



## POLICY INFORMATION

Name of Policy/Procedure: **Policy for the Prevention of Extremism and Radicalisation**

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<b>Reviewed by</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Approved</b>
Michael Vitalis	February 2018	No change - FGB
Michael Vitalis	March 2019	1 <sup>st</sup> April 2019 - FGB
M Vitalis – no change	Summer Term 2020	Summer Term - FGB
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M Vitalis	Summer Term 2023	27/06/2023 -FGB
M Vitalis	Autumn Term 2024	12/11/2024 - LME

# Policy for the Prevention of Extremism and Radicalisation

*It is important that this policy is:*

- *reflective of the culture, ethos, resources and structures*
- *a working document*
- *owned by all members of the school community*
- *fully implemented*
- *'tested'*
- *subject to annual review or when changes in policy or procedures occur*

## 1. PURPOSE AND AIMS

1.1 Ruskin Community High School is fully committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all its students and staff; providing a secure environment where they feel safe and are kept safe. All adults in our school recognise that safeguarding is everyone's responsibility irrespective of the role they undertake. The approach we take towards protecting our children against radicalisation and extremism is no different to safeguarding against any other vulnerability in today's society.

1.2 This Preventing Extremism and Radicalisation Safeguarding Policy is one element within our overall school arrangements to Safeguard and Promote the Welfare of all Children in line with our statutory duties.

1.3 Our school fully recognises the contribution it can make to promoting the welfare of children and protecting them from harm. This policy sets out our strategies and procedures to protect vulnerable students from being radicalised or exposed to extremist views.

1.4 At Ruskin Community High School, we will ensure that:

- All staff, volunteers and governors, have an understanding of what radicalisation and extremism is and why we need to be vigilant in school.
- Through training, staff, volunteers and governors will know what the school policy is on tackling extremism and radicalisation and how to respond when concerns arise.
- Through our curriculum, we will promote the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of students.
- Parents/carers and students will know that the school has policies in place to keep students safe from harm and that the school regularly reviews these systems to ensure they are appropriate and effective.

1.5 This policy applies to all students, staff, parents, governors, volunteers and visitors.

## 2. SCHOOL ETHOS AND PRACTICE

2.1 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'.***

2.2 The full Government Prevent Strategy can be viewed at [https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/97976/prevent-strategy-review.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/97976/prevent-strategy-review.pdf)

Prevent Duty Guidance can be viewed at:  
[Prevent duty guidance: Guidance for specified authorities in England and Wales \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk)

The Prevent duty: Safeguarding Learners Vulnerable to radicalisation can be viewed at:

[The Prevent duty: safeguarding learners vulnerable to radicalisation - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk)

2.3 There is no place for extremist views of any kind in our school, whether from internal sources –students, staff or governors, or external sources - school community, external agencies or individuals. Our students 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.

2.4 We provide a broad and balanced curriculum, delivered by skilled professionals, so that our students are enriched, understand and become tolerant of difference and diversity and also to ensure that they thrive, feel valued and not marginalized.

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

2.6 We will ensure that all of our teaching approaches help our students build resilience to extremism and give students a positive sense of identity through the development of critical thinking skills. We will ensure that all of our staff are equipped to recognise extremism and are skilled and confident enough to challenge it.

2.7. Our approach will be embedded within the ethos of our school so that students know and understand what safe and acceptable behaviour is in the context of extremism and radicalisation. This will work in conjunction with our schools approach to the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of students and will include assemblies. Our goal is to build mutual respect and understanding and to promote the use of dialogue not violence as a form of conflict resolution. We will achieve this by using a curriculum that includes:

- Citizenship programmes
- Open discussion and debate
- Work on anti-violence and restorative approaches
- Focussed educational programmes

2.8 Our school will closely follow any locally agreed procedures as set out by the Cheshire East Safeguarding Children's Partnership agreed processes and criteria for safeguarding individuals vulnerable to extremism and radicalisation. In the event of concerns about a person becoming radicalised consideration will be given to using the LA Channel process. Channel is a bespoke panel which meets to address issues of individuals who have been identified as being at risk of radicalisation but have not committed any terrorism offence.

### **3. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

3.1 It is the responsibility of **every** member of staff, volunteer and regular visitor to our school to ensure that they carry out the requirements of this policy and, at all times, work in a way that will safeguard and promote the welfare of all of the students at this school.

3.2 The Governing Body of Ruskin Community High School is accountable for ensuring the effectiveness of this policy and our compliance with it. The Governing Body will ensure that:

- This policy is reviewed annually alongside our Child Protection & Safeguarding Policy.
- All staff undertake appropriate training that equips them with the skills to identify and respond appropriately to concerns regarding extremism and radicalisation.
- The Headteacher and Designated Safeguarding Lead will assess the risk of students being drawn into extremist views. The risk assessment may include consideration of the school's curriculum, the use of school premises by external agencies and any other local issues relating to the school community.
- A broad curriculum is in place to deliver the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of students.
- Appropriate safeguarding arrangements are in place by working in partnership with other agencies and communities as required.
- There are systems in place for keeping students safe from extremist material when accessing the internet in our school by using effective filtering and usage policies.

3.3 The Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) will act as the Single Point of Contact within our school for any concerns relating to radicalisation and extremism.

3.4 Staff use their judgement in identifying children who might be at risk of radicalisation and act proportionately which may include the designated safeguarding lead (or deputy) / **SPOC (Single Point of Contact)** making a [Prevent referral](#) on the Cheshire East stopadultabuse.org.uk website (this could be about an adult and/or a child).

If we suspect a child to be suffering or likely to suffer significant harm, including being radicalised we would also contact:

Cheshire East Consultation Service (ChECS): :  
0300 123 5012 **Option 3** – Cheshire East Consultation Service (ChECS)  
Then choose **Option 2** – ChECS / Immediate safeguarding concerns

**and** complete a [Prevent referral](#) on the stopadultabuse.org.uk website.

3.5 The DSL is responsible for ensuring that all staff members and volunteers are aware of our policy and the procedures they need to follow. They will ensure that all staff have received appropriate training.

#### **Where necessary individuals may be discussed at Channel:**

Staff are aware of Channel being a partnership approach to support individuals vulnerable to recruitment by violent extremists. The Channel Duty Guidance: protecting people vulnerable to being drawn into terrorism, was updated in 2023:

[Channel Duty Guidance: Protecting people susceptible to radicalisation \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](#)

## **4. TRAINING**

4.1 The DSL will undertake Prevent awareness training so they can provide advice and support to other members of staff.

4.2 The DSL will provide staff with links to further training on Prevent, such as Channel and government e-learning.

4.3 Through training, we will ensure that all of our staff are made fully aware of the threats, risks and vulnerabilities that are linked to radicalisation. Staff will be able to identify children at risk of being drawn into extremism and develop the confidence to challenge extremist ideas. All staff will understand how we can provide support to ensure that our students are resilient and supported to resist involvement in radical or extreme activities.

4.4 Our governing body will also undertake appropriate training to ensure they are able to carry out their duty to safeguard all of the children at our school.

## **5. THE ROLE OF THE CURRICULUM**

5.1 At Ruskin Community High School we will provide students with a broad and balanced curriculum and promote the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of our students. Students will be encouraged to regard people of all faiths, races and cultures with respect and tolerance. At our school we will promote the values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, mutual respect and tolerance for those with different faiths and beliefs. We will teach and encourage students to respect one another and to respect and tolerate difference, especially those of a different faith or no faith. It is our fundamental responsibility to keep our students safe and prepare them for life in modern multi-cultural Britain and globally

5.2 Through our curriculum we will aim to:

- enable students to develop their self-knowledge, self-esteem and self-confidence
- enable students to distinguish right from wrong and to respect the civil and criminal law of England;
- encourage students to accept responsibility for their behaviour, show initiative, and to understand how they can contribute positively to the lives of those living and working in the locality of the school and to society more widely;
- enable students to acquire a broad general knowledge of and respect for public institutions and services in England;
- further tolerance and harmony between different cultural traditions by enabling students to acquire an appreciation of and respect for their own and other cultures;
- encourage respect for other people;
- encourage respect for democracy and support for participation in the democratic processes, including respect for the basis on which the law is made and applied in England.

5.3 We will achieve this by using a curriculum that includes PSHCE, with designated 'Drop Down' days throughout the year.

## **6. IT POLICIES**

6.1 Every teacher is made aware of the risks posed by the online activity of extremist and terrorist groups.

6.2 Our school ensures that children are safe from terrorist and extremist material when accessing the internet in school with the use of filtering in place.

6.3 Through ICT lessons, PSHCE (including sessions from the police), assemblies and tutor activities, internet safety is discussed with all students and well embedded into the curriculum.

## **7. VISITORS AND THE USE OF SCHOOL PREMISES**

7.1 At Ruskin Community High School we recognise the role that external agencies and speakers can play in enhancing the learning experiences of our students. Where we use external agencies and individuals in this way, we will positively vet them to ensure that their messages are consistent with, and not in opposition to, the school's values and ethos.

7.2 Our school will assess the suitability and effectiveness of input from external agencies or individuals to ensure that:

- Any messages communicated to students 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 students 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 students;

7.3 Any guest speakers or external agencies will be provided with a copy of our safeguarding procedures on arrival at the school and will be appropriately supervised at all times.

7.4 When an agreement is made to allow non-school groups or organisations to use the school premises, appropriate checks will be made before agreeing the contract. Usage will be monitored and in the event of any behaviour not in keeping with the Tackling Extremism and Radicalisation Policy, the school will contact the Prevent Officer and terminate the arrangement.

## **8. PROCEDURES FOR MANAGING CONCERNS**

8.1 Ruskin Community High School adheres to the procedures that have been agreed locally through Cheshire East Local Safeguarding Children Board for safeguarding individuals vulnerable to extremism and radicalisation.

8.2 We recognise that all staff at our school play an important role as they are in a position to identify concerns early and provide help for children to prevent concerns from escalating.

**All staff are advised to maintain an attitude of '*it could happen here*' where safeguarding is concerned and this includes vulnerability to radicalisation.**

8.3 At all times we will work in partnership and endeavour to establish effective working relationships with parents, carers and colleagues from other agencies in line with Working Together to Safeguard Children (2023) and Keeping Children Safe in Education (2024).

8.4 The Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) should be the first point for contact any safeguarding concerns in our school. Any member of staff/visitor who receives a disclosure of or suspects that a child is at risk of radicalisation must report it immediately to the DSL or, if unavailable, to one of the Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads. All concerns would also be logged on CPOMS.

8.5 Following receipt of any information raising concern about vulnerability to radicalisation, the DSL will consider what action to take and will follow Cheshire East Safeguarding procedures by consulting with ChECS and contacting the Prevent Co-ordinator

8.6 All information and actions taken, including the reasons for any decisions made, will be fully documented.

8.7 If an allegation is made or information is received about an adult who works in our setting which indicates that they may be unsuitable to work with children because of concerns relating to extremism and radicalisation, the member of staff receiving the information should inform the Headteacher or Chair of Governors immediately in line with the procedures outlined in our Child Protection & Safeguarding Policy and the Whistleblowing Policy.

Refer to Appendix 1.

The policy is provided to all staff and should be read in conjunction with the following

- Child Protection & Safeguarding Policy
- Safer Recruitment Policy
- Equality Policy
- Behaviour Policy
- Attendance policy
- Anti-Bullying Policy
- E-Safety Policy
- Staff Code of Conduct
- Whistle-blowing Policy

## **Appendix 1: Warning Signs/Indicators of Concern**

*Taken from Prevent Duty Guidance: England & Wales, HM Government 2023*

There is no single profile of a radicalised person, nor is there a single pathway or 'conveyor belt' to being radicalised. There are many factors which can, either alone or combined, lead someone to subscribe to terrorist or terrorismsupporting ideology. These factors often include exposure to radicalising influences, real and perceived grievances – often created or exacerbated through grievance narratives espoused by extremists – and a person's own susceptibility.

Factors which may make students more vulnerable may include:

**Identity Crisis:** the student is distanced from their cultural/religious heritage and experiences discomfort about their place in society.

**Personal Crisis:** the student may be experiencing family tensions; a sense of isolation; low self-esteem; they may have dissociated 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's country or region of origin may contribute to a sense of grievance that is triggered by personal experience of racism or discrimination.

**Unmet Aspirations:** the student may have perceptions of injustice; a feeling of failure.

**Experiences of Criminality:** involvement with criminal groups, imprisonment, poor resettlement or reintegration.

**Special Educational Need:** students may experience difficulties with social interaction, empathy with others, understanding the consequences of their actions and awareness of the motivations of others.

students who are vulnerable to radicalisation may also be experiencing:

- Substance and alcohol misuse
- Peer pressure
- Influence from older people or via the Internet
- Bullying
- Domestic violence
- Race/hate crime

**Behaviours which may indicate a child is at risk of being radicalised or exposed to extremist views could include:**

- Being in contact with extremist recruiters and/or spending increasing time in the company of other suspected extremists;
- Loss of interest in other friends and activities not associated with the extremist ideology, group or cause; attempts to recruit others to the group/cause;
- Accessing extremist material online, including through social networking sites; possessing or accessing materials or symbols associated with an extremist cause;
- Voicing opinions drawn from extremist ideologies and narratives, this may include justifying the use of violence to solve societal issues;
- Changing their style of dress or personal appearance to accord with the group;
- Using insulting to derogatory names for another group;



