



Great Horwood Church of England School

Prevent Agenda Policy

November 2022



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Signed:

Sarah Biswell (Chair of Governors)

Great Horwood Church of England School

Prevent Agenda Policy and Procedures

'Prevent' Children being drawn into terrorism.

Our Vision

**"Where our children play, learn and grow together" knowing that Jesus said:
"I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart
from me you can do nothing."
John 15:5**

At Great Horwood Church of England School, the academic, emotional and spiritual well-being of all individuals is at the heart of all that we do; where everyone is valued. We are a safe, welcoming school within the heart of the village community that aims to provide all our children and adults with the learning opportunities to flourish, be healthy, grow in resilience and realise their full potential; being fully equipped and prepared for a successful future.

Inspired by Christian faith and rooted in the teachings, values and spirituality of the Church of England we embrace our core values of love, perseverance and respect where all individuals learn to value themselves and others.

We are committed to setting high standards of achievement within a caring and nurturing learning environment. We aim to provide opportunities for children to develop a curiosity of learning, a thirst for knowledge through play, and an exploration of the world around them.

This policy is written to reflect and support our School's Christian Vision and Values.

What is Prevent?

Prevent is part of CONTEST, the Government's strategy to address terrorism. The main aim of Prevent is to stop people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism. Prevent focuses on all forms of terrorist threats e.g. international terrorism, far right extremists (among others).

The Government's Prevent strategy can be found at the following address: www.homeoffice.gov.uk

Three key themes

The police, Local Authorities, and our partner organisations are working together to help strengthen and empower our communities to reject those who want to cause harm.

We work together and focus on three key themes:

- Safeguarding vulnerable individuals through the provision of advice and support and intervention projects.
- Working closely with institutions such as Universities, Schools, Prisons, Health, Charities and faith establishments.
- Challenging terrorist ideology by working closely with other local and national agencies, partners and our communities

Prevent Team

The Prevent Engagement Team of officers and police staff aim to encourage discussion ensuring that terrorism is prevented from taking root in our communities. They support the wider engagement activities already taking place in schools, places of worship and community groups. Through this work they aim to strengthen communities in order to challenge the ideologies and messages of hate which lead to terrorism.

How you can help?

It is important that we all work together, so that we can protect our communities. There are many ways you can help:

- You can get in touch with your local neighbourhood or Prevent team for advice and support, if you are worried about someone you know who you believe may be vulnerable to radicalisation
- You can speak to your local officers or Prevent contact about helping run community events to bring people from different communities together
- You can provide facilities that could help us and our partners hold community engagement events.

Reference Materials:

HM Government Prevent Duty Guidance for England & Wales, 2015

Inspecting Safeguarding in early years, education and skills settings, Ofsted

Keeping Children Safe in Education, September 2022

Working Together to Safeguard Children, March 2015

Principles

'Schools should be safe spaces in which children and young people can understand and discuss sensitive topics, including terrorism and the extremist ideas that are part of terrorist ideology, and learn how to challenge these ideas.

Schools should be mindful of their existing duties to forbid political indoctrination and secure a balanced presentation of political issues' (HM Government Prevent Duty Guidance for England & Wales). At Great Horwood Church of England School we ensure that these principles are adhered to. The Head Teacher monitors the school's work in this regard. What we do in school 'Safeguarding' pupils is our number one priority at this school. This document should be read in conjunction with our policies on 'Safeguarding' and 'Child Protection'.

Risk Assessment

We assess the risk of children being drawn into terrorism, including support for extremist ideas that are part of terrorist ideology, by ensuring that all staff listen and look out for signs that this may be of concern. The Head Teacher risk assesses all visiting speakers to ensure they are suitable and makes sure that a senior member of staff is always in attendance during these sessions should there be a need to intervene.

Definitions & 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 the mind.

Extremism is defined as the holding of extreme political or religious views. There are a number of behaviours which may indicate a child is at risk of being radicalised or exposed to extreme views.

These include:

- Spending increasing time in the company of other suspected extremists.
- Changing their style of dress or personal appearance to accord with the group.
- Day-to-day behaviour becoming increasingly centred on an extremist ideology, group or cause.
- Loss of interest in other friends and activities not associated with the extremist ideology, group or cause.
- Possession of materials or symbols associated with an extremist cause.
- Attempts to recruit others to the group/cause.
- Communications with others that suggests identification with a group, cause or ideology.
- Using insulting or derogatory names for another group.
- Increase in prejudice-related incidents committed by that person – these may include:
 - physical or verbal assault
 - provocative behaviour
 - damage to property
 - derogatory name calling
 - possession of prejudice-related materials
 - prejudice related ridicule or name calling
 - inappropriate forms of address
 - refusal to co-operate
 - attempts to recruit to prejudice-related organisations
 - condoning or supporting violence towards others.

Training

The majority of staff and some Governors have attended training led by Bucks Council or other appropriate bodies and all staff receive annual in-house training on what to look and listen out for, and how to report any concerns. New staff are asked to read this policy and the attached appendix as part of the induction process until appropriate training has been completed.

Reporting

Our protocols for reporting any concerns involve staff making a written record of the concern and passing this directly to the Head Teacher; who will pass these concerns onto the PREVENT team for Buckinghamshire. Concerns will be recorded on CPOMs and the Headteacher and DSL's will be alerted.

Procedures for Referrals

Although serious incidents involving radicalisation have not occurred at Great Horwood Church of England School to date, it is important for us to be constantly vigilant and remain fully informed about the issues which affect the local area and society in which we teach. Staff are reminded to suspend any 'professional disbelief' that instances of radicalisation 'could not happen here' and to be 'professionally inquisitive' where concerns arise, referring any concerns through the appropriate channels. (See 'Dealing with referrals').

We believe that it is possible to intervene to protect people who are vulnerable. Early intervention is vital and staff must be aware of the established processes for front line professionals to refer concerns about

individuals and/or groups. We must have the confidence to challenge, the confidence to intervene and ensure that we have strong safeguarding practices based on the most up-to-date guidance and best practise. The Headteacher and other staff are trained as Designated Senior Leaders for Child Protection and Safeguarding and will deal swiftly with any referrals made by staff or with concerns reported by staff.

The Headteacher will discuss the most appropriate course of action on a case-by-case basis and will decide when a referral to external agencies is needed (see 'Dealing with referrals'). As with any child protection referral, staff must be made aware that if they do not agree with a decision not to refer, they can make the referral themselves and will be given the contact details to do this via the safeguarding board in the staffroom.

Dealing with referrals

We are aware of the potential indicating factors that a child is vulnerable to being radicalised or exposed to extreme views, including peer pressure, influence from other people or the internet, bullying, crime and anti-social behaviour, family tensions, race/hate crime, lack of self-esteem or identity, prejudicial behaviour and personal or political grievances.

In the event of prejudicial behaviour the following system will be followed;

- All incidents of prejudicial behaviour will be reported directly to the Head Teacher or DSL.
- All incidents will be fully investigated and recorded in line with the Positive Behaviour Policy and records will be kept in line with procedures for any other safeguarding incident.
- Parents/carers will be contacted and the incident discussed in detail, aiming to identify motivating factors, any changes in circumstances at home, parental views of the incident and to assess whether the incident is serious enough to warrant a further referral. A note of this meeting is kept alongside the initial referral in the Safeguarding folder.
- The DSL will follow-up any referrals for a period of four weeks after the incident to assess whether there is a change in behaviour and/or attitude. A further meeting with parents would be held if there is not a significant positive change in behaviour.
- If deemed necessary, serious incidents will be discussed and referred to Buckingham Children's Services.
- In the event of a referral relating to serious concerns about potential radicalisation or extremism, the school will also contact Buckinghamshire Police Counter Terrorism Unit (CTU).

Curriculum

We plan a series of age related assemblies throughout the year that cover the issues; along with less explicit curriculum coverage about tolerance, extremist views etc. through our PSHE / Circle Time and Promoting British values programmes.

Governors are encouraged to spend time talking with pupils about 'staying safe' during their visits to school, which are reported to the full governing body meeting as part of our monitoring and evaluation process.

Visitors and the Use of School Premises

If any member of staff wishes to invite a visitor in the school, they must first gain approval from the Head Teacher who will determine whether or not the visitor can enter school and whether or not they will be subject to Safeguarding Checks including DBS checks and photo identification.

Children are NEVER left unsupervised with external visitors, regardless of safeguarding check outcomes.

Upon arriving at the school, all visitors including contractors, will read the child protection and safeguarding guidance for visitors and be made aware of who the DSLs are and how to report any concerns which they may experience.

If any agreement is made to allow non-school groups or organisations to use the premises, appropriate checks will be made before agreeing the contract. Usage will be monitored and in the event of any behaviour not in-keeping with the Tackling Extremism and Radicalisation Policy, the school will contact the Police and terminate the contract.

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Next review; November 2024