

Safeguarding children

1.12.2 Preventing Radicalisation

Policy statement for St Joseph's Pre-school

At St Joseph's Pre-school we ensure that through our vision, values, rules, curriculum and teaching we promote tolerance and respect for all cultures, faiths and lifestyles. The Committee also ensure that this ethos is reflected and implemented effectively in policy and practice and that there are effective risk assessments in place to safeguard and promote children's welfare.

We have a duty to prepare our children for life in modern Britain and to keep them safe. Pupils who attend our Pre-school have the right to learn in safety. We do not tolerate bullying of any kind and will challenge derogatory language and behaviour towards others.

Preventing Radicalisation Policy

This 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.

Early Years settings have an important part to play in both educating children and young people about extremism and recognising when pupils start to become radicalised. In March 2015, statutory duties were placed on schools by the Counter Terrorism and Security Act (2015) which means they must work to prevent children being drawn into extremism.

Safeguarding children from all risks of harm is an important part of a Pre-school's work and protecting them from extremism is one aspect of that.

Statutory Duties

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

- Counter Terrorism and Security Act (2015) section 26
- Keeping Children Safe in Education (latest update)
- Home Office: Prevent Duty Guidance (latest update)
- Working Together to Safeguard Children (latest update)

It's a legal obligation for St Joseph's Pre-school to comply with the Prevent duty and help to protect young children from extremism. Prevent Duty has 4 themes:

- Risk assessment – complete a risk assessment pinpointing any concerns relating to vulnerable children and radicalisation;
- Working in Partnership – take appropriate action and refer people to Channel¹ when necessary;
- Staff Training – undertake Prevent-awareness training; and
- IT Policies – apply appropriate content filters on IT and internet equipment/software.

¹ Channel is a multi agency approach to identify and support individuals at risk of being drawn into terrorism

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. We also include in our definition of extremism calls for the death of members of our armed forces, whether in this country or overseas.

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 beliefs².

Role of the Lead Practitioner

It is the role of the Lead Practitioner to:

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

Role of Designated Safeguarding Lead

It is the role of the designated safeguarding lead to:

- ensure that staff understand the issues of radicalisation, are able to recognise the signs of vulnerability or radicalisation and know how to refer their concerns;
- receive safeguarding concerns about children and young people 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 Lead Practitioner on these matters.

Role of staff

It is the role of staff to understand the issues of radicalisation, are able to recognise the signs of vulnerability or radicalisation and know how to refer their concerns. It is their responsibility to take action when there is concern over a child or families behaviour.

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 in our Pre-school blocks inappropriate content, including extremist content.

The Acceptable Use of ICT Policy refers to preventing radicalisation and related extremist content. Staff know how to report internet content that is inappropriate or of concern.

Staff Training

Staff will be given training to help them understand the issues of radicalisation, are able to recognise the signs of vulnerability or radicalisation and know how to refer their concerns. This information also forms part of induction safeguarding training. Staff are updated as necessary in weekly safeguarding briefings.

² See Policy 1.13.1 British Values

Safer Recruitment

We ensure that the staff we appoint to the Pre-school are suitable, our recruitment procedures are rigorous and we follow the statutory guidance published in part 3 of *Keeping Children Safe in Education* (latest version). At St Joseph's Pre-school we ensure that we have a member on every recruitment panel who has received the appropriate recruitment and selection training and that we have more than one member of staff suitably trained.

All our staff are appropriately qualified and have the relevant employment history and checks to ensure they are safe to work with children. References are sought from both the most recent employer and the most recent educational setting (if applicable). Internal references are only acceptable from someone with authority, not a work colleague. We endeavor to check that any electronic reference received is from legitimate source. Vetting and barring checks are undertaken on relevant people, including Committee members and volunteers. As part of their contract, all staff are required to enroll on the DBS update service.

Signs of radicalization

Although the signs of radicalisation differ from person to person, it may be a cause for concern if a child is seen to be:

- isolating away from friends and family;
- talking as if they are reading from a scripted speech;
- being unwilling or unable to discuss their views;
- becoming increasingly angry; or
- Becoming more secretive.

Children who are at increased risk of radicalisation may suffer from low self-esteem, or be victims of discrimination or bullying.

Referral Process

Staff and visitors to the Pre-school must refer all concerns about children and young people who show signs of radicalisation to the Designated Safeguarding Lead using the usual methods for reporting other safeguarding concerns.

When there are significant concerns about a child, the Designated Safeguarding Lead in liaison with the Lead Practitioner will make a referral to the appropriate body.

Depending on the severity of the matter, they may contact the local police or call the 101 non-emergency services number for advice and support.

Additionally, the Department of Education provides a telephone number (020 7340 7263) for education professionals that want to raise direct concerns relating to radicalisation.

For non-emergency situations, the following email is available:
counter.extremism@education.gsi.gov.uk

Associated Policies and Procedures

- No 1.2 Safeguarding children and child protection

Version Number	Author	Purpose of change	Date
1.0	E Kemp	New policy	Nov 2017
2.0	K Coupe	Reviewed, updated and inclusion of version control	7 Nov 2018
3.0	K Coupe	Comprehensive review in line with safeguarding and Keeping Children Safe in Education 2018	27 Feb 2019 Cttee Mtg
4.0	K Coupe & N Powers	Reviewed and updated – inclusion of setting's legal obligation together with contact details if there is a referral	20/11/21 Cttee Mbr (T Clapp)
5.0	K Coupe	Document reviewed. Minor changes made plus the inclusion of the "Associated policies and procedures" section as per EY Safeguarding Audit 2023 s175/157	29/06/2023 Chair (A Hitchings)