



Policy for Safeguarding Children and Young People from Being Drawn into or Supporting Terrorism

All education providers have a vital role to play in protecting children and young people from the risks of extremism and radicalisation, a role which is underpinned by the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 “to have due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism.

Radicalisation refers to the process by which a person comes to support terrorism and forms of extremism leading to terrorism.

Extremism is defined by the Government in the Prevent Strategy as: 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. We also include in our definition of extremism calls for the death of members of our armed forces, whether in this country or overseas.

The Government’s Prevent Strategy, revised April 2019, has raised awareness of the specific need to safeguard children, young people and families from violent extremism and terrorism. There have been nationally situations in which extremist groups have attempted to radicalise children and young people to hold extreme views including views justifying political, religious, sexist or racist violence, or to steer them into a rigid and narrow ideology that is intolerant of diversity and leaves them vulnerable to future radicalisation.

At Finchale Primary School, we value freedom of speech and the expression of beliefs / ideology as fundamental rights underpinning our society’s values. Children, young people and staff have the right to speak freely and voice their opinions. However, freedom comes with responsibility and free speech that is designed to manipulate the vulnerable or that leads to violence and harm of others goes against the moral principles in which freedom of speech is valued. Free speech is not an unqualified privilege; it is subject to laws and policies governing equality, human rights, community safety and community cohesion.

The current threat from terrorism in the United Kingdom may include the exploitation of individuals, to involve them in terrorism or in activity in support of terrorism. The normalisation of extreme views may also make children and young people vulnerable to future manipulation and exploitation. At Finchale Primary School, we are clear that this exploitation and radicalisation should be viewed as a safeguarding concern.

We actively seek 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.

Risk Reduction

At Finchale Primary, our staff and governors, together with the Designated Safeguarding Lead (Miss Natalie Ward) will assess the level of risk within the organisation and put actions in place to reduce any identified risks. At Finchale, Mrs. Sleeman is also trained as a Safeguarding Lead and can carry out any relevant responsibilities.

NB. The Designated Safeguarding Lead at Finchale is also the Single Point of Contact (SPOC) for safeguarding individuals from radicalisation and involvement in terrorism. In the event that Miss Ward is unavailable, Mrs. Sleeman is able to undertake the duties of the SPOC.

Procedure

Keeping children and young people safe from these risks is a safeguarding matter and should be approached in the same way as safeguarding children from other risks.

When any member of staff has concerns that a pupil may be at risk of radicalisation or involvement in terrorism, they should speak with Miss Natalie Ward, our Single Point of Contact (SPOC) for safeguarding individuals from radicalisation and involvement in terrorism. Miss Ward is also the Designated Safeguarding Lead who has responsibility for assessing whether the child or young person may be at risk of radicalisation, and where relevant, for referring the child to the Police Prevent Team. Mrs. Sleeman is also a trained safeguarding lead and can undertake these duties if Miss Ward is unavailable.

Numerous factors can contribute to and influence the range of behaviours that are defined as violent extremism, but most young people do not become involved in extremist action. For this reason the appropriate interventions in any particular case may not have any specific connection to the threat of radicalisation, for example they may address mental health, relationship or drug/alcohol issues.

The SPOC for Finchale Primary School is Miss Natalie Ward.

Revised Date: January 2025