



# Preventing Extremism & Radicalisation Policy

*"The man answered, "You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your strength, and all your mind.' And, 'Love your neighbour as yourself.'"*

Luke 10:27

## **Introduction**

Saint Cecilia's Church of England School is committed to providing a secure environment for pupils, where children feel safe and are kept safe. All adults at Saint Cecilia's Church of England School 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 the procedures therein, staff and visitors will contribute to Saint Cecilia's Church of England School's delivery of the outcomes to all children, as set out in s10 (2) of the Children Act 2004. This Preventing Extremism and Radicalisation Safeguarding 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 s157 of the Education Act 2002 (and Academies). The 'Prevent Duty' came into force as a result of the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015. The 'Prevent Duty' guidance was initially released in 2015 and has been updated since including December 2023.

Our school's Preventing Extremism and Radicalisation Safeguarding Policy also draws upon the guidance contained in the "London Child Protection Procedures" (<https://www.londonsafeguardingchildrenprocedures.co.uk/>) and DfE Guidance "Keeping Children Safe in Education, 2023".

Furthermore, as a Christian school we promote the teaching of Jesus Christ as raised in Luke 10:27.

And he answered, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind, and your neighbour as yourself."

## **School ethos and practice**

When operating this policy Saint Cecilia's Church of England School 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 pupils 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. The DSL and DDSLs will be involved in this process as Safeguarding Leads.

Extremists/radicalisers of all persuasions aim to develop 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; equipping young people with the knowledge, skills and critical thinking, to challenge and debate in an informed way.

Therefore, at Saint Cecilia's Church of England School we 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, feel valued and not marginalized.

Furthermore, at Saint Cecilia's Church of England School we are 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, including via the internet, and at times pupils may themselves reflect or display views that may be discriminatory, prejudiced or extremist/radical, 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 Policy for pupils and the Code of Conduct for staff. Where misconduct by a teacher is proven the matter will be referred to the executive agency of the Department for Education, the Teaching Regulation Agency (TRA) 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, especially where pupils have not actively sought these out.
- Graffiti symbols, writing or artwork 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, and 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/contrary to British Values.

Our school will closely follow any locally agreed procedure as set out by the Southwark Diocesan Board of Education and Wandsworth Local Authority's agreed processes and criteria for safeguarding individuals vulnerable to extremism and radicalisation.

## 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. In our school this will be achieved by good teaching, primarily via PSHE and Citizenship; but also by adopting the methods outlined in the Government's guidance 'DfE 2021.

We will ensure that all of our teaching approaches help our pupils build resilience to extremism and give pupils 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, so as to address specific issues so as to become even more relevant to the current issues of extremism and radicalisation.

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

Therefore this approach will be embedded within the ethos of our school so that pupils know and understand what safe and acceptable behaviour is in the context of extremism and radicalisation. This will work in conjunction with our school's approach to the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils as defined in OfSTED's School Inspection Handbook and will include the sound use of assemblies to help further promote this rounded development of our pupils.

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:

- PSHE programmes
- Open discussion and debate
- Work on anti-violence and a restorative approach addressed throughout curriculum
- Focussed educational programmes

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 pupil's experiences and horizons. We will help support pupils 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 Saint Cecilia's Church of England School, 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 indeed our most fundamental responsibility to keep our pupils safe and prepare them for life in modern multi-cultural Britain and globally.

### **Use of External Agencies and Speakers**

At Saint Cecilia's Church of England School, 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 for our pupils.

Such vetting is 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. We must be aware that in some instances the work of external agencies may not directly be connected with the rest of the school curriculum so we need to ensure that this work is of benefit to pupils.

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 pupils 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 the school to ensure that they are effective

We recognise, however, that the ethos of our school is to encourage pupils 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.

Therefore, by delivering a broad and balanced curriculum, augmented by the use of external sources where appropriate, we will strive to ensure our pupils recognise risk and build resilience to manage any such risk themselves where appropriate to their age and ability but also to help pupils develop the critical thinking skills needed to engage in informed debate.

### **Whistle Blowing**

Where there are concerns of extremism or radicalisation Pupils and Staff will be encouraged to make use of our internal systems to Whistle Blow or raise any issue in confidence. This policy is available in the School Handbook on the z: drive.

### **Child Protection and Safeguarding**

Please refer to our Child Protection Policy for the full procedural framework on our Child Protection duties.

Staff at Saint Cecilia's Church of England School 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).

All staff are required to attend Prevent training and to recognise where this fits in with the Safeguarding procedures of the school.

Concerns regarding potential radicalisation should be treated in the same way initially as any other safeguarding issue.

Therefore, all adults working in Saint Cecilia's Church of England School (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 or Headteacher.

If in doubt: REFER

If at any stage there is concern that a child is at imminent risk of harm the DSL/DDSL should contact the relevant Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH)

If there is suspicion that someone is actually engaged in terrorist activity, the Safeguarding member of staff will contact Wandsworth MASH. There is also a Met police or the anti-terrorist hotline immediately on 0800 789 321.

If the concern relates to a member of staff the matter must be reported immediately to the Headteacher.

In Saint Cecilia's Church of England School our Child Protection reporting arrangements are set out fully in our Child Protection Policy in the School Handbook.

### **Role of the Designated Safeguarding Lead**

The Designated Safeguarding Leads are Mr Jonathan Miller and Mrs Anessa Lee

The Designated Safeguarding Lead works in line with the responsibilities as set out at Annex B of the DfE Guidance 'Keeping Children Safe in Education'.

The Designated Safeguarding Leads are the focus persons and local 'experts' for school staff, and others, who may have concerns about an individual child's safety or well-being and is the first point of contact for external agencies.

In line with Recommendation 2 of Peter Clarke's Report; In Saint Cecilia's Church of England School the role of the Designated Safeguarding Lead has been extended to include the responsibilities of the PREVENT strand of the Government's counter-terrorism strategy.

The main link to Channel via Prevent is the Local Authority Prevent Lead/MASH.

## **Training**

Whole school in-service training on Safeguarding and Child Protection will be organised for staff (yearly) and governors yearly and will comply with the prevailing arrangements agreed by the Local Authority and Wandsworth's Safeguarding Children Partnership and will, in part, include training on extremism and radicalisation and its safeguarding implications.

Prevent/WRAP training is provided for teaching and non-teaching staff who have regular contact with students as well as governors on recognising and responding to the risk of violent extremism. Training also addresses the role of professionals in identifying when a pupil may be at risk of engaging in extremism and how to respond if they do.

New staff are inducted with regards to Safeguarding as soon as they join the school. All supply/temporary staff will be handed a copy of this policy by the HR department before they start work at this school.

The Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) will attend Wandsworth training courses as necessary.

## **Signposting safeguarding concerns related to radicalisation and extremism**

1. In the first instance, any concerns should be referred to the DSL;
2. The DSL will make a judgement call on the concern by talking to the staff that have raised the concern. If it looks like the concern is high level, the DSL will contact the relevant MASH
3. The DSL may meet with the student to discuss the concerns and make a professional judgement about the appropriate course of action;
4. If the DSL is satisfied that the student has not been radicalised and is not involved in extremist activities then any underlying issues (e.g. social isolation) will be dealt with in accordance with the safeguarding policy and the parents will be informed.
5. If the DSL believes that the student is involved in radicalisation or extremist activities then they will refer the matter to the police via the LA.

## **Saint Cecilia's Church of England School Recruitment**

The arrangements for recruiting all staff, permanent and volunteers, to our school will follow Wandsworth's guidance for safer recruitment best practice in education settings, including, but not limited to, ensuring that DBS checks are always made at the appropriate level, that references are always received and checked and that we complete and maintain a single central record of such vetting checks.

We will apply safer recruitment best practice principles and sound employment practice in general and in doing so will deny opportunities for inappropriate recruitment or advancement.

We will be alert to the possibility that persons may seek to gain positions within our school so as to unduly influence our school's character and ethos. We are aware that such persons seek to limit the opportunities for our pupils thereby rendering them vulnerable to extremist views and radicalisation as a consequence.

Therefore, by adhering to safer recruitment best practice techniques and by ensuring that there is an ongoing culture of vigilance within our school and staff team we will minimise the opportunities for extremist views to prevail.

## **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 Recommendation 13 of Peter Clarke's report details of our Governing Body will be published on our school website to promote transparency.

In line with the provisions set out in the DfE guidance 'Keeping Children Safe in Education, 2023,' 'the governing body or proprietor should ensure their staff code of conduct, behaviour policies and safeguarding policies and procedures are implemented effectively and ensure that appropriate action is taken in a timely manner to safeguard children and facilitate a whole school or college approach to dealing with any concerns.'

Governors will review this policy yearly and may amend and adopt it outside of this timeframe in accordance with any new legislation or guidance or in response to any quality assurance recommendations pertaining to the delivery of this policy and the overall safeguarding arrangements made.

## **Policy Adoption, Monitoring and Review**

This policy was considered and adopted by the Governing body in line with their overall duty to safeguard and promote the welfare of children as set out in the DfE guidance 'Keeping Children Safe in Education'.

Parents will be issued with a hard copy of this policy on request. This policy will also be made available to parents via the school's website.

At Saint Cecilia's Church of England School, the Headteacher will actively evaluate the effectiveness of this policy by monitoring the staff group's understanding and application of the procedures within this policy as their overall duty to safeguard children.

All concerns about radicalisation of children under 18 must be referred to MASH as a safeguarding issue:

Wandsworth Multi-agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH)  
2nd Floor Town Hall Extension  
Wandsworth High Street  
London  
SW18 2PU

Telephone: 020 8871 6622

Email: [mash@wandsworth.gov.uk](mailto:mash@wandsworth.gov.uk)

Outside of normal office hours (after 5pm weekdays or on weekends): 020 8871 6000.

If you are a professional making a referral, you should complete the [Multi-agency Referral Form \(MARF\)](#).

If you have immediate concerns that requires the Police's immediate action, please dial 999.

<b>Action</b>	<b>Committee</b>	<b>Date</b>
Review and approve	Curriculum & Standards Committee	Spring 2024
Next Review	Curriculum & Standards Committee	Spring 2025

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