



# St James Infant & Pre-School

## Preventing Extremism Policy

Statutory / **Non-statutory**

**Annual review** / 2 yearly review

Date policy adopted	June 2017			
Review date	June 18	April 20	April 21	
Reviewer's name	S O'Shea	S O'Shea	GG	
Date minuted by committee meeting				
Next review due by	April 2020	April 2021	April 2022	

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. The threat to the UK from international terrorism is substantial. The terrorist threats that we now face are more diverse than ever before, dispersed across a wider geographical area and often in countries without effective governance.

Dealing with violent extremism is nothing new. Throughout history there have been groups prepared to use violence to achieve their aims. A small minority of these seek to radicalise young people with an ideology which justifies the use of violence through distorted interpretation of a set of values (often associated with a religion). St. James Infants seeks to protect children and young people against the messages of all violent extremism including, but not restricted to, those linked to Islamist ideology, or to Far Right / Neo Nazi / White Supremacist ideology, Irish Nationalist and Loyalist paramilitary groups, and extremist Animal Rights movements.

In line with guidance from the DfE, St James infant School has a zero tolerance acceptance of extremist behaviour and ensures that our care, guidance and curriculum empowers young people to reject violent or extremist behaviour.

Whilst it remains very rare for school age children to become involved in extremist activity, young people can be exposed to extremist influences or prejudiced views, including via the internet from an early age. Early intervention is a preferable way of tackling extremism.

## DEFINITIONS

Extremism can be defined as "holding of extreme opinions: the holding of extreme political or religious views or the taking of extreme actions on the basis of those views".

Radicalisation is defined by the UK Government within this context as "the process by which a person comes to support terrorism and extremist ideologies associated with terrorist groups."

## STRATEGIES FOR PREVENTING EXTREMISM

The Office for Security and Counter Terrorism works to counter the threat from terrorism and their work is detailed in the counter terrorism strategy CONTEST. This strategy is based on four areas of work:

- **Pursue**- To stop terrorist attacks
- **Prevent**- To stop people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism
- **Protect**- To strengthen our protection against a terrorist attack
- **Prepare**- To mitigate the impact of a terrorist attack

Our role as a school is outlined more specifically in the DCSF document "*Learning together to be safe: A toolkit to help schools contribute to the prevention of violent extremism.*"

**AIMS:** At St James Infant School we follow the principles outlined in the DCSF toolkit which seeks to:

- **Raise awareness** within school of the threat from violent extremist groups and the risks for young people.
- Provide **information** about what can cause violent extremism, about preventative actions taking place locally and nationally and where we can get additional information and advice.
- Help schools understand the **positive contribution** they can make to empower young people to create communities that are more resilient to extremism, and **protecting the wellbeing** of particular pupils or groups who may be vulnerable to being drawn into violent extremist activity.

- Provide advice on **managing risks** and responding to incidents locally, nationally or internationally that might have an impact on the school community.

The school will use these principles to guide our work in all areas including building on our work in:

- Promoting pupil wellbeing, equalities and community cohesion
- Promoting the outcomes of Every Child Matters
- Encourage children to ask 'big questions' and challenge answers through Philosophy for Children
- Promoting British Values
- Building resilience of the school, working with partners, to prevent pupils becoming the victims or causes of harm
- Working with other agencies and parents to build community networks of support for the school.

## **RISK REDUCTION**

The school governors, the Head Teacher 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 RE curriculum, SEND policy, assembly policy, the use of school premises by external agencies, integration of pupils by gender and SEN, anti-bullying policy and other issues specific to the school's profile, community and philosophy.

## **RESPONSE**

When any member of staff has concerns that a pupil, or their parents, may be at risk of radicalisation or involvement in terrorism, they should speak with the Head Teacher and to the Designated Safeguarding Lead.

The Head Teacher and DSL will also:

- Raising awareness within the school about the safeguarding processes relating to protecting students/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 from in relation to referrals of vulnerable students / pupils into the Channel process;
- Attending Channel meetings as necessary and carrying out any actions as agreed;
- Reporting progress on actions to the Channel Co-ordinator;
- Sharing any relevant additional information in a timely manner.

## **CHANNEL**

Channel is a multi-agency approach to provide support to individuals who are at risk of being drawn into terrorist related activity. It is led by the East Midlands Police Counter-Terrorism Unit, and it aims to:

- Establish an effective multi-agency referral and intervention process to identify vulnerable individuals;
- Safeguard individuals who might be vulnerable to being radicalised, so that they are not at risk of being drawn into terrorist-related activity; and
- Provide early intervention to protect and divert people away from the risks they face and reduce vulnerability.

## **Helpline**

Preventing extremism in schools and children's services

Email:

[counter.extremism@education.gov.uk](mailto:counter.extremism@education.gov.uk)

Telephone  
020 7340 7264

If you are concerned about extremism in a school or organisation that works with children, or if you think a child might be at risk of extremism, contact our helpline.

Open Monday to Friday from 9am to 6pm (excluding bank holidays).

Reviewed: April 2021