

SUNNYMEDE JUNIOR SCHOOL

Learning for a Better Tomorrow

Policy for Tackling Radicalisation and Extremism



Date: March 2016

Review: Every Two Years

This Review: April 2020

Next Review Date: April 2022

Headteacher's signature	Chair of Governor's signature
	

POLICY STATEMENT

Sunnymede Junior School is fully committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all its pupils. This policy is intended to provide a framework for protecting our pupils from radicalisation and exposure to extremist views, setting out key strategies for supporting pupils in the unlikely event that such a situation should arise. We recognise that we are well placed to be able to identify safeguarding issues and this policy clearly sets out how the school will deal with such incidents sensitively and promptly.

This policy is underpinned by our school vision and mission statements, as well as by our core values and rules, as set out below.

OUR VISION

Our vision is that all our children leave our school equipped with the knowledge, skills and personal attributes to make them independent, well-rounded individuals and valued citizens of the future. We aspire for them to be reflective and confident, making wise and informed choices as they journey through life, making positive contributions in a global world. Our ultimate goal is for every one of our children to hold their heads up high, respect themselves and be respected by others.

MISSION STATEMENT

We provide a nurturing and stimulating environment where children appreciate the value of learning and discovery in all its forms. Through a **broad and balanced curriculum**, combined with **high quality teaching**, children have the opportunity to become successful learners, confident individuals and responsible citizens. As a junior school, we balance the **promotion of children's growing independence** with **mechanisms to support pupils appropriately** with their learning and personal areas of need. We **expect high standards of behaviour** and attitudes to learning from all members of the school community. We believe that children achieve best when supported at both home and school. As such, we **encourage open and honest dialogue between parents and staff** and **urge parents to support with learning at home**, ensuring optimum intellectual, social, emotional and physical success.

It is important to us that our children feel safe, are listened to and feel proud to be part of our school. Mutual respect is integral to our ethos and all our children are valued as the individuals they are. We appreciate and **value diversity** and **maintain an ambience of tolerance and respect for all cultures and beliefs**.

OUR CORE VALUES

Our core values which, along with our motto, have been developed in consultation with pupils, parents, staff and governors, underpin our vision and our school motto, guiding everything we do. They are:

- Determination
- Honesty
- Independence
- Respect
- Responsibility
- Tolerance

OUR SCHOOL RULES

- We will keep ourselves and others safe.
- We will not interrupt the learning of others.
- We will treat people and property with respect.

LINKS TO OTHER POLICIES

This policy links should be read in conjunction with the following School policies;

- Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy
- Equality and Community Cohesion Policy
- Anti-Bullying Policy
- Behaviour Management Policy
- Online Safety Policy
- PREVENT Strategy HM Gov 2015
- Keeping Children Safe in Education DfE 2016 DfE, September 2019)
- SETT Procedures (ESCB, 2017) (ESCB, May 2019)
- Working Together to Safeguard Children HM Gov March 2015 (Feb 2019)

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

Aims

To ensure that staff are fully engaged in being vigilant about radicalisation and ensure that we work alongside other professional bodies and agencies to ensure that our pupils are safe from harm.

Objectives

- All staff and governors will have an understanding of what radicalisation and extremism is and understand the need to be vigilant
- All staff and governors will be familiar with this policy and follow the policy guidance swiftly should issues arise
- All pupils will understand the dangers of radicalisation and exposure to extremist views; building resilience against these and knowing what to do if they experience them. Pupils will be actively taught about 'media bias' and that you cannot believe everything you read online/in print.
- All parents/carers and pupils will know that the school has policies in place to keep pupils safe from harm

DEFINITIONS AND 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 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 to 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.

As with all safeguarding risks, staff must be alert to all changes in pupils' behaviour which could indicate that they may be in need of some help or protection.

PROCEDURES FOR 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 all staff and 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 practice.

Although serious incidents involving radicalisation have not occurred at Sunnymede Junior 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.

Any concerns should be reported to Ronnie Branch (Designated Child Protection Officer) or Catharine King (Deputy Designated Child Protection Officer) using the standard yellow form for Child Protection concerns. In their absence, another member of the SLT should be spoken to by staff with concerns. They will review evidence and consider the most appropriate course of action on a case by case basis, in line with the School's Child Protection Policy and in consultation with the Children and Families Hub. CHANNEL is a national programme which focuses on providing support at an early stage to people identified as vulnerable to being drawn into terrorism. Our staff understand how to identify those who may benefit from this support and how to make a referral. (*Appendix 1*)

THE ROLE OF THE CURRICULUM IN PROMOTING THIS POLICY

Our curriculum is broad and balanced. It promotes respect, tolerance and diversity. Children 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.

We use the renowned 'Jigsaw' scheme to teach PSHE . This scheme, along with our SMSC provision, is embedded across the curriculum. It directs our assemblies and underpins the ethos of the school. Our broad curriculum includes many opportunities for pupils to find out about a range of cultures and beliefs, debating and asking appropriate questions without seeking to influence or change beliefs. However, we will challenge Islamophobia, anti-semitism and any other prejudices where necessary. We aim to build ties with local communities to promote community cohesion.

It is recognised that children with low aspirations are more vulnerable to radicalisation and, therefore, we strive to equip our pupils with confidence, self-belief, respect and tolerance, as well as setting high standards and expectations for themselves.

A strong approach to teaching and promoting British Values underpins our curriculum, playing a positive role in preventing extremism. We raise awareness of about British Values, tolerance, respect for other beliefs and cultures, civil liberty, democracy and the rule of law; (see separate Promoting British Values policy).

Children are regularly taught about how to stay safe when using the internet and are encouraged to recognise that people are not always who they say they are online. They have regular e-safety lessons and are taught to seek help from an adult if they are upset or concerned about anything they have read or seen on the internet.

STAFF TRAINING

Through INSET opportunities in school, we will ensure that our staff are fully aware of the threats, risks and vulnerabilities that are linked to radicalisation; are aware of the process of radicalisation and how this might be identified early on and are aware of how we can provide support as a school to ensure that our children are resilient and able to resist involvement in radical or extreme activities. We will do this through the Prevent for schools website information and training through the Essex Police and local authority. Our Level 2 safeguarding training for all staff every September also covers issues around radicalisation and extremism.

POLICY REVIEW

Sunnymede Junior School Tackling Extremism and Radicalisation Policy will be reviewed every two years.

