

Amble Links First School
Prevention of Extremism and Radicalisation Policy



Date Written: July 2023
By: Paul Heeley
Designated Staff Paul Heeley
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Date for Review: July 2025

This policy is based on the model policy from Northumberland County Council

1. Purpose

1.1 This Safeguarding: Preventing Extremism and Radicalisation Policy is part of our commitment to keeping children safe. Since the Education and Inspections Act 2006, schools have a duty to promote community cohesion. Over the last few years, global events have led to a growth of extremist viewpoints, including advocacy of violent extremism.

1.2 Schools have an important part to play in both educating children and young people about extremism and recognising when pupils start to become radicalised. From 1 July 2015, schools became subject to a duty under section 26 of the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 ("CTSA 2015") in exercising their functions, "...to have due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism".

1.3 Safeguarding children from all risks of harm, including those children in the EYFS is an important part of a school's work and protecting them from extremism is one aspect of that.

The duty to prevent children and young people being radicalised is set out in the following documents:

- Counter Terrorism & Security Act (2015, as amended)
- Keeping Children Safe in Education (September 2022 as amended)
- Working Together to Safeguard Children (March 2015, as amended)
- Prevent Duty Guidance: for England and Wales (March 2015) Revised July 2015 and (as amended)
- The Prevent Duty: Departmental advice for schools and childminders (June 2015, as amended)
- The Use of Social Media for on-line radicalisation (July 2015, as amended)

1.4 Non-statutory guidance

- Promoting fundamental British values as part of SMSC in schools: Departmental advice for maintained schools (DfE 2014, as amended)
- Improving the spiritual, moral, social and cultural (SMSC) development of pupils: supplementary information (DfE 2014, as amended)
- How Social Media is used to encourage travel to Syria and Iraq (Home Office)

1.5 Definitions

Extremism is defined in the 2011 Prevent strategy 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.

Radicalisation refers to the process by which a person comes to support terrorism and extremist ideologies associated with terrorist groups.

British Values are democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs.

2 Ethos

2.1 We ensure that through our school vision, aims, rules, diverse curriculum and teaching, we promote tolerance and respect for all cultures, faiths and lifestyles.

2.2 The governing body will also ensure that this ethos is reflected and implemented effectively through school policy and practice and that there is an effective suite of safeguarding policies in place to safeguard and promote pupils' welfare. We have a duty to prepare our pupils for life in modern Britain and to keep them safe. Everyone at the school has the right to learn and work in safety. We do not tolerate bullying of any kind and will challenge derogatory language and behaviour towards others

3. Roles and Responsibilities

3.1 Role of the Governing Body

It is the role of the Governing Body to;

- ensure that the school meets its statutory duties with regard to preventing radicalisation.
- ensure that this policy is understood and effectively implemented by staff throughout the school;
- ensure that the DSL undergoes appropriate Prevent duty training which is refreshed at least every three years; and
- ensure that the school's Prevent policies and procedures and general safeguarding arrangements take into account the policies and procedures of Northumberland Strategic Safeguarding Partners (NSSP).

3.2 Role of the Headteacher

It is the role of the Headteacher to:

- ensure that the school and its staff respond to preventing radicalisation on a day-to-day basis
- ensure that the school's curriculum addresses the issues involved in radicalisation
- ensure that staff conduct is consistent with preventing radicalisation

3.3 Role of Designated Safeguarding Lead

It is the role of the designated safeguarding lead to:

- ensure that staff understand the issues of radicalisation, that they are able to recognise the signs of vulnerability or radicalisation and know how to refer their concerns
- receive safeguarding concerns about pupils who may be vulnerable to the risk of radicalisation or are showing signs of radicalisation
- make referrals to appropriate agencies with regard to concerns about radicalisation
- liaise with partners, including the local authority and the police
- report to the Local Governing Body on these matters

3.4 Role of staff

It is the role of staff to:

- understand the issues of radicalisation, that they are able to recognise the signs of vulnerability or radicalisation and know how to refer their concerns.

3.5 School will conduct an annual review of safeguarding (S175), which includes the school's compliance with its Prevent Duty.

4. Curriculum

We are committed to ensuring that our pupils are offered a broad and balanced curriculum that aims to prepare them for life in modern Britain. We encourage our pupils to be inquisitive learners who are open to new experiences and are tolerant of others. Our values of being Respectful, Responsible and Resilient support the development of the whole child as a reflective learner within a safe respectful learning environment. Teaching the school's core values alongside the fundamental British values supports quality teaching and learning, whilst making a positive contribution to the development of a fair, just and civil society.

5. Internet Safety

The internet provides children and young people with access to a wide-range of content, some of which is harmful. Extremists use the internet, including social media, to share their messages. The filtering systems used at our school blocks inappropriate content, including extremist content. Where staff, pupils or visitors find unblocked extremist content they must report it to a senior member of staff. We are aware that children and young people have access to unfiltered internet when using their mobile phones; staff are alert to the need for vigilance. Pupils are not permitted to bring mobile phones to school. The e-safety and internet user policy refers to preventing radicalisation and related extremist content. Pupils and staff know how to report internet content that is inappropriate or of concern.

6. Staff Training

Staff will be given training to help them understand the issues of radicalisation, so that they are able to recognise the signs of vulnerability or radicalisation and know how to refer their concerns. This information also forms part of annual safeguarding training. All staff have completed online PREVENT training at:

<https://www.elearning.prevent.homeoffice.gov.uk/edu/screen1.html> or face-to-face training.

7. Safer Recruitment

We ensure that the staff we appoint to the school are suitable, our recruitment procedures are rigorous and we follow the statutory guidance published in part 3 of Keeping Children Safe in Education 2020. Vetting and barring checks are undertaken on relevant people, including the Local Governing Body and volunteers.

8. Visitors

Visitors to the school are made aware of our safeguarding and child protection policies on arrival at the school and are given information about what to do if they are concerned about any aspect of child welfare. We undertake due diligence to ensure that visiting speakers are appropriate. Speakers will be supervised at all times and will not be allowed to speak to pupils without a member of staff being present. Staff must not invite speakers into school without first obtaining permission from the Headteacher.

9. Signs of vulnerability

There are no known definitive indicators that a young person is vulnerable to radicalisation, but there are number of signs that together increase the risk. Signs of vulnerability include:

- underachievement
- being in possession of extremist literature
- poverty
- social exclusion
- traumatic events
- global or national events
- religious conversion
- change in behaviour
- extremist influences
- conflict with family over lifestyle
- confused identify
- victim or witness to race or hate crimes
- rejection by peers, family, social groups or faith

10. Recognising Extremism

Early indicators of radicalisation or extremism may include:

- showing sympathy for extremist causes
- glorifying violence, especially to other faiths or cultures
- making remarks or comments about being at extremist events or rallies outside school
- evidence of possessing illegal or extremist literature
- advocating messages similar to illegal organisations or other extremist groups
- out of character changes in dress, behaviour and peer relationships (there are also very powerful narratives, programmes and networks that young people can come across online so involvement with particular groups may not be apparent)
- secretive behaviour
- online searches or sharing extremist messages or social profiles
- intolerance of difference, including faith, culture, gender, race or sexuality
- graffiti, art work or writing that displays extremist themes
- attempts to impose extremist views or practices on others
- verbalising anti-Western or anti-British views
- advocating violence towards others

11. Referral Process

Staff and visitors to the school must refer all concerns about pupils who show signs of vulnerability or radicalisation to the Designated Safeguarding Lead using the usual methods for reporting other safeguarding concerns.

When there are significant concerns about a pupil, the Designated Safeguarding Lead in liaison with the Headteacher will make a referral to the appropriate body.(see Appendix 1 Prevent Pathway February 2021 and Appendix 2 Referral Form)

12. Contacts

Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)	Paul Heeley (paul.heeley@amblelinks.northumberland.sch.uk)
Designated Safeguarding Lead (Deputy DSL)	Louise Cuthbertson (louise.cuthbertson@school360.co.uk)
Any other staff trained to DSL level	Julie Kelly, Debbie Smith
Chair of Governors	Linda Williams (01665 710667)
Safeguarding Governor	Helen Cooper (01665 710667)
Our school follows the safeguarding protocols and procedures of our safeguarding children partnership	Northumberland Strategic Safeguarding Partnership procedures manual https://www.proceduresonline.com/northumberlandcs/index.html
Northumberland Prevent Coordinator	Emma Beniams prevent@northumberland.gov.uk
Northumberland Prevent Lead - Children's Services	Adele Wright Adele.Wright@northumberland.gov.uk
Northumberland Prevent Lead – Adult Services	Karen Wright Karen.Wright01@northumberland.gov.uk
Schools' Safeguarding Team	Carol Leckie Carol.Leckie@northumberland.gov.uk
Special Branch	specialbranch@northumbria.pnn.police.uk
OneCall	01670 536400 Children's Triage - childrentriage@northumberland.gov.uk
Adult Triage -	safeguarding.triage@northumbria-healthcare.nhs.uk
Where there is a risk of immediate serious harm to a child a referral should be made to children's social care immediately by the DSL.	01670 536400
If a child is in immediate danger	Local Police Emergency 999 Local Police Non-emergency 101
National contacts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NSPCC 24/7 Helpline/textline Tel: 0800 800 5000/88858 Email: help@nspcc.org.uk • DfE Prevent Helpline for schools & parents Tel: 020 7340 7264 (non-emergency) Email:Counter.extremism@education.gsi.gov.uk • The Lucy Faithfull Foundation (LFF) Tel: 0800 1000 900 Email: help@stopitnow.org.uk • www.parentsprotect.co.uk • National Bullying Helpline Tel: 0845 22 55 787

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