North Cornwall Learning Trust

Working Together for Local Children

TACKLING EXTREMISM & RADICALISATION POLICY
(for the Trust and its schools)
October 2020

Version 2.1

Tackling Extremism & Radicalisation Policy

1.BACKGROUND

This policy is in response to the Prevent strategy which aims to counteract extremism and radicalisation.

1.1 Schools can help to protect children from extremist and violent views in the same ways that they help to safeguard children from drugs, gang violence or alcohol. Schools' work on Prevent needs to be seen in this context. The purpose must be to protect children from harm and to ensure that they are taught in a way that is consistent with the law and our values.
The Government defines extremism as: "vocal or active opposition to fundamental British values, including democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of other faiths and beliefs".

1.2 To help counteract extremism, all schools are required by law to teach a broad and balanced curriculum which promotes the spiritual, moral and cultural development of pupils and prepares them for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of life in Britain – that includes knowledge and understanding of what have been described as 'British' values, namely: democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect, and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs.

2. POLICY STATEMENT

North Cornwall Learning Trust is fully committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all its pupils. Every member of staff recognises that safeguarding against radicalisation and extremism is no different to safeguarding against any other vulnerability in today's society. The Tackling Extremism and Radicalisation Policy sets out our beliefs, strategies and procedures to protect vulnerable individuals from being radicalised or exposed to extremist views, by identifying who they are and promptly providing them with support.

3. LINKS TO OTHER POLICIES

The school Tackling Extremism and Radicalisation Policy links to the following school policies:

- Child Protection and Safeguarding
- Equality Policy
- Anti-bullying Policy
- Behaviour Management Policy
- E-Safety Policy

The following national guidelines should also be read when working with this policy;

- PREVENT Strategy HM Government 2015
- Keeping Children Safe in Education DfE 2019
- Working Together to Safeguard Children HM Government 2015, updated February 2017.

4. AIMS AND PRINCIPLES

4.1 The school Tackling Extremism and Radicalisation Policy is intended to provide a framework for dealing with issues relating to vulnerability, radicalisation and exposure to extreme views. We recognise that we are well placed to be able to identify safeguarding issues and this policy clearly sets out how the school will deal with such incidents and identifies how the curriculum and ethos underpins our actions.

4.2 The objectives are that:

- All governors, teachers, teaching assistants and support staff will have an understanding of what radicalisation and extremism are and why we need to be vigilant in school.
- All governors, teachers, teaching assistants and support staff will know what the school policy is on tackling extremism and radicalisation and will follow the policy guidance swiftly when issues arise.
- All pupils will understand the dangers of radicalisation and exposure to extremist views; building resilience against these and knowing what to do if they experience them.
- All parents/carers 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.

4.3 The main aims of this policy are to ensure that staff are fully engaged in being vigilant about radicalisation; that they overcome professional disbelief that such issues will happen here and ensure that we work alongside other professional bodies and agencies to ensure that our pupils are safe from harm.

5. DEFINTIONS AND INDICATORS

5.1 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.

5.2 Extremism is defined as the holding of extreme political or religious views. Extremists are those individuals and groups that resort to intimidation and/or violence to promote their views.

5.3 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.
- Day-to-day behaviour becoming increasingly centred 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.

6. PROCEDURES FOR REFERRALS

6.1 Although serious incidents involving radicalisation have not occurred at the North Cornwall Learning Trust Schools to date, it is important for us to be constantly vigilant and remain fully informed about the issues which affect the school and local community in which we teach. Staff are reminded to suspend any 'professional disbelief' that instances of radicalisation 'could happen here' and to be 'professionally inquisitive' where concerns arise, referring any concerns through the appropriate channels. (See Appendix 1 – Dealing with referrals)

6.2 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/or groups. We must have the confidence to challenge, the confidence to intervene and ensure that we have strong safeguarding practices based on the most up-to-date guidance and best practice.

6.3 The Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) will deal swiftly with any referrals made by staff or with concerns reported by staff.

6.4 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 (see Appendix 1 – Dealing with referrals)

6.5 As with any child protection referral, staff must be made aware that if they do not agree with a decision not to refer, they can make the referral themselves and will be given the contact details to do this via the DSL or Headteacher.

7. GOVERNORS, LEADERS AND STAFF

7.1 Each Local Governing Board will appoint a lead governor for Prevent/radicalisation. Please contact the individual schools for details

7.2 Staff will be 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 or extremist views. The advice to staff regarding child protection concerns applies here; concerns should be directed to the DSL.

7.3 Prejudicial behaviour can be a factor in radicalisation and extremism. With this in mind, North Cornwall Learning Trust has updated procedures for dealing with prejudicial behaviour, as outlined in the school's Behaviour Policy and Equality Policy.

8. THE ROLE OF THE CURRICULUM

8.1 Our curriculum is "broad and balanced" in accordance with Ofsted guidance. It promotes respect, tolerance and diversity. Children are encouraged to share their views and recognise that they are entitled to have their own different beliefs which should not be used to influence others.

8.2 Our PSHE provision is embedded across the curriculum, including in tutorial programmes and Morality & Ethics (SJS). It directs our assemblies and underpins the ethos of the school. It is recognised that children with low aspirations are more vulnerable to radicalisation and therefore we strive to equip our pupils with confidence, self-belief, respect and tolerance as well as setting high standards and expectations for themselves.

8.3 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. E-safety is about informing and training young people to keep themselves safe from paedophiles and potential radicalisers including religious zealots, far-right and far-left ideologies, single issue extremists and other militant groups.

9. TRAINING FOR STAFF AND GOVERNORS

9.1 Through INSET opportunities in school, we will ensure that our staff and governors are fully aware of the threats, risks and vulnerabilities that are linked to radicalisation; 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. (See Appendix 2- Staff training)

10. VISITORS AND THE USE OF SCHOOL PREMISES

10.1 Upon arriving at the school, all visitors including contractors, will be issued with Tier 1 safeguarding guidance and be made aware of who the DSLs are and how to report any concerns.

10.2 If any agreement is made to allow non-school groups or organisations to use the premises, appropriate checks will be made before agreeing the contract. Usage will be monitored and in the event of any behaviour not in-keeping with the Tackling Extremism and Radicalisation Policy, the school will contact the police and terminate the contract.

11. KEEPING STAFF INFORMED

Staff will be kept informed and updated on matters pertaining to radicalisation and extremism via the weekly bulletin

11. POLICY REVIEW

The Tackling Extremism and Radicalisation Policy will be reviewed annually as part of the overall Child Protection and Safeguarding policy review.

If you would like this in a different format please contact the school

Version and Date		**Action/Notes**
1.0	September 2019	New policy adopted; Reviewed Jon Lawrence
2.0	October 2020	Reviewed and amended – Phil Banks
2.1	November 2020	Corrected VCoG – missing word

Policy Reviewed:	September 2020
Next Review:	September 2021

Appendix 1 – Dealing with referrals

We are aware of the potential indicating factors that a child is vulnerable to being radicalised or exposed to extreme views, including peer pressure, influence from other people or the internet, bullying, crime and anti-social behaviour, family tensions, race/hate crime, lack of self-esteem or identity, prejudicial behaviour and personal or political grievances.
In the event of prejudicial behaviour the following system will be followed;

- All incidents of prejudicial behaviour will be reported directly to the DSL or the Head Teacher.
- All incidents will be fully investigated and recorded in line with the Behaviour Policy and records will be kept in line with procedures for any other safeguarding incident.
- Parents/carers will be contacted and the incident discussed in detail, aiming to identify motivating factors, any changes in circumstances at home, parental views of the incident and to assess whether the incident is serious enough to warrant a further referral. A note of this meeting is kept alongside the initial referral in the Safeguarding folder.
- The SLT follow-up any referrals for a period of four weeks after the incident to assess whether there is a change in behaviour and/or attitude. A further meeting with parents would be held if there is not a significant positive change in behaviour.
- If deemed necessary, serious incidents will be discussed and referred to the Cornwall MARU 0300 1231 116 and the Cornwall Prevent Team 01392 452 555
- In the event of a referral relating to serious and immediate concerns about potential radicalisation or extremism, the school will also contact Devon and Cornwall Police Prevent Team

APPENDIX 2

Staff Safeguarding Training			
Type of Training	**Delivered by**	**Delivered to**	**When and at what frequency**
WRAP (Workshop to Raise Awareness of Prevent)	Cornwall Prevent Lead Officer Prevent online training module available on Every	All staff, governors,	Every two years. Certificates held in school Update training Sept 2017
Safer Recruitment Training	Services for Education in Partnership with Cornwall Council Every online training module	All SLT and governors involved in interviews	Refreshed on 5 year basis. Certificates held in school Safeguarding Folder
Safeguarding and Child Protection Training	Services for Education in Partnership with Cornwall Council	All SLT and designated governors for child protection	Refreshed on 2 year basis. Certificates held in school Safeguarding Folder
Safeguarding and Child Protection Training – (Dissemination)	SLT Every online training module	All staff, governors	Repeated for all staff during first half of Autumn half term each academic year and ongoing in weekly year group and INSET meeting
Tackling Homophobia in Schools	Stonewall	Key staff, information to be cascaded	Each academic year
Tackling Domestic Violence	Safer Cornwall	Key staff, information to be cascaded	each academic year
Tackling Female Genital Mutilation	Safer Cornwall Home Office Online Course Every online training module	Key staff, information to be cascaded	each academic year

If you wish to know more about Channel please contact the Regional Prevent/ Channel lead (South) DI Sam Norman on 01392 452555 or Steve Rowell 01736 336587. Alternatively send any questions to **prevent@devonandcornwall.pnn.police.uk or prevent@cornwall.gov.uk**