

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 violent extremism. There have been several occasions nationally in which extremist groups 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.

St Dennis Primary Academy values freedom of speech and the expression of beliefs. Both pupils and school staff have the right to speak freely and voice their opinions. However, freedom comes with responsibility. Free speech is not an unqualified privilege; it is subject to laws and policies governing equality, human rights, community safety and community cohesion. Therefore, free speech that is designed to manipulate the vulnerable or that leads to violence and harm of others goes against moral principles.

The current threat from terrorism in the United Kingdom may include the exploitation of vulnerable people, to involve them in terrorism or in activity in support of terrorism. The normalisation of extreme views may also make children and young people vulnerable to future manipulation and exploitation. St Dennis Primary Academy is clear that such exploitation and radicalisation must be viewed as a safeguarding concern.

Extremism

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.

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.

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.

Indicators of vulnerability to radicalisation

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

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 staff are able to recognise those vulnerabilities.

Indicators of vulnerability include:

- Identity Crisis – the pupil is distanced from their cultural or religious heritage and experiences discomfort about their place in society.
- Personal crisis – the pupil 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 or they may be searching for answers to questions about identity, faith and belonging.

- Personal circumstances – migration, local community tensions or events affecting the 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 pupil may have perceptions of injustice, a feeling of failure or rejection of civic life.
- Experiences of criminality – which may include involvement with criminal groups, imprisonment, and poor resettlement and reintegration.
- Special educational need – pupils may experience difficulties with: social interaction, empathy with others, understanding the consequences of their actions and awareness of the motivations of others.

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.

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.

St Dennis Primary Academy seeks to protect children and young people against the messages of all violent extremism including, but not restricted to, those linked to Islamist ideology, far-right / neo-Nazi / white-supremacist ideology, Irish nationalist and loyalist paramilitary groups, and extremist animal rights movements.

Risk reduction

The Governors, Headteacher and the Designated Safeguarding Lead will assess the level of risk within the school and put actions in place to reduce that risk. Risk assessment may include consideration of the school’s PSHE curriculum, SEND policy, the use of external agencies, integration of pupils by gender and SEN, anti-bullying policy and other issues specific to the school’s profile, community and philosophy.

The Prevent duty reinforces existing duties placed upon educational establishments for keeping children safe by:

- Ensuring a broad and balanced curriculum is in place to promote the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils.
- Assessing the risk of pupils being drawn towards extremist views.
- Ensuring Prevent is included within safeguarding policies and arrangements.
- Training staff to provide them with the knowledge and ability to identify pupils at risk.

- Ensuring that staff understand the referral routes, intervention and support that is available locally.
- Working in partnership with local authorities, police and communities.
- Keeping pupils safe online, using effective filtering and usage policies.

Preventing violent extremism - roles and responsibilities of the single point of contact (SPOC)

All schools required to identify a Prevent Single Point of Contact (SPOC) who will be the lead within the organisation for safeguarding in relation to protecting individuals from radicalisation and involvement in terrorism.

The SPOC at St Dennis Primary Academy is **Mrs Cathy Brokenshire** (Headteacher / Designated Safeguarding Lead).

Their responsibilities are:

- Ensuring staff are aware that you are the SPOC in relation to protecting pupils from radicalisation and involvement in terrorism.
- Maintaining and applying a good understanding of the relevant guidance in relation to preventing pupils from becoming involved in terrorism and protecting them from radicalisation by those who support terrorism or forms of extremism which lead to terrorism.
- Raising awareness about the role and responsibilities of the school in relation to protecting pupils from radicalisation and involvement in terrorism.
- Monitoring the effect in practice of the school's curriculum to ensure that it is used to promote the tolerance of different faiths and beliefs.
- Raising awareness within the school about the safeguarding processes relating to protecting pupils from radicalisation and involvement in terrorism.
- Acting as the first point of contact within the school for case discussions relating to pupils who may be at risk of radicalisation or involved in terrorism.
- Collating relevant information in relation to referrals of vulnerable pupils to MARU.
- Establishing an effective multi-agency referral and intervention process to identify vulnerable individuals.
- Safeguarding individuals who might be vulnerable to being radicalised, so that they are not at risk of being drawn into terrorist-related activity.
- Providing early intervention to protect and divert people away from the risks they face and reduce vulnerability.

When any member of staff has concerns that a pupil may be at risk of radicalisation or involvement in terrorism, they should speak with the SPOC. Numerous factors can contribute to and influence the range of behaviours that are defined as violent extremism, but most young people do not become involved in extremist action. For this reason, the appropriate interventions in any particular case may not have any specific connection to the threat of radicalisation, but they may (for example) address mental health, relationship or drug/alcohol issues.

Web filtering system

The Prevent duty guidance of the United Kingdom Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015 requires schools to have 'due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism'. The guidance requires schools and colleges across the UK to establish the right

level of filtering to ensure pupils aren't exposed to sites that promote radicalisation and extremism and we ensure this guidance is followed.

Additional Guidance

Information regarding The Prevent Duty, issued by the DfE, can be found at:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/439598/prevent-duty-departmental-advice-v6.pdf and includes updates from March 2016

Specific information for Cornwall can be found at:

<http://safercornwall.co.uk/preventing-crime/preventing-violent-extremism/>

For additional information or to discuss any concerns regarding terrorism and radicalisation in Cornwall:

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