



Prevent Radicalisation Policy

Date Agreed by the Governing Body	November 2022
Date to be reviewed	November 2024
Date of last review	November 2020
Governors Committee accountable for review	Education
Senior Leadership Team member accountable for review	DPD

1. Introduction

The Royal Grammar school is fully committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all our students. We recognise that safeguarding against radicalisation and extremism is no different to safeguarding against any other vulnerability in today's society.

2. Background

Prevent statutory duties were placed on schools by the Counter Terrorism and Security Act (2015) to work to prevent children being drawn into extremism.

The duty to prevent children and young people being radicalised is also contained in the following documents.

- Keeping Children Safe in Education (2022)
- PREVENT Duty Guidance for England and Wales (2015)
- Revised PREVENT Duty Guidance: England and Wales (April 2021)
- CONTEST: The United Kingdom's Strategy for Countering Terrorism (2018)
- Working Together to Safeguard Children (2018)
- Improving the spiritual, moral, social and cultural (SMSC) development of pupils: supplementary information (DfE 2014)

This policy should be read alongside other related school policies

- Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy
- Equality Policy
- Anti-Bullying Policy
- Behaviour Policy
- Online-Safety Policy
- Curriculum Policy
- Acceptable Use of ICT Systems
- Recruitment and Selection Procedures
- Staff Code of Conduct
- Lettings' Policy and Procedures

3. Definitions

Extremism: The counter-terrorism (CONTEST) strategy 2018 defines 'extremism' as vocal or active opposition to the fundamental British values of:

- democracy
- the rule of law
- individual liberty
- mutual respect
- tolerance of people with different faiths and beliefs

Extremism also includes calls for the death of members of the armed forces, whether in this country or overseas. Some groups and organisations that promote extremist ideologies are not proscribed terrorist groups or organisations.

These groups support divisive or hateful narratives towards others, but may not promote extreme violence. For example, they may hold views that support the distrust or hatred of people with different faiths or undermine the principles of democracy.

Radicalisation is a process which somebody goes through in order to become involved in extremist activities or terrorism, from a starting point of having no particular strong opinions or being a moderate person through to holding some extremist views, and it can be a process that happens online or in meeting people, and their conversations and their opinions are gradually changed over time.

Terrorism: The Terrorism Act 2006 defines ‘terrorism’ as an action or threat designed to influence the government or intimidate the public. Its purpose is to advance a political, religious or ideological cause.

In summary, terrorism is an action that:

- endangers or causes serious violence to a person or people
- causes serious damage to property, or seriously interferes with or disrupts an electronic system
- is designed to influence the government or to intimidate the public

4. Roles and Responsibilities

4.1 Role of the Governing Body

The role of the governing body is to ensure that the school meets its statutory duties with regard to preventing radicalisation. The nominated Child Protection governor will liaise with the Headmaster and other staff about issues to do with protecting children from radicalisation.

4.2 Role of the Headmaster

The Headmaster will:

- ensure that the school and its staff respond to preventing radicalisation on a day-to-day basis,
- ensure that the school’s curriculum addresses the issues involved in radicalisation
- ensure that staff conduct is consistent with preventing radicalisation.

4.3 Role of Designated Safeguarding Leads

The Designated Safeguarding Leads will:

- ensure that staff understand the issues of radicalisation, are able to recognise the signs of vulnerability or radicalisation and know how to refer their concerns
- receive safeguarding concerns about children and young people who may be vulnerable to the risk of radicalisation or are showing signs of radicalisation
- make referrals to appropriate agencies with regard to concerns about radicalisation
- liaise with partners, including the local authority and the police
- report to the governing body on these matters.

4.4 Role of staff

All staff need to understand the issues of radicalisation, be able to recognise the signs of vulnerability or radicalisation and know how to refer their concerns.

5. Curriculum

We are committed to providing a broad and balanced curriculum that aims to prepare students for life in modern Britain. Our curriculum promotes respect, tolerance and diversity. Students are encouraged to

share their views and recognise that they are entitled to have their own different beliefs which should not be used to influence others.

British Values, extremist viewpoints and preventing radicalisation are part of our PSHCE curriculum. British Values and Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural provision is also embedded across the curriculum

Internet Safety

The internet provides students access to a wide-range of content, some of which is harmful. Extremists use the internet, including social media, to share their messages. The filtering systems used in our school blocks inappropriate content, including extremist content.

We also filter out social media & networking sites, such as Instagram, Facebook, Tik Tok and Snapchat. Searches and web addresses are monitored and the ICT technicians will alert senior staff where there are concerns and prevent further access when new sites that are unblocked are found.

Where staff, students or visitors find unblocked extremist content they must report it to a senior member of staff.

Students have access to unfiltered internet when using their mobile phones. We have a Valuables Policy which stipulates that students are not to use a mobile phone at school between 8:40 – 15:40. On school trips and other times when students are allowed to use their mobile phones staff are alert to the need for vigilance.

Students are taught how to stay safe online, both in school and outside school. They are taught to understand the risks posed by adults or young people who use the internet and social media to groom, abuse or radicalise other people, especially children, young people and vulnerable adults.

Students and staff know how to report internet content that is inappropriate or of concern.

6. Staff Training

Staff will be given training to help them understand the issues of radicalisation, are able to recognise the signs of vulnerability or radicalisation and know how to refer their concerns. This information also forms part of induction safeguarding training.

7. Safer Recruitment

We ensure that the staff we appoint to the school are suitable. Our recruitment procedures are rigorous, and we follow the statutory guidance published in part 3 of *Keeping Children Safe in Education (2022)*. Vetting and barring checks are undertaken on staff, supply teachers, governors and volunteers.

8. Visitors

Visitors to the school are made aware of our safeguarding and child protection policies on arrival at the school and are given information about what to do if they are concerned about any aspect of child welfare.

Relevant vetting checks are undertaken for all visitors who are invited to speak to students. We undertake due diligence to ensure that visiting speakers are appropriate. Speakers will be supervised at all times.

Staff must not invite speakers into school without first obtaining permission from the Senior Team.

9. Lettings and use of school premises

The school is vigilant to the possibility that out-of-hours hire of the school premises may be requested by people wishing to run an extremist event. The school does not accept bookings from individuals or organisations that are extremist in their views.

10. Signs of vulnerability and recognising early indicators of radicalisation

There are no known definitive indicators that a young person is vulnerable to radicalisation, but there are a number of signs that together increase the risk. Signs of vulnerability include:

Push and pull factors can make a child, young person or adult learner at risk of extremism or radicalisation. Often there are several risk factors present that, seen together, can cause concern.

Push factors

Push factors may include a child, young person or adult learner feeling:

- isolated
- they do not belong
- they have no purpose
- low self-esteem
- their aspirations are unmet
- anger or frustration
- a sense of injustice
- confused about life or the world
- real or perceived personal grievances

Pull factors

Pull factors could include an extremist or terrorist group, organisation or individual:

- offering a sense of community and a support network
- promising fulfilment or excitement
- making the child, young person or adult learner feel special and part of a wider mission
- offering a very narrow, manipulated version of an identity that often supports stereotypical gender norms
- offering inaccurate answers or falsehoods to grievances
- encouraging conspiracy theories
- promoting an 'us vs. them' mentality
- blaming specific communities for grievances
- encouraging the use of hatred and violent actions to get justice
- encouraging ideas of supremacy

11. Referral Process

Staff and visitors to the school must refer all concerns about children and young people who show signs of vulnerability or radicalisation. The concerns must be passed to the Designated Safeguarding Lead or an Additional Designated Safeguarding Lead using the usual methods for reporting other safeguarding concerns (either CPOMS or the "RGS Child Protection/Welfare Concern Form").

When there are significant concerns about a student, the Designated Safeguarding Lead in liaison with the Headmaster will make a referral to the appropriate body.

12. Monitoring and Review

The effective implementation of this policy will be monitored by the governing body by receiving an annual report from the Designated Safeguarding Lead.