EMMANUEL COLLEGE

TACKLING EXTREMISM AND RADICALISATION

Policy Statement

Emmanuel College is fully committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all its student. Every member of staff recognises that safeguarding against radicalisation and extremism is no different to safeguarding against any other vulnerability today. This policy sets out our beliefs, strategies, and procedures to protect vulnerable individuals from being radicalised or exposed to extremist views, by identifying who they are and promptly providing them with support.

This policy should be read in conjunction with the following policies: *Behaviour and Discipline Policy, British Values Policy, Character Development in the Classroom Policy; Equal Opportunities and Diversity Policy; Student Code of Conduct; Student Code of Conduct; Student IT Network Usage Agreement.*

The Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 places a duty on schools to have due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism ('the *prevent* duty') and in so-doing have regard to guidance issues by the Secretary of State. The *Prevent* duty came into force on 1 July 2015. The following national guidelines should also be read when working with this policy; **Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE) (September 2021), The use of social media for on-line radicalisation (July 2015), DfE 'The Prevent Duty' (June 2015), DfE 'Social media and travel to Syria and Iraq – a briefing note for schools (undated), CONTEST (counter terrorist strategy) (2011), Channel Duty Guidance (2015).**

Aims and Principles

The main aims of this policy 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. This policy is intended to provide a framework for dealing with issues relating to vulnerability, radicalisation and exposure to extreme views. We recognise that we are well placed to be able to identify safeguarding issues and this policy clearly sets out how the school will deal with such incidents and identifies how the curriculum and ethos underpins our actions. The objectives are that:

- All staff will understand what radicalisation and extremism is and why we need to be vigilant in school.
- All staff will know what the school policy is on tackling extremism and radicalisation and will follow the policy guidance swiftly when issues arise.
- All students will understand the dangers of radicalisation and exposure to extremist views; building resilience against these and knowing what to do if they experience them.
- All parents and guardians are made aware that the school has policies in place to keep pupils safe from harm and that the school regularly reviews its systems to ensure they are appropriate and effective.

Duties, powers and responsibilities

Section 26 of the Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015 places a duty upon Local Authorities and all specified settings including Schools in the exercise of their functions to have "*due regard to the need to prevent people from been drawn into terrorism*". It is applied to bodies in the UK who have significant interaction with people vulnerable to radicalisation. We are required in our functions under section 26 to:

- Know about and identify early indicators in pupils

- Develop the confidence to challenge and intervene
- Assess the risk of our pupils being drawn into terrorism and terrorist ideology
- Have clear protocols & keep records
- Be monitored by Ofsted in how we exercise these duties

We therefore recognise the Prevent strategy is part of the overall Counter Terrorism Strategy, CONTEST in the UK. The aim of Prevent is to reduce the threat to the UK from terrorism by stopping people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism. We understand Channel to be an element of the Prevent strategy aimed at stopping vulnerable people being drawn into terrorism, a programme working to challenge extremist ideas who work with individuals including children and young people. We will work with the Local Authority and with other agencies in making sure we undertake our duties under Prevent.

Definitions and indicators
The Government has given the following definitions as part of the Prevent strategy:
- Extremism is defined as: *'the vocal or active opposition to our fundamental values, including democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and the mutual respect and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs. This also includes calling for the death of members of the armed forces.'*
- Radicalisation refers to *'the process by which a person comes to support terrorism and extremist ideologies associated with terrorist groups.'* We recognise that this can mean a person choosing to leave their country to support a terrorist group.
- Terrorism is an action that 'endangers or causes serious violence to a person/people; causes serious damage to property; or seriously interferes or disrupts an electronic system. The use or threat must be designed to influence the government or to intimidate the public and is made for the purpose of advancing a political, religious or ideological cause.'

We recognise that children/young people can be enticed into radicalisation as they are more vulnerable and susceptible to this. They therefore can be drawn into violence or they can be exposed to the messages of extremist groups by many means especially online and through social media. The school recognise that social media is increasingly a child's or young persons preferred method of communication which can increase their risk to exposure to radicalisation. Messages, views, ideologies that are extremist can come from parents/carers, family members or friends, and/or from direct contact with member groups and organisations. It can come from staff within an organisation, or be brought into a school by staff, governors, or volunteers.

The risk of radicalisation is the product of several factors and identifying this risk requires all our staff at Emmanuel College being able to exercise their judgement in raising any concern and reporting to the appropriate leads within the school.

There is no single way of identifying whether a child is likely to be susceptible to an extremist ideology. Background factors combined with specific influences such as family and friends may contribute to a child's vulnerability. Similarly, radicalisation can occur through many different methods (such as social media or the internet) and settings (such as within the home). As such there is no definitive list of or all indicators or concerns however, it is possible to protect vulnerable people from extremist ideology and intervene to prevent those at risk of radicalisation being radicalised by having a clear understanding of the issues affecting young people and their families. The following indicators are based upon research and from examples of case studies:
- Identity Crisis - distance from cultural/religious heritage and uncomfortable with their place in society around them
- Personal Crisis - family tensions, sense of isolation, adolescence, low self-esteem, disassociation with existing friendship groups, becoming involved in new and different groups of friends, searching for answers to questions about identity, faith and belonging
- Personal Circumstances - migration, local community tensions, events affecting country or region of origin, having a sense of grievance that is triggered by personal experience of racism, discrimination, or aspects of government policy
- Un-met Aspirations - perceptions of injustice, feeling of failure, rejection of civic life
- Criminality - experiences of imprisonment, poor resettlement/reintegration, previous involvement with criminal groups

We recognise the following potential diagnostic indicators identified in the Channel Guidance which include:
- Use of language seen to be inappropriate (e.g., causing distress or alarm and perceived to be prejudiced, inflammatory, or hateful)
- Noticeable behavioural changes
- Expression of extreme views
- Possession of extremist literature
- Advocating violent actions and means
- Seeking to recruit others to an extremist ideology

We also understand these critical risk factors which indicate a possible process of potential grooming/entrapment:
- Changes in faith/ideology
- Sudden name change linked to a different faith/ideology
- Significant changes in appearance
- Secrecy on the internet & access to websites with a social networking element
- Narrow/limited religious or political view
- Attendance at certain meetings e.g., rallies and articulating support for
- "Them" and "us" language/rhetoric
- Justifying the use of violence to solve societal issues
- Isolation from usual friends, family or social groups
- Sudden unexplained foreign travel

Procedures for referrals
We use our in-school safeguarding procedures to raise safeguarding concerns about an individual student and carry a risk assessment if the concern is a Prevent concern. If the concern is a Prevent concern, we will use the guidance and assessment as prescribed by the local authority. These concerns will be dealt with by the Safeguarding team:
- Designated safeguarding lead: Mrs R Hooker (Vice Principal)
- Deputy designated safeguarding lead: Mrs A Scott (Assistant Vice Principal)

Staff should ordinarily follow the reporting procedures outlined in the safeguarding policy. However, as emphasised in Keeping Children Safe in Education, any staff member can refer their concerns directly to Children's Social Care and/or the Police if:
- The situation is an emergency and the DSL, Deputy DSL the Principal and/or the Chair of Governors are all unavailable.
- They are convinced that a direct report is the only way to ensure the pupil's safety; or
- For any other reason they make a judgement that a direct referral is in the best interests of the child.

The DSL/DDSL maintain a log of all prevent referrals and actions taken as a result of a referral being made.

Training
As part of our statutory duties and through INSET opportunities we will ensure that all student facing staff are aware of the threats, risks and vulnerabilities that are linked to extremism and radicalisation. This includes being alert to early indicators and how-to respond to and report. This includes staff completing the Home Office E-learning training on Prevent/WRAP. This is incorporated into our staff induction training and annual update training. We will also ensure that volunteers and governors understand Channel and Prevent, early indicators and how to refer a safeguarding concern.

The role of the curriculum
We will work to ensure that our pupils will be skilled and equipped to be resilient and resist involvement in extreme or radical activities through character development in the classroom. We will therefore provide a broad and balanced curriculum within which we aim to support pupils, Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural development (SMSC). SMSC development is promoted through all our subjects, including the ethos of our school where development of positive attitudes and values is central to everything we do. SMSC is also taught through the assembly and tutor reflections programme.

Values underpinning public life in the UK have been summarised as democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, mutual respect, and the tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs. It is important that our pupils understand this through different approaches using a balanced and broad curriculum and the assembly and tutor reflections programme. This supports our pupils to be responsible citizens and prepares for an adult life living and working in Britain which is diverse and changing.

Pupils are regularly taught about how to stay safe when using the internet and are encouraged to recognise that people are not always who they say they are online. They are taught to seek adult help if they are upset or concerned about anything they read or see on the internet.

School Premises
We will seek to ensure that the school building will not be used to give a platform to extremists and as a school we will take all reasonable steps to promote this. The use of school premises will be monitored and in the event of any behaviour not in keeping with this policy or the Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy, the School will terminate the contact and may in some circumstances contact the police.

Help, support and contacts
Referrals and Assessment Team
Gateshead Council
0191 433 2653
R&Aduty@gateshead.gcsx.gov.uk

Community Safety Team
Gateshead Council
0191 433 2701

The National Terrorism Hotline
0800 789 321