

ST MARY'S CE (A) FIRST SCHOOL POLICY DOCUMENT FOR ANTI-RADICALISATION

Philosophy

St Mary's CE (A) First School has the core Christian values of love and respect underpinning all aspects of school life. We promote the guidance of the Good Samaritan as we live our lives and we are fully committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all our pupils. As a school we recognise that safeguarding against radicalisation is no different from safeguarding against any other vulnerability. At St Mary's, staff are expected to uphold and promote the fundamental principles of British values, including democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect, and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs.

Aims and Principles

The main aims of this policy statement are to ensure that staff are fully engaged in being vigilant about radicalisation; that they overcome professional disbelief that such issues will not happen here and ensure that we work alongside other professional bodies and agencies to ensure that our pupils are safe from harm.

The principle objectives are that:

- Pupils are encouraged to adopt and live out our Core Values. These complement the key "British Values" of tolerance, respect, understanding, compassion and harmonious living.
- Pupils are helped to understand the importance of democracy and freedom of speech, through worship, through the curriculum and through the elected School Council members
- Pupils are taught how to keep themselves safe, in school and when using the internet.
- Pupils participate in local community events so that they appreciate and value their neighbours and friends who may not share their faith background.
- Pupil's wellbeing, confidence and resilience is promoted through our planned curriculum.
- Pupils are supported in making good choices from a very young age, so they understand the impact and consequences of their actions on others.
- Governors, teachers, teaching assistants and non-teaching staff demonstrate an understanding of what radicalisation and extremism are and why we need to be vigilant in school. (Through inset opportunities in school, we will ensure that our staff are fully aware of the threats, risks and vulnerabilities that are linked to radicalisation; are aware of the process of radicalisation and how this might be identified early on.

Definitions and Indicators

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.

Extremism is defined as the holding of extreme political or religious views. It is the promotion or advancement of an ideology based on violence, hatred or intolerance, that aims to: negate or destroy the fundamental rights and freedoms of others; or, undermine, overturn or replace the UK's system of liberal parliamentary democracy and democratic rights; (Gov.uk or.14 Mar 2024)

The Governing Body has a zero-tolerance approach to extremist behaviour for all community members. We rely on our strong values to steer our work and ensure the pastoral care of our pupils protects them from exposure to negative influences. Furthermore, our positive promotion of our Christian Values of Love and Respect equips our pupils with the skills to reject violence in all its forms.

The Office for Security & Counter Terrorism works to counter the threat from terrorism and their work is detailed in the counter terrorism strategy CONTEST.

This strategy is based on four areas of work:

- Pursue - To stop terrorist attacks
- Prevent - To stop people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism
- Protect - To strengthen our protection against a terrorist attack
- Prepare - To mitigate the impact of a terrorist attack

Our role, as a school, is outlined more specifically in the DCSF document 'Learning together to be safe: A toolkit to help schools contribute to the prevention of violent extremism.'

Primarily our work will be concerned with PREVENTION and is outlined more specifically in the DCSF document mentioned above.

This policy should be read alongside the school's Safeguarding, Equal Opportunities, E-Safety and Anti-bullying policies.

Procedures for Referrals

Although serious incidents involving radicalisation have not occurred at St Mary's to date, it is important for us to be constantly vigilant and remain fully informed about the issues which affect the region in which we teach. Staff are reminded to suspend any professional disbelief that instances of radicalisation 'could not happen here' and to refer any concerns through the appropriate channels (currently via the Child Protection/ Safeguarding Coordinator).

This policy is strictly adhered to should issues arise.

The Role of the Curriculum

Our curriculum promotes respect, tolerance and diversity. Children are encouraged to express themselves through discussions, debates and consultations. The RE, RHE (Relationships and Health Education), Citizenship and SMSC (Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural) provision is embedded across the curriculum, and underpins the ethos of the school. Children learn about other faiths and visit places of worship and are taught about how to stay safe online.

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