicators that a young person is vulnerable to radicalisation, but there are a number of signs that together increase the risk.

Signs of vulnerability include:

- underachievement
- being in 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 being at extremist events or rallies
- 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 (but there are also very powerful narratives, programs and networks that young people can come across online so involvement with particular groups may not be apparent)
- secretive behaviour
- online searching or sharing extremist messages or social profiles
- intolerance of difference, including faith, culture, gender, race or sexuality
- graffiti, art work 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 about children and young people who show signs of vulnerability or radicalisation must be passed to the Designated Safeguarding Lead, using the usual methods for reporting other safeguarding concerns.

When there are significant concerns about a pupil the Designated Safeguarding Lead in liaison with the head teacher will make a referral to the Prevent Team using the Channel Referral Process.

Outcomes

We will work in partnership with parents and the wider community to prevent pupils from being radicalised or drawn into extremism. The head teacher and Governing Body will assess the impact of this policy and monitor its operation. It should be viewed in conjunction with the school's other policies especially the e-safety Policy, Safeguarding Policy, Behaviour Policy and Safer Recruitment policy.