



# PREVENTING EXTREMISM AND RADICALISATION POLICY

## River View Primary & Nursery School

Date: October 2025

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River View Primary and Nursery School, is committed to providing a secure environment for pupils, where children feel safe and are kept safe. All staff and volunteers working at our 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.

Under the Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015 the school also has a statutory duty to have due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism.

This policy is one element within our overall school arrangements to Safeguard and Promote the Welfare of all Children in line with our statutory duties and should be read in conjunction with the Safeguarding Policy.

Our school's Preventing Extremism and Radicalisation Policy also draws upon the guidance contained in the "Prevent Strategy, 2023", "The Counter-Terrorism and Security Act (HMG, 2015)", DfE Guidance "Keeping Children Safe in Education, 2023" and "Working together to Safeguard Children 2018"; "Tackling Extremism in the UK", DfE's "Teaching Approaches that help Build Resilience to Extremism among Young People" and Peter Clarke's Report of July 2014.

Definitions of radicalisation and extremism, and indicators of vulnerability to radicalisation are to be found in Appendix 1.

### **School Ethos and Practice**

There is no place for extremist views of any kind at River View Primary and Nursery 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.

As a school we recognise that extremism and exposure to extremist materials and influences can lead to poor outcomes for children and so should be addressed as a safeguarding concern as set out in this policy. We also recognise that if we fail to challenge extremist views, we are failing to protect our pupils.

Extremists of all persuasions aim to develop destructive relationships between different communities by promoting division, fear and mistrust of others based on ignorance or prejudice and thereby limiting the life chances of young people.

Education is a powerful weapon against this; equipping young people with the knowledge, skills and critical thinking, to challenge and debate in an informed way.

Therefore, we will provide a broad and balanced curriculum, delivered by skilled professionals, so that our pupils are enriched, they understand and become tolerant of difference and diversity and to ensure that they thrive, feel valued and not marginalised.

Furthermore, at River View Primary and Nursery School we are aware that young people can be exposed to extremist influences or prejudiced views from an early age which emanate from a variety of sources and media, including via the internet, and at times pupils may themselves reflect or display views that may be discriminatory, prejudiced or extremist, including using derogatory language.

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. Where misconduct by a teacher is proven, the matter will be referred to the Teaching Regulation Agency.

As part of wider safeguarding responsibilities school staff will be alert to:

- Disclosures by pupils of their exposure to the extremist actions, views or materials of others outside of school, such as in their homes or community groups.
- Graffiti symbols, writing or artwork promoting extremist messages or images
- Pupils accessing extremist material online, including through social networking sites
- Parental reports of changes in behaviour, friendship or actions and requests for assistance
- Partner schools, local authority services, and police reports of issues affecting pupils in other schools or settings
- Pupils voicing opinions drawn from extremist ideologies and narratives
- Use of extremist or 'hate' terms to exclude others or incite violence
- Intolerance of difference, whether secular or religious or, in line with our equalities policy, views based on, but not exclusive to, gender, disability, homophobia, race, colour or culture
- Attempts to impose extremist views or practices on others
- Anti-Western or Anti-British views

Our school will closely follow any locally agreed procedure as set out by the Local Authority and/or Staffordshire Safeguarding Children Partnership's agreed processes and criteria for safeguarding individuals vulnerable to extremism and radicalisation.

### **Teaching Approaches**

At River View Primary and Nursery School, we will all strive to eradicate the myths and assumptions that can lead to some young people becoming alienated and

disempowered, especially where the narrow approaches children may experience elsewhere may make it harder for them to challenge or question these radical influences. In our school this will be achieved by good teaching, primarily during Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE) lessons; but also by adopting the methods outlined in the Government's guidance 'Teaching approaches that help build resilience to extremism among young people' DfE 2011 and Promoting fundamental British values as part of SMSC in schools - Departmental advice for maintained schools November 2014.

Our PHSE programme, Jigsaw, content promotes and teaches the fundamental British values of democracy, rule of law, individual liberty, mutual respect, tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs. We use debate and question viewpoints in P4C lessons and celebrate faiths and beliefs in assemblies. Our RICHER values overlap with British values and are a golden thread throughout our school.

We will ensure that all our teaching approaches help our pupils build resilience to extremism and give them a positive sense of identity through the development of critical thinking skills. We will ensure that all our staff are equipped to recognise extremism and are skilled and confident enough to challenge it.

We will be flexible enough to adapt our teaching approaches, as appropriate, as to address specific issues to become even more relevant to the current issues of extremism and radicalisation. In doing so we will apply the 'key ingredients' see Appendix 2, and we will apply the methodologies set out in that document following the three broad categories of:

- Making a connection with young people using a pupil centred approach
- Facilitating a 'safe space' for dialogue
- Equipping our pupils with the appropriate skills, knowledge, understanding and awareness for resilience

Therefore, this approach will be embedded within the ethos of our school so that pupils know and understand what safe and acceptable behaviour is in the context of extremism and radicalisation. This will work in conjunction with our schools' approach to the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils and will include the use of assemblies to help further promote this rounded development of our pupils.

Our goal is to build mutual respect and understanding and to promote the use of dialogue, not violence, as a form of conflict resolution. We will achieve this by using a curriculum that includes:

- Citizenship programmes
- Open discussion and debate

- Work on anti-violence and a restorative approach addressed throughout the curriculum
- Focussed educational programmes

We will also work with local partners, families and communities in our efforts to ensure our school understands and embraces our local context and values in challenging extremist views and to assist in the broadening of our pupil's experiences and horizons. 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 mentoring. Additionally, in such instances our school will seek external support from the Local Authority and/or local partnership structures working to prevent extremism.

At River View Primary and Nursery School we 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 differences, especially those of a different faith or no faith. It is indeed our most fundamental responsibility to keep our pupils safe and prepare them for life in modern multi-cultural Britain and globally.

### **Use of External Agencies and Speakers**

At our school we encourage the use of external agencies or speakers to enrich the experiences of our pupils, however we will positively vet those external agencies, individuals or speakers who we engage to provide such learning opportunities or experiences for our pupils. Such vetting is to ensure that we do not unwittingly use agencies that contradict each other with their messages or that are inconsistent with, or are in complete opposition to, the school's values and ethos. We must be aware that in some instances the work of external agencies may not directly relate to the rest of the school curriculum, so we need to ensure that this work is of benefit to pupils.

Our school will assess the suitability and effectiveness of input from external agencies or individuals to ensure that:

- Any messages communicated to pupils are consistent with the ethos of the school and do not marginalise any communities, groups or individuals
- Any messages do not seek to glorify criminal activity or violent extremism or seek to radicalise pupils through extreme or narrow views of faith, religion or culture or other ideologies
- Activities are properly embedded in the curriculum and clearly mapped to schemes of work to avoid contradictory messages or duplication.

- Activities are matched to the needs of pupils
- Activities are carefully evaluated by schools to ensure that they are effective

We recognise, however, that the ethos of our school is to encourage pupils to understand opposing views and ideologies, appropriate to their age, understanding and abilities, and to be able to actively engage with them in informed debate, and we may use external agencies or speakers to facilitate and support this.

Therefore, by delivering a broad and balanced curriculum, augmented by the use of external sources where appropriate, we will strive to ensure our pupils recognise risk and build resilience to manage any such risk themselves where appropriate to their age and ability but also to help pupils develop the critical thinking skills needed to engage in informed debate.

### **Referring Concerns**

Where there are concerns of extremism or radicalisation parents, pupils and staff will be encouraged to make use of our internal systems to raise any issue in confidence with senior management.

Our lead person for Prevent is the Designated Safeguarding Lead who would normally be the first point of contact should there be concerns. If for any reason this creates a difficulty for the referrer, they can contact the Local Authority 'Prevent' co-ordinator, Staffordshire Children's Social Care, Education Safeguarding Advice Service or Ofsted depending on the level of concern. Contact details for these agencies can be found at the end of this policy document. See Appendix 2

Staff should refer to the School Whistle Blowing Policy under which they are entitled to employment protection for raising genuine concerns outside of the school environment.

### **Child Protection**

Please refer to our Safeguarding Policy for the full procedural framework on our Child Protection duties.

Staff will be alert to the fact that whilst Extremism and Radicalisation is broadly a safeguarding issue there may be some instances where a child or children may be at direct risk of harm or neglect. For example: this could be due to a child displaying risky behaviours in terms of the activities they are involved in or the groups they are associated with or staff may be aware of information about a child's family that may

equally place a child at risk of harm. (These examples are for illustration and are not definitive or exhaustive)

Therefore, all adults working at River View Primary and Nursery School, (including visiting staff, volunteers', contractors, and students on placement) are required to report instances where they believe a child may be at risk of harm or neglect to the Designated Safeguarding Lead or Headteacher. They will make a referral to children's social care or the Staffordshire Prevent team when appropriate.

The Designated Safeguarding Lead is the focus person and local 'expert' for school staff, and others, who may have concerns about an individual child's safety or well-being and is the first point of contact for external agencies.

## **Training**

All staff, including temporary staff and volunteers will receive an induction regarding our Safeguarding Policy and procedures. This will include information and guidance about our duty to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism. This will be achieved using the online Government guidance training on the Prevent duty. (<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/prevent-duty-training>)

This will be renewed annually, and as part of whole school in-service training in regard to safeguarding and child protection. This is organised for staff, governors and volunteers at least every three years and will comply with the prevailing arrangements approved by Staffordshire Safeguarding Children Partnership and will, in part, include awareness raising on extremism and radicalisation and its safeguarding implications.

The Designated Safeguarding Lead will attend appropriate and relevant training courses regarding safeguarding children, including the appropriate inter-agency training organised by the Safeguarding Children Partnership at least every two years. This will include accessing training on extremism and radicalisation and its safeguarding implications.

The Designated Safeguarding Lead will ensure that all adults working in the school receive appropriate levels of training, guidance and support regarding safeguarding children from extremism and radicalisation.

## **Recruitment and staff conduct**

The arrangements for recruiting all staff, permanent and volunteers, to our school will follow guidance for safer recruitment best practice in education settings, including, but not limited to, ensuring that DBS checks are always made at the appropriate

level, that references are always received and checked and that we complete and maintain a single central record of such vetting checks. We will apply safer recruitment best practice principles and sound employment practice in general and in doing so will deny opportunities for inappropriate recruitment or advancement.

We will be alert to the possibility that persons may seek to gain positions within our school to unduly influence our schools' character and ethos. We are aware that such persons seek to limit the opportunities for our pupils thereby rendering them vulnerable to extremist views and radicalisation as a consequence. Therefore, by adhering to safer recruitment best practice techniques and by ensuring that there is an ongoing culture of vigilance within our school and staff team we will minimise the opportunities for extremist views to prevail.

Referrals to the Staffordshire LADO service will be made when appropriate as per statutory guidance and our Safeguarding Policy.

### **Role of Governing Body**

The Governing Body of our School will undertake appropriate training to ensure that they are clear about their role and the parameters of their responsibilities as Governors, including their statutory safeguarding duties. The Governing Body of our school will support the ethos and values of our school and will support the school in tackling extremism and radicalisation.

Governors will challenge the school's senior leadership team on the delivery of this policy and monitor its effectiveness. They will review this policy regularly (annually) and may amend and adopt it outside of this timeframe in accordance with any new legislation or guidance or in response to any quality assurance recommendations pertaining to the delivery of this policy and the overall safeguarding arrangements made.

### **Contact details:**

Staffordshire Children's Advice and Support Service (re concerns that an identified Staffordshire child or children are at risk or LADO referrals)

0300 111 8007

Emergency Duty Service (children's social care) 0345 6042886

Staffordshire Prevent Team Via 101 or Email

[prevent@staffordshire.police.uk](mailto:prevent@staffordshire.police.uk)

National Prevent Advice Line 0800 011 3764

Education Safeguarding Advice Service (Staffordshire) – 01785 895836 or email: esas@staffordshire.gov.uk

Ofsted Contact Centre 0300 123 1231

Police Anti-Terrorist Hotline: 0800789321

References:

Staffordshire Safeguarding Children Partnership procedures can be found on:  
<https://www.staffsscp.org.uk/procedures/>

Prevent Duty Guidance (Updated March 2024)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/prevent-duty-guidance/prevent-duty-guidance-for-england-and-wales-accessible>

Keeping Children Safe in Education (September 2025)

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/68add931969253904d155860/Keeping\\_children\\_safe\\_in\\_education\\_from\\_1\\_September\\_2025.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/68add931969253904d155860/Keeping_children_safe_in_education_from_1_September_2025.pdf)

Promoting Fundamental British values as part of SMSC in schools DfE November 2014

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/promoting-fundamental-british-values-through-smsc>

Channel and Prevent Multi-Agency Panel (PMAP) guidance February 2021 (updated August 2025)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/channel-and-prevent-multi-agency-panel-pmap-guidance>

## **Appendix 1:**

### **Indicators of vulnerability to radicalisation**

1. Radicalisation refers to the process by which a person comes to support terrorism and forms of extremism leading to terrorism.

2. Extremism is defined by the Government in the 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.

3. Extremism is defined by the Crown Prosecution Service as:

The demonstration of unacceptable behaviour by using any means or medium to express views which:

- Encourage, justify or glorify terrorist violence in furtherance of particular beliefs;
- Seek to provoke others to terrorist acts;
- Encourage other serious criminal activity or seek to provoke others to serious criminal acts; or
- Foster hatred which might lead to inter-community violence in the UK.

4. There is no such thing as a “typical extremist”: those who become involved in extremist actions come from a range of backgrounds and experiences, and most individuals, even those who hold radical views, do not become involved in violent extremist activity.

5. Students 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.

6. Indicators of vulnerability include:

- Identity Crisis – the student is distanced from their cultural / religious heritage and experiences discomfort about their place in society;
- Personal Crisis – the student may be experiencing family tensions; a sense of isolation; and low self-esteem; they may have dissociated from their existing friendship group and become involved with a new and different group of friends; they may be searching for answers to questions about identity, faith and belonging;
- Personal Circumstances – migration; local community tensions; and events affecting the student / pupil’s country or region of origin may contribute to a sense of grievance that is triggered by personal experience of racism or discrimination or aspects of Government policy;
- Unmet Aspirations – the student may have perceptions of injustice; a feeling of failure; rejection of civic life;
- Experiences of Criminality – which may include involvement with criminal groups, imprisonment, and poor resettlement / reintegration;

- Special Educational Need – students may experience difficulties with social interaction, empathy with others, understanding the consequences of their actions and awareness of the motivations of others.

7. However, this list is not exhaustive, nor does it mean that all young people experiencing the above are at risk of radicalisation for the purposes of violent extremism.

8. More critical risk factors could include:

- Being in contact with extremist recruiters;
- Accessing violent extremist websites, especially those with a social networking element;
- Possessing or accessing violent extremist literature;
- Using extremist narratives and a global ideology to explain personal disadvantage;
- Justifying the use of violence to solve societal issues;
- Joining or seeking to join extremist organisations;
- Significant changes to appearance and / or behaviour;
- Experiencing a high level of social isolation resulting in issues of identity crisis and / or personal crisis.

## Appendix 2:

<b>Push Factors</b>	<b>Key Ingredients</b>	<b>Pull Factors</b>
Factors which push/make an individual vulnerable to extremist messages	<b>Teacher confidence and skills</b> in dealing with difficult and sensitive issues	Factors that draw young people into extremist messages
Lack of excitement, frustration	<b>Teacher attitude/behaviours</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Need to be able to admit that do not necessarily know the answers</li> <li>• Able to acknowledge that controversial issues/matters exist</li> <li>• Willingness to seek help when not sure what to do/how to assist</li> <li>• Understanding that they have a role to play re this agenda</li> </ul>	Confident and charismatic recruiters
Lack of a sense of achievement seen as significant. Lacking purpose/confidence in the future/life goals.	<b>Specific knowledge</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Some understanding of other cultures and religions and belief systems</li> <li>• Knowledge of alternate values framework</li> </ul>	Networks/sense of belonging
Lacking an outlet for views	<b>Teaching pedagogy</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Working with pupils to enable them to develop critical thinking skills (to be able to see through propaganda...</li> <li>• Enabling pupils to see multiple perspectives</li> <li>• Enabling pupils to deal with difficult situations</li> <li>• Utilizing multiple resources/methods</li> <li>• Working with young people to enable them to develop and have pride in sense of self and sense of having multiple identities</li> <li>• Linking schoolwork with the wider community</li> </ul>	Persuasive clear message which exploit knowledge gaps
Gaps in knowledge and or understanding of different religions both young people and their parents		Wider community views which promote extremist views or do not actively oppose extremism
A sense of injustice		
Actual or perceived humiliating experiences this may be linked to a sense of injustice. The experiences may be of being bullied, put down etc		
Exclusion – a lack of belonging to peer/community networks, groups etc.		



## Appendix 3: The Channel Process

### What is Channel?

Channel is a key element of the Prevent Strategy. It is a multi-agency approach to protect people at risk of radicalisation. Channel uses existing collaboration between local authorities, statutory partners, the police and the local community to identify individuals at risk of being drawn into terrorism, assess the nature and extent of that risk and develop the most appropriate support for the individuals concerned.

More information about Channel can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/channel-guidance>

### Pathway Diagram (HM Government 2021)

