

The Grove School

Safeguarding Pupils from Extremism and Radicalisation

Background

Ensuring national security is the first priority of government. The October 2010 National Security Strategy set clear priorities to meet the evolving tier one threats in the UK from terrorism, cyber-attacks, international crises and natural disasters. The December 2013, Annual Report on the National Security Strategy noted significant progress in implementing the Strategy. However, meeting the evolving terror threats in the UK is still vital to national security.

In the UK there is a holistic cross government approach to combatting extremism, terrorism and extreme ideology. In response to the tragic Woolwich murder in May 2013, the government published, in December 2013, Tackling extremism in the UK. This report was built on the July 2011 update to the government's counter terrorism strategy CONTEST. The strategy focuses on four work streams designed to reduce both the threats to the UK and its vulnerabilities: Pursue, Prevent, Protect and Prepare.

A major part of this approach is the PREVENT strategy and this focuses on the critical need for local authorities, communities, police forces, education and health providers to work together to identify, detect and prevent the radicalisation of vulnerable people through society.

Rationale

The Grove School is fully committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all its pupils. As a school we recognise that safeguarding against radicalisation is no different from safeguarding against any other vulnerability. All 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.

All children/young people who attend The Grove School have either severe or profound cognitive learning difficulties, the majority also have additional disabilities.

It is recognised that complex needs on the autistic continuum may predispose a child/young person to radicalisation because of vulnerabilities with regard to 'fixed' opinions and difficulties connecting to broadening perceptions and concepts as well as recognising that all young people are vulnerable.

The Grove School strives to develop independence of which being open minded, reflective and questioning are key attributes in support of developing positive character traits, including tolerance, resilience and responsibility.

Specific methodology and approaches that support individuals across school to recognise when something isn't 'right' and to share their concerns includes; -

- Circle Time
- Philosophy for Children (P4C)
- Critical Thinking Skills
- Pupil Voice - School Council
- Individual Personal, Health and Social Education Targets

School strives to embed the above practice as an integral aspect of pedagogy which aims to holistically develop the whole child/young person.

This Anti-Radicalisation policy statement links to the following policies: -

- Child/Young People Protection and Safeguarding
- Public Sector Equality Duty information
- Anti-bullying policy
- Positive Behaviour policy

- Personal, Health and Social Education Policy
- Teaching and Learning Policy
- Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Policy

The school recognises that we need to ensure the safety and wellbeing of our children/young people to prevent them from being drawn into terrorism and ensure that they are given appropriate advice and support.

Wherever necessary, we aim to: -

- Respond to the ideological challenge of terrorism and the threat we face from those who promote it.
- Prevent individuals from being drawn into terrorism and ensure that they are given appropriate advice and support
- Work with multi agency teams appropriately if there are risks of radicalisation

School will seek to support community cohesion (Education Act 2006) and will teach children and young people to celebrate diversity, develop tolerance and follow societies' laws and regulations.

We teach a broad and balanced curriculum which promotes spiritual, moral and cultural development to prepare children and young people for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of life.

The Education Act 2002 puts a duty on schools to exercise their functions with a view to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children.

If we have any concerns regarding the risk of radicalisation or have information which poses any risk to security within our school and beyond we will refer these issues to social care, local authorities, parents, police and other agencies and support the child or young person in adapting their views in line with government recommendations.

Further information may be accessed through senior staff, the DFE and from Gill Finch, Local Authority Diversity Officer.

A good practice example;

'Tackling radicalisation and extremism through a multi-agency approach to community integration' is available on the Ofsted website.

www.ofsted.gov.uk/resources/goodpractice

Materials produced by local authorities and the police "Prevent Tragedies" are available on

www.preventtragedies.co.uk

Additional online resources produced by civil society groups provide valuable advice, for example 'Families Matter', run by Families Against Stress and Trauma,

www.familiesmatter.org.uk

Signed Penny Derries
Chair of Governors: George Murray

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