

St William of York Catholic Primary School



Anti-Radicalisation and Extremism Policy

Signed _____ Chair of Governors

_____ Head Teacher

Date: 6th July 2023

Review date: July 2025

1. Introduction

St William of York Catholic Primary School is committed to providing a secure environment for pupils, where children feel safe and are kept safe. All adults 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 St William of York's delivery of the outcomes to all children, as set out in s10 (2) of the Children Act 2004*. This 'Preventing Extremism and Radicalisation 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 s175 of the Education Act 2002 (s157 of the Education Act 2002).

Our school's Preventing Extremism and Radicalisation Safeguarding Policy also draws upon the guidance contained in DfE Guidance "Keeping Children Safe in Education, 2014"; and specifically DCSF Resources "Learning Together to be Safe", "Prevent: Resources Guide", "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.

** 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.*

2. School Ethos and Practice

When operating this policy St William of York Primary uses 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'.

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 students 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.

All extremism is aimed at developing 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 ensuring 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 and feel valued.

Furthermore, we are aware that pupils 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 themselves may 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 and Discipline Policy for students 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:

- 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 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, 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 Sefton's Local Safeguarding Children Board's agreed processes and criteria for safeguarding individuals vulnerable to extremism and radicalisation.

At St William of York Catholic Primary School we have identified British values as:

- Democracy
- The rule of law
- Individual liberty
- Mutual respect
- Tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs

As a school we aim to develop and nurture these by:

- Planning a vibrant, engaging RE curriculum with core ethical values and beliefs at its heart
- A well-structured, integrated Personal, Social, Health and Citizenship education programme which addresses all of the requirements of the programmes of study (looking at Democracy, Freedom, the rule of law, Human Rights and responsibilities)
- Effective and well-managed School Council enabling students to actively participate in the democratic process
- A broad and balanced curriculum which addresses many of these core values across a range of subject areas
- Having a clearly communicated and consistently applied Behaviour Policy so that pupils understand what is expected of them and the consequences of both meeting and failing to meet these expectations
- A Code of Conduct which is regularly referred to and communicated with pupils, emphasising that we are a school community built on mutual respect and understanding
- Having a rigorous commitment to pupil safety (for example: trips and visits policy and procedures, Safeguarding procedures, Code of Conduct and Health and Safety procedures)

3. 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.

We will ensure that all of 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 of 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, to address specific incidents which become relevant to the current issues of extremism and radicalisation. In doing so we will apply the 'key ingredients' for success as set out in the Table in Appendix 1 taken from the DfE document above and we will apply the methodologies set out in that document following the three broad categories of:

- Making a connection with pupils through good teaching and a pupil-centred approach
- Facilitating a 'safe space' for dialogue
- Equipping our pupils with the appropriate skills, knowledge, understanding and awareness for resilience.

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/ Religious Education programmes
- Open discussion and debate
- Work on anti-violence and a restorative approach addressed throughout curriculum and the behaviour policy

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 pupils' experiences and horizons.

We will help support pupils and families 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 St William of York 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 our responsibility to keep our pupils safe and prepare them for life in modern multi-cultural Britain and globally.

4. Use of External Agencies and Speakers

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. These external agencies will be vetted 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.

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 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.

The ethos of our school is to encourage students 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.

5. Whistle Blowing

Where there are concerns of extremism or radicalisation pupils, staff and governors will be encouraged to make use of our internal systems to Whistle Blow or raise any issue in confidence. They must inform the

Headteacher straight away (or if it relates to the Headteacher inform the Chair of Governors). See Whistle Blowing Policy.

6. Safeguarding

Please refer to our Safeguarding Policy for the full procedural framework on our Safeguarding and 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 (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 and/or Headteacher.

Our Safeguarding reporting arrangements are set out fully in our Safeguarding Policy.

The Designated Safeguarding Lead is: Mr Martin Murphy (Headteacher)

The Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads are: Mrs Julie Williams (HLTA/PSA), Miss Jo Gill (Deputy Head) and Mrs Eve Lawson (Early Years Coordinator).

The Designated Safeguarding Lead works in line with the responsibilities as set out in the DfE Guidance 'Keeping Children Safe in Education', this is detailed in the Safeguarding Policy.

7. 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.

In line with the provisions set out in the DfE guidance 'Keeping Children Safe in Education, 2014' the governing body will challenge the school's senior management team on the delivery of this policy and monitor its effectiveness.