

Truro School Prep Preventing Extremism and Radicalisation Policy

A copy of this policy is published in the following areas:

The school website

Link in staff handbook

Staff shared area

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Created by: Assistant Head (Pastoral)

A. Related Truro School Prep and National Policies

This Policy should be read in conjunction with:

- Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy
- Anti-Bullying Policy
- Behaviour Policy
- Online Safety Policy
- Prevent Duty Guidance, HM Government 2015 (last updated April 2021)
- Keeping Children Safe in Education DfE 2021
- Promoting fundamental British Values as part of SMSC in schools DfE 2014
- The Prevent duty DfE 2015

B. Policy Statement

Truro School Prep is fully committed to providing a secure environment where pupils feel safe and are kept safe. All adults in our school recognise the importance of safeguarding young people and that it is everyone's responsibility irrespective of their role.

Tackling Extremism and Radicalisation is one element within the school's overall arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children in our care. Procedures are in place to protect vulnerable individuals from being radicalised or exposed to extremist views.

C. Aims and Principles

The Truro School Prep Preventing Extremism and Radicalisation Policy is intended to provide a framework for dealing with issues relating to vulnerability, radicalisation and exposure to extreme views.

It is crucial that as a school we overcome disbelief that such issues will not happen and that the school works alongside other professional agencies to ensure our pupils are safe.

The school will actively promote awareness of the policy by:

- Making all teaching and non-teaching staff including volunteers, work experience placements, support coaches, peripatetic staff; aware of what radicalisation and extremism are and why vigilance is important when addressing and dealing with any issues;
- All children in our care will be made aware in an age appropriate way of the dangers of exposure to extremist views; encouraging resilience and embedding knowledge of what to do if they experience them;
- All parents and carers have access to the policy to enable them to access support or material to protect their children effectively.

D. Definitions and Indicators

- **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 mind. It refers to the process by which a person comes to support terrorism and extremist ideologies associated with terrorist groups.
- **Extremism** is defined as the holding of extreme political or religious views. It is the vocal or active opposition to our fundamental values, including democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and the mutual respect and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs. This also includes calling for the death of members of the armed forces.
- **Terrorism** is defined as the unlawful use of violence and intimidation, especially against civilians, in the pursuit of political aims. It is an action that endangers or causes serious violence to a person/people; causes serious damage to property; or seriously interferes or disrupts an electronic system. The use or threat must be designed to influence the government or to intimidate the public and is made for the purpose of advancing a political, religious or ideological cause.

There is no single way of identifying an individual who is likely to be susceptible to an extremist ideology. It can happen in many different ways and settings. Specific background factors may contribute to vulnerability which are often combined with specific influences such as family, friends or online, and with specific needs for which an extremist or terrorist group may appear to provide an answer. The internet and the use of social media in particular has become a major factor in the radicalisation of young people. The school monitors and filters internet use, in conjunction with the South West Grid for Learning (SWGfL), and if a child or young person has accessed or viewed extremist content, the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) or Deputy DSL should be informed. They will report the website through www.direct.gov.uk/reportingonlineterrorism as well as informing the police, either 101 in a non-emergency or 999 in an emergency. Advice will be sought via the DfE dedicated telephone helpline (020 7340 7264) or email (counter-extremism@education.gsi.gov.uk).

If staff and volunteers have concerns that a child or young person may be at risk of viewing extremist or terrorist material, or of becoming radicalised, they should raise these concerns

with the DSL or Deputy DSL. A risk assessment will be undertaken and, if appropriate, help will be provided for the child or young person through the government's Channel programme.

There are a number of behaviours which may indicate a child is at risk. These may include:

- Disclosure of exposure to extremist actions, views or materials of others outside of school;
- Graffiti symbols, writing or art work promoting extremist messages or images;
- Parental reports of changes in behaviour, style of dress or appearance to accord with a group;
- Use of extremist or 'hate' terms to exclude others or incite violence;
- Anti-Western or Anti-British views;
- Condoning or supporting violence towards others;
- Isolating themselves from family and friends;
- Unwillingness or inability to discuss their views;
- Increased level of anger;
- Talking as if from a scripted speech;
- A sudden disrespectful attitude towards others;
- Increased secretiveness, especially around internet use.

Children who are at risk of radicalisation may have low self-esteem, or be victims of bullying or discrimination.

E. Procedures for referrals or concerns

If a member of the school community raises a concern that relates to a child being at risk of radicalisation or exposure to extremism the school will take the matter seriously and will follow Child Protection procedures. Early intervention is vital.

The DSL will then follow up the referral and normal procedures will be adhered to.

If the DSL or deputy DSL are not available, then staff can consult the posters found in the staff room and staff workroom.

Ways to respond to children who have caused concern. Staff will:

- Apply professional judgement,
- Recognise that everyone has a role to play,
- Give responses which are proportionate and context drive,
- Talk with the individual and listen carefully to them about their fears and worries,
- Have an open dialogue, challenging ideas, presenting other options, channeling thoughts and feelings,
- Offer interventions, e.g. counselling /mentors,
- Help to integrate the child into the community.

F. Preventative measures

- The school curriculum is broad and balanced and promotes respect, tolerance and diversity. Children are encouraged to share their views and recognise that they are entitled to have their own beliefs which should not be used to influence others. The opportunities to discuss and

become more resilient within the PSHEE curriculum help to underpin a sense of security and well-being.

- Children are taught how to stay safe when using the internet. They are taught to seek support or help if they have experienced upset or concern when using the internet. (see Online Safety policy).
- The school promotes the fundamental British values of democracy, rule of law and individual liberty, mutual respect and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs.
- The school runs a safe online filtering system.
- Staff regularly have updates via training, NSPCC weekly bulletins and meetings, making them fully aware of the risks and dangers relating to radicalisation and extremism.
- All staff are required to complete an annual INSET event or on-line training This includes information on how to assess the risk of children being drawn into terrorism, including support of extremist ideas that are part of terrorist ideology.
- The school works closely with other partners and agencies to enhance positive network links (community groups, social care, police).
- External visitors to the school (to deliver workshops or sessions with pupils for example) sign in at reception. They are then accompanied by appropriate staff throughout the sessions.
- New user groups at the school, such as lettings groups, complete application forms and any publications they distribute are checked carefully.
- The Board of Governors of the school will agree and support the school when tackling extremism and radicalisation.
- Staff concerns are to be raised with the DSL. The DfE also provide a dedicated phone helpline (020 7340 7264) for staff to raise concerns relating to extremism directly.

Truro School Prep is 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 and at times pupils may reflect or display discriminatory, prejudiced or derogatory language. If this occurs, it will be challenged and where appropriate dealt with in line with the school Behaviour Policy.

It is also important that Truro School Prep will ensure that no individual or group will be in any position of being disenfranchised or unfairly discriminated against.

The school promotes a harmonious culture where every child and adult feels safe and valued.