



## **Cleeve Prior CE Primary School**

A Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School

## **Prevent' Anti-radicalisation policy**

Reviewed September 2024

**Cleeve Prior CE Primary School** is fully committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all the pupils and staff, including protecting them from the risks associated with extremism and radicalisation of any form. It is fully committed to promoting respect, tolerance and diversity for all, regardless of their culture or religion and for preparing pupils for the opportunities, responsibilities and experience of life.

The school values freedom of speech and the expression of beliefs/ideology as fundamental rights underpinning our society's values. Both students and teachers have the right to speak freely and voice their opinions. However, freedom comes with responsibility and free speech that is designed to manipulate the vulnerable or that leads to violence and harm of others goes against the moral principles in which freedom of speech is valued. Free speech is not an unqualified privilege; it is subject to laws and policies governing equality, human rights, community safety and community cohesion.

We believe that everyone working for us has a duty to recognise that safeguarding against radicalisation and extremism is no different to safeguarding against any other vulnerability, such as drugs or alcohol, in today's society. We recognise the challenges posed to pupils from a number of different sources including Al Qaida influenced groups, dissident Irish Republican terrorist groups and UK-based extremist groups including racists or fascist organisations and far-right extremist groups which all pose a threat to public order and British multi-cultural way of life.

Everyone working in our school will create an environment of openness and tolerance and support pupils to have a balanced view of the world; including ensuring pupils do not become phobic against certain groups or religions. They have a duty to ensure the fair treatment for all regardless of age, gender, race, sexual orientation, ability and disability. Staff are expected to suspend any 'professional disbelief' that instances of radicalisation 'could not happen here' and be aware that radicalisation and extremism can occur in all religions, cultures and communities.

Our 'Prevent' anti-Radicalisation Policy draws upon DfE Guidance "Keeping Children Safe in Education, 2014" and HM Government document "Prevent Strategy: A guide for local partners in England".

#### DEFINITIONS AND INDICATORS

Extremism is defined as the holding of extreme political or religious views, to include; 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.

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.

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 or 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*

## SCHOOL ETHOS AND PRACTICE

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 their 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, we 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 are not marginalized.

All members of staff should therefore strive to equip pupils with confidence, self-belief, respect and tolerance as well as setting high standards and expectations for themselves.

Staff must be vigilant to signs of pupils who may have been subjected to radical or extremist views and must report any concerns immediately to the Head of School (DSL) or DDSL.

The school will provide a broad and balanced curriculum which promotes the spiritual, moral and cultural development of all pupils. Pupils should be encouraged to share their views and recognise that they are entitled to have their own beliefs which should not be used to influence others.

Radicalisation and extremism should not be considered in isolation but an awareness should be embedded throughout the school in:

- E-safety – pupils should be taught the importance of staying safe online, recognising people are not always who they say they are and be given the skills to protect themselves from inappropriate material on-line.
- Anti-bullying and behaviour policies - for both adults and children.
- Safeguarding and Child Protection policies and procedures.
- Equality schemes and policies.
- PSHE / Religious Education lessons.
- Ensuring a balanced representation of views is presented during discussions and lessons, particularly if the discussions is of a political nature.
- Ensuring support, advice and training is available to staff to enable them to deal with concerns surrounding radicalisation and extremism.

## RECOGNISING THE INDICATORS OF VULNERABILITY TO RADICALISATION

There is no such thing as a “typical extremist”: those who become involved in extremist actions come from a range of backgrounds and experiences, and most individuals, even those who hold radical views, do not become involved in violent extremist activity.

Pupils may become susceptible to radicalisation through a range of social, personal and environmental factors – it is known that violent extremists exploit vulnerabilities in individuals to drive a wedge between them and their families and communities. It is vital that school staff are able to recognise those vulnerabilities.

Indicators of vulnerability include:

- Identity Crisis – the student/pupil is distanced from their cultural/religious heritage and experiences discomfort about their place in society.
- Personal Crisis – the student/pupil may be experiencing family tensions; a sense of isolation; and low self esteem; they may dissociate from their existing friendship group and become involved with a new and different group of friends; they may be searching for answers to questions about identity, faith and belonging.
- Personal Circumstances – migration; local community tensions; and events affecting the student/pupils country or region of origin may contribute to a sense of grievance that is triggered by personal experience of racism or discrimination or aspects of Government policy.
- Unmet Aspirations – the student/pupil may have perceptions of injustice; a feeling of failure; rejection of civic life.
- Experience of Criminality – which may include involvement with criminal groups, imprisonment, and poor resettlement/reintegration.
- Special Educational Need – students/pupils may experience difficulties with social interaction, empathy with others, understanding the consequences of their actions and awareness of the motivations of others.

Critical risk factors could include:

- Being in contact with extremist recruiters.
- Accessing violent extremist websites, especially those with a social networking element.
- Processing or accessing violent extremist literature.
- Using extremist narratives and a global ideology to explain personal disadvantage.
- Justifying the use of violence to solve societal issues.
- Joining or seeking to join extremist organisations.
- Significant changes to appearance and/or behaviour.
- Experiencing a high level of social isolation resulting in issues of identity crisis and/or personal crisis.

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

All staff must be made aware of the Prevent strategy and radicalisation and extremism must be an integral part of regular staff safeguarding training.

The Head of School is the Prevent Single Point of Contact (SPOC) and is the lead within the organisation for safeguarding in relation to protecting individuals from radicalisation and involvement in terrorism.

When any member of staff has concerns that a pupil may be at risk of radicalisation or involvement in terrorism, they should speak with the SPOC. The school must support pupils who may be vulnerable to such influences as part of their wider safeguarding responsibilities and where it is felt by staff that a pupil is being directly affected by extremist materials or influences they must ensure that that pupil is offered assistance.

### TEACHING APPROACHES

Teachers must 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. This will be achieved by good teaching, primarily via Citizenship and PSHE sessions; 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. These approaches include:

- Setting targets for young people to build a sense of ownership.
- Creating a safe space for dialogue between staff and pupils.
- Building resilience in pupils.
- Improving pupil skills for collaborative work.
- Improving pupils' ability to interact with each other and a peer mentoring scheme.

The school will ensure that teaching approaches help our pupils build resilience to extremism and give pupils a positive sense of identity through the development of critical thinking skills. It will promote the values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, mutual respect and tolerance for those with different faiths and beliefs. It will also teach and encourage pupils to respect one another and to respect and tolerate difference, especially those of a different faith or no faith and strive to prepare each pupil for life in modern multi-cultural Britain and globally.

The school will work with local partners, families and communities in their efforts to challenge extremist views and to assist in the broadening of our pupils' experiences and horizons.

### USE OF EXTERNAL AGENCIES AND SPEAKERS

Wherever possible, the school will invite external agencies or speakers to enrich the experiences of their pupils; however appropriate procedures to positively vet those external agencies, individuals or speakers must be put in place. This includes checking the DBS of all external providers, viewing material that will be used beforehand and conducting a social media check on such agencies or individuals, as appropriate.

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.

The Head of School will assess 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 the school to ensure that they are effective.

By delivering a broad and balanced curriculum, augmented by the use of external sources where appropriate, Cleeve Prior CE Primary School will strive to ensure our pupils recognise risk and build resilience to manage any such risk themselves where appropriate to their age and ability, and to help pupils develop the critical thinking skills needed to engage in informed debate.

#### WHISTLEBLOWING

Where there are concerns of extremism or radicalisation pupils and staff are directed to make use of school internal systems to whistle blow or raise any issue in confidence. Please refer to the separate Whistleblowing Policy.

#### RECRUITMENT

The arrangements for recruiting all staff, permanent and volunteers, to our school will follow government guidance on safer recruitment best practice in education settings, including, but not limited to, ensuring that DBS checks are always made in the appropriate level, that references are always received and checked and that we complete and maintain a Single Central Record of such vetting checks.

Appropriately applied apply safer recruitment best practice principles and sound employment practice in general will deny opportunities for inappropriate recruitment or advancement.

The school must be alert to the possibility that persons may seek to gain positions within the organisation so as to unduly influence the school's character and ethos. Staff must be aware that such persons seek to limit the opportunities for their 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 it is intended that we will minimise the opportunities for extremist views to prevail.

#### ROLE OF GOVERNING BODY

The Governing body will undertake regular training to ensure that they are clear about their role and the parameters of their responsibilities as Governors, including their statutory safeguarding duties. They will uphold the school's ethos and values and will support the school in tackling extremism and radicalisation.

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

#### POLICY ADOPTION, MONITORING AND REVIEW

The Policy was considered and adopted by the FGB of Cleeve Prior CE Primary School 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'.

This policy will be published on the school website. Parents/carers will be issued with a hard copy of this Policy on request.

The Governing body will review this policy on a regular cycle but may adopt any amendments outside this time frame in accordance with any new legislation or guidance.

