

<b>Bawnmore Community Infant School</b>
<b>Preventing Radicalisation Policy Statement</b>

<b>Date written</b>	<b>Review Date</b>	<b>Lead Responsible</b>	<b>Approved by Governors</b>
22.01.2020	2022	Headteacher	10.02.20



## **Introduction**

Bawnmore Community Infant School is committed to providing a secure environment for pupils, where children feel safe and are kept safe. All adults at the school recognise that safeguarding is everyone's responsibility, irrespective of the role they undertake, or whether their role has direct contact or responsibility for children or not.

Since 2010, when the Government published the Prevent Strategy, there has been an awareness of the specific need to safeguard children, young people and families from extremism. Extremist groups, both locally and nationally, have attempted to radicalise vulnerable children and young people to hold extreme views, including views justifying political, religious, sexist or racist violence. Or to steer them into a rigid and narrow ideology that is intolerant of diversity and leaves them vulnerable to future radicalisation.

The Prevent Strategy operates in a pre-criminal space, providing support and re-direction to vulnerable individuals at risk of being groomed into terrorist activities before any crimes are committed. Radicalisation could be comparable to other forms of harm and abuse. It is therefore considered a safeguarding issue and thought of alongside the wider safeguarding agenda.

When operating this Policy, the school uses the following accepted Governmental definition of extremism, which is:

*'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; and/or calls for the death of members of our armed forces, whether in this country or overseas'*.

## **Aims and Principles**

The main aims of this policy statement are to ensure that all staff are fully engaged in being vigilant about radicalisation; 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 receive annual 'Prevent' training as part of our safeguarding duties.

The principle objectives are that:

- All staff, teachers, teaching assistants and non-teaching staff will have an understanding of what radicalisation and extremism are and why we need to be vigilant in school.

- All staff, teachers, teaching assistants and non-teaching staff will know what the school policy is on anti-radicalisation, extremism and will follow the policy when issues arise.
- 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.

### **School Ethos and Practice**

There is no place for extremist views of any kind in our school, whether from internal sources – pupils, staff or governors – or external sources – school community, external agencies or individuals. Our pupils see our school as a safe place where they can explore controversial issues safely, and where our teachers encourage and facilitate this – we have a duty to ensure this happens.

In our school this will be achieved by good teaching, primarily via PSHE sessions. These approaches include encouraging pupils to build a sense of ownership; creating a safe space for dialogue between staff and pupils; building resilience in pupils; improving pupil skills for collaborative work and improving pupils' ability to interact with each other. We will ensure that all of our teaching approaches help our pupils build resilience to extremism, and give pupils a positive sense of identity through the development of critical thinking skills. The school will promote the values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, mutual respect and tolerance for those with different faiths and beliefs. We will teach and encourage pupils to respect one another, and to respect and tolerate difference, especially those of a different faith or no faith.

We will also work with local partners, families and communities in our efforts to challenge extremist views and to assist in the broadening of our pupil's experiences and horizons.

Any prejudice, discrimination or extremist views, including derogatory language, displayed by pupils or staff will always be challenged, and where appropriate dealt with in line with our Behaviour Policy for pupils and the Code of Conduct for staff.

### **Recognising the indicators of vulnerability to radicalisation**

Pupils may become susceptible to radicalisation through a range of social, personal and environmental factors - it is known that violent extremists exploit vulnerabilities in individuals to drive a wedge between them and their families and communities. It is vital that school staff are able to recognise those vulnerabilities and therefore this forms part of our safeguarding training.

### **Links to other policies**

The Bawnmore Community Infant School Preventing Radicalisation Policy Statement links to the following policies:

- Child protection and Safeguarding
- Anti-bullying Policy
- Equality Policy
- Online Safety

### **Procedures for referrals**

When any member of staff has concerns that a pupil may be at risk of radicalisation, they should speak with the DSL (Designated Safeguarding Lead). We will help support pupils who may be vulnerable to such influences as part of our wider safeguarding responsibilities, and where we believe a pupil is being directly affected by extremist materials or influences, we will ensure that that pupil is offered support. In such instances, our school will seek external support from Warwickshire's Safeguarding Board and/or local partnership structures working to prevent extremism. 'Channel' is a key element of the Prevent Strategy. It is a multi-agency approach to identifying and providing support to individuals who are at risk of being drawn into terrorism, and this panel meets once a month within Warwickshire.

Our school will closely follow the locally agreed procedure as set out by the Local Safeguarding Children Board for safeguarding individuals vulnerable to extremism and radicalisation.

### **Policy Adoption, Monitoring and Review**

This Policy was considered and adopted by the Governing Body in line with their overall duty to safeguard and promote the welfare of children as set out in the DfE guidance 'Keeping Children Safe in Education'. It will be reviewed every three years unless new guidance/legislation is issued by WCC or the government in the meantime.

This Policy will be made available to parents/carers via the school's website.