



Preventing Extremism & Radicalism Policy

February 2022

Review February 2024

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "J. V. L.", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Introduction

Little Melton is committed to providing a secure environment for pupils, where children feel safe and are kept safe.

All adults in 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.

In adhering to this policy and procedures staff and visitors will contribute to our school's delivery of the outcomes to all children, as set out in s10 (2) of the Children Act 2004.

This Preventing Extremism and Radicalisation Safeguarding Policy is one element within our overall school arrangements to Safeguard and Promote the Welfare of all Children in line with our statutory duties set out at 175 of the Education Act 2002 (s157 of the Education Act 2002.)

Our school's Preventing Extremism and Radicalisation Safeguarding Policy also draws on the DfE Guidance "Keeping Children Safe in Education, 2019" 2021'

the DCSF Resources "Learning Together to be Safe",

the "Prevent: Resources Guide",

the "Tackling Extremism in the UK" the physical, mental health and emotional well-being of children; the protection of children from harm and neglect; the education, training and recreation of children; the contribution made by them to society; and their social and economic well-being.

School Ethos and Practice

When operating this policy we use 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'.

The full Government Prevent Strategy can be viewed at [https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/97976/preventstr](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/97976/preventstrategy-review.pdf)

ategy-review.pdf

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. 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. We therefore will provide a broad and balanced curriculum, delivered by skilled professionals, so that our pupils are enriched, understand and become tolerant of difference and diversity and also to ensure that they thrive, feel valued and not marginalized. We are also 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 National College for Teaching and Leadership for their consideration as to whether to a Prohibition Order is warranted.

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

- e 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, especially where pupils have not actively sought these out.

- e Graffiti symbols, writing or art work 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

- e 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

- e 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 our Safeguarding Children Board's agreed processes and criteria for safeguarding individuals vulnerable to extremism and radicalisation.

e In the event of concerns about a person becoming radicalised consideration will be given to using the LA Channel process. Channel is a bespoke panel which meets to address issues of individuals who have been identified as being at risk of radicalisation but have not committed any terrorism offence. The Channel Panel meets when a referral has been made and referrals can be made by anyone.

Teaching Approaches 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 via PSHE and our 'Keeping Safe' curriculum, 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.

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 skill. We will ensure that all of our staff are equipped to recognize extremism and are skilled and confident enough to challenge it.

We will be flexible enough to adapt our teaching approaches, as appropriate, so as to address specific issues so as to become even more relevant to the current issues of extremism and radicalisation.

This will work in conjunction with our school's approach to the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils as defined in Ofsted's School Inspection Handbook and will include the sound 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 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 our 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 difference, 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. We will use External Agencies and Speakers to support our curriculum where appropriate.

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.

To do this we will use our L. authority's guidance for Managing the Work of External Agencies. 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 be connected with the rest of the school curriculum so we need to ensure that this work is of benefit to all pupils. Our school will therefore 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. 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.

Whistle Blowing

Where there are concerns of extremism or radicalisation Pupils and Staff will be encouraged to make use of our internal systems to Whistle Blow or raise any issue in confidence. Please refer to School

Whistle Blowing Policy.

Child Protection

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