

Caslon Primary Community School

Anti-Radicalisation and Extremism Policy 2020-21

POLICY STATEMENT

Caslon Primary Community School is fully committed to safeguarding and actively promoting the welfare of all its pupils. As a school we recognise that safeguarding against radicalisation is no different to safeguarding against any other vulnerability. This policy sets out our beliefs, strategies and procedures to protect vulnerable individuals from being radicalised or exposed to extremism, by identifying who they are and providing them with support.

LINKS TO OTHER POLICIES

Caslon Primary Community School anti-radicalisation and extremism policy links to the following policies:

- Child Protection and Safeguarding
- Anti-bullying policy
- Behaviour policy
- E-safety policy
- SMSC and British Values policy

AIMS AND PRINCIPLES

Caslon Primary Community School anti-radicalisation and extremism policy is intended to provide a framework for dealing with issues relating to vulnerability, radicalisation and exposure to extreme views. It 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 governors, teachers, teaching assistants and non-teaching staff will have an understanding of what radicalisation and extremism is and why we need to be vigilant in school.
- All governors, teachers, teaching assistants and non-teaching staff will know what the school policy is on anti-radicalisation and extremism and will follow the policy when issues arise.
- All parents and pupils will know 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.

The main aims of this policy are to ensure that staff are fully engaged in being vigilant about radicalisation and extremism; 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. Staff will be given training to comprehend exactly what is meant by harm and given a comprehensive action plan to follow in the case of any incident. This action plan will follow our safeguarding procedures.

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.

There are a number of behaviours which may indicate a child is at risk of being radicalised or exposed to extreme views. These include:

- Spending increasing time in the company of other suspected extremists.
- Changing their style of dress or personal appearance to accord with the group.
- Changes to their usual behaviour.
- Their day-to-day behaviour becoming increasingly centered on an extremist ideology, group or cause.
- Loss of interest in other friends and activities not associated with the extremist ideology, group or cause.
- Possession of materials or symbols associated with an extremist cause.
- Attempts to recruit others to the group/cause.
- Communications with others that suggests identification with a group, cause or ideology.
- Using insulting to derogatory names for another group.
- Increase in prejudice-related incidents committed by that person – these may include physical or verbal assault, provocative behaviour, damage to property, derogatory name calling, possession of prejudice related materials, prejudice related ridicule or name calling, inappropriate forms of address, refusal to co-operate, attempts to recruit to prejudice related organisations, condoning or supporting violence towards others.
- Family network; disclosures regarding any family members or extended family holidays to locations.

PROCEDURES FOR REFERRALS

Although serious incidents involving radicalisation have not occurred at Caslon Primary Community School to date, it is important for us to be constantly vigilant and remain fully informed about the issues which affect our local areas 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.

We believe that it is possible to intervene to protect people who are vulnerable. Early intervention is vital and staff must be aware of the established processes for front line professionals to refer concerns about individuals and groups. Staff must be aware that there is a shared ownership and a duty of care to safeguard all of the children. We must have the confidence to challenge, the confidence to intervene and ensure that we have strong safeguarding practices.

The DSL and Head teacher will deal swiftly with any referrals made by staff or with concerns reported by staff, all concerns/referrals must be made timely and recorded on CPOMs.

The DSL and Head teacher will discuss the most appropriate course of action on a case-by-case basis and will decide when a referral to external agencies is needed.

MANAGER, STAFF AND GOVERNORS

The DSL is responsible for referrals relating to radicalisation and extremism. In the event of absence, concerns will be reported to a Deputy DSL. Staff are fully briefed about what to do if they are concerned about the possibility of radicalisation relating to a pupil, or if they need to discuss specific children whom they consider to be vulnerable to radicalisation. Reports will be made to Governors on any incidents of radicalisation and or Extremism.

THE ROLE OF THE CURRICULUM

Our curriculum promotes mutual respect, tolerance of others with different faiths and beliefs and diversity. Children are encouraged to share their views through discussion and democracy, and recognise that they are entitled to have their own different beliefs which should not be used to influence others. Our PSHE and British Values provision is embedded across the curriculum. It is recognised that children with low aspirations are more vulnerable to radicalisation and extremism therefore we strive to equip our pupils with confidence, self-belief, respect and tolerance as well as setting high standards and expectations for themselves. We recognise vulnerable children, children who aren't feeling completely happy in school, or children with low self-esteem or confidence. We review and place children into relevant, personalised nurture intervention groups, so as to address individual needs. Such activities provide children with low self-esteem or confidence with an avenue to personalised nurture intervention, consequently providing them a secure environment where they feel safe to speak freely.

As outlined in our E-Safety policy, children 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. Key strokes and e-safe notify the Head teacher of any words/phrases or questions which may relate to radicalisation or extremism.

STAFF TRAINING

Through professional development opportunities in school, we will ensure that our staff are fully aware of the threats, risks and vulnerabilities that are linked to radicalisation and extremism; are aware of the process of radicalisation and how this might be identified early on and are aware of how we can provide support as a school to ensure that our children are resilient and able to resist involvement in radical or extreme activities.

USE OF PREMISES

If an agreement is made to let the premises to people from outside of the staff, appropriate checks will be made before agreeing the contract. Usage will be monitored and in the event of any behaviours not in-keeping with the anti-radicalisation policy, the school will contact the police and terminate the contract.

POLICY REVIEW

The Anti-radicalisation and extremism policy will be reviewed annually as part of the overall Child Protection and Safeguarding policy review.