



St. Cuthbert's
Roman Catholic High School

WHOLE SCHOOL POLICY & PROCEDURES

PREVENTING EXTREMISM & RADICALISATION



Mission Statement

'The Lord God requires of us that we should help others whenever we can, always make the right choices and be the best that we can be in everything that we do'.

Policy: Preventing Extremism and Radicalisation Policy		
Type: School Policy	Website: Yes	Author: C M Hunt
Approved: March 2019		Next Review: March 2020
Frequency: Annual		Delegated: Governors - Full
Notes:		

Context

St Cuthbert's Catholic High School's Preventing Extremism and Radicalisation Policy has been written in response to, and in line, with government guidance. This forms part of the government's counter terrorism strategy and seeks to:

- Respond to the ideological challenge and the aspects of extremism, and the threat faced from those who promote these views.
- Provide practical help to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism and ensure they are given appropriate advice and support.
- Work with a wide range of sectors where there are risks of radicalisation which need to be addressed, including education, criminal justice, faith, charities, the internet and health.

All schools are required by law to teach a broad and balanced curriculum which promotes spiritual, moral and cultural development of students and prepares them for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of life.

The purpose of our strategy is to protect students from harm and to ensure they are taught in a way that is consistent with the law and British values. It acts to:

- Raise awareness
- Provide information
- Enable learner to make a positive contribution
- Safeguard young people

Our school's Preventing Extremism and Radicalisation Policy also draws upon the guidance contained in the following documentation:

- Prevent Strategy, 2011 - Tackling Extremism in the UK
- DfE Guidance - Keeping Children Safe in Education, 2018
- DfE - Teaching Approaches that help Build Resilience to Extremism among Young People (Peter Clarke's Report of July 2014)
- The Channel Programme • The Prevent Duty June 2015

Ethos and Practice

At St. Cuthbert's Catholic High School students participate in a curriculum that promotes the active learning and develops critical personal thinking skills. The school actively promotes diversity and shared value between the school community, local community and the national and global community. We do this by celebrating our own core values of love, respect, compassion, service and stewardship. The school challenges all prejudice. The emphasis on pastoral care through the school staffing structure, relationship with outside agencies, rewards, consequences, collective worship and enrichment activities ensure that the school is a safe place to learn and that our anti-bullying strategies minimise hate and prejudice based bullying. The school seeks justice for incidents of such bullying and uses restorative approach to repair harm when caused.

The Prevent Strategy identifies that young people are more likely to be vulnerable to violent extremist or terrorist narratives, including non-violent extremism which can create an atmosphere conducive to terrorism and can popularise views which terrorists exploit. The Government's Prevent Strategy defines extremism 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'.

We believe that St. Cuthbert's R.C. High School should be a safe place where young people can understand and discuss sensitive topics, including terrorism and the extremist ideas that are part of the terrorist ideology and learn how to challenge such ideas

St Cuthbert's RC High School aim to :

- 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. In our school this will be achieved by good teaching, (for example, during PSHE/Citizenship lessons) 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).
- Ensure that all of our teaching approaches help our students build resilience to extremism and give pupils 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.
- Be flexible enough to adapt our teaching approaches, as appropriate, so as to address specific issues so as to become even more relevant to the current issues of extremism and radicalisation. This 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 pupils and will include a programme of opportunities dedicated to promoting fundamental British values to help further promote rounded development of our students.
- Work with local partners, families and communities in our efforts to ensure our school understands and embraces our local context and values in challenging extremist views and to assist in the broadening of our pupil's experiences and horizons.
- Help support students who may be vulnerable to such influences as part of our wider safeguarding responsibilities and where we believe a student is being directly affected by extremist materials or influences we will ensure that that student is offered mentoring.
- Seek external support from Rochdale Borough Local Authority and Greater Manchester Police and/or local partnership structures working to prevent extremism.
- Promote the values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, mutual respect and tolerance for those with different faiths and beliefs.
- Teach and encourage pupils to respect one another and to respect and tolerate difference, especially those of a different/no faith.
- Keep our students safe and prepare them for life in UK Society and the wider international community.

Possible Indicators of Risk:

- Racist graffiti/ symbols/ comments made in School;
- Speaking out or writing in favour of extremist ideas in school work;
- Extreme comments shared on social media;
- Distribution of extreme or terrorist propaganda among other pupils;
- Vulnerable students being influenced by others (although we are aware of a need to avoid oversimplified assessments of who might be 'vulnerable'), because of the existence of one or more factors, which may include:
 - An identity crisis, involving an individual's distance from their cultural/ religious heritage, including peer/ family/ faith group rejection;
 - A personal crisis, including family tension/ social isolation/ friendship issues; o Personal circumstances, such as migration, experience of racism; o Unmet aspirations;
 - Criminality;
 - Experience of poverty, disadvantage, discrimination or social exclusion;
- Association with those known to be involved in extremism (including via the internet)
- A significant shift in the child/ young person's behaviour or outward appearance, particularly involving conflict with his/her family and/or faith group
- Travel for extended periods of time to international locations known to be associated with extremism
- Disguising of a child's identity, e.g. in documentation
- A simplistic or flawed understanding of religious/ political/ global issues
- A significant adult or other in the child/ young person's life who has extremist views or sympathies
- Critical risk factors being:
 - Contact with extremist recruiters
 - Articulation of support for extremist causes/ leaders
 - The possession of extremist literature
 - Using extremist narratives and a global ideology to explain personal disadvantage
 - Justifying the use of violence to solve societal issues
 - Membership of extremist organisations.

In order to fulfil our Prevent Duty, we undertake to do the following:

- Actively promote Fundamental British Values, including mutual respect, tolerance and democratic participation, as part of our form tutor programmes as well as within other subject areas and assemblies;
- Respect pupil and staff diversity, encouraging freedom and openness;
- Assess the risk of children in our School being drawn into terrorism;
- Maintain robust safeguarding policies which take into account the policies and procedures set out by Rochdale Borough Safeguarding Children Board and identify extremism/ radicalisation as issues to be reported promptly to the Designated Safeguarding Lead;
- Train staff so that they have the knowledge and confidence to identify children at risk of being drawn into terrorism, and to challenge extremist ideas which can be used to legitimise terrorism;
- Conduct due diligence checks on groups/ individuals seeking to hire or use school premises;
- Conduct due diligence checks on visitors to school, particularly visiting speakers, whether invited by children or staff;
- Conduct due diligence checks on contractors working on the school sites;
- Ensure children are safe from terrorist and extremist material when accessing the internet in School;
- Review our policies annually.

Supportive Interventions

Channel is the multi-agency approach to protect people at risk from radicalisation and aims to: identify individuals at risk of being drawn into terrorism; assess the nature and extent of that risk; develop the most appropriate support plan for the individuals concerned. Should concerns require support from other agencies, the following are ways in which terrorism and extremism can be reported:

- Anti-terrorist hotline: 0800 789 321 o Crime stoppers: 0800 555 111
- Relevant police force: 101
- www.gov.uk/report-suspicious-activity-to-mi5
- To report any online terrorist-related material: www.gov.uk/report-terrorism
- The Department for Education has dedicated a telephone helpline (020 7340 7264) to enable you to raise concerns relating to extremism directly.
- Concerns can also be raised by email to counter.extremism@education.gsi.gov.uk .

Please note that the helpline is not intended for use in emergency situations, such as a child being at immediate risk of harm or a security incident, in which case the normal emergency procedures should be followed.