



Sithney Community Primary School Preventing Radicalisation and Extremism Policy October 2022

Related policies

This should be read in conjunction with:

Child protection and safeguarding Policies and Procedures

Anti-bullying Policy

Positive Behaviour Policy

E-safety Policy

Visitors Policy

Aims

The main aims of this policy statement are to ensure that all staff and governors are fully engaged in being vigilant about radicalisation; that they overcome professional disbelief that such issues will not happen here and ensure that we work alongside other professional bodies and agencies to ensure that our pupils are safe from harm. The principle objectives are that:

- All governors, teachers, support staff and non-teaching staff will have an understanding of what radicalisation and extremism are and why we need to be vigilant in school.
- All governors, teachers, support staff and non-teaching staff will know what the school policy is on anti-radicalisation and extremism and will follow the policy when issues arise.
- All parents and pupils will know that the school has policies in place to keep pupils safe from harm and that the school regularly reviews its systems to ensure they are appropriate and effective.

Introduction:

Sithney Community Primary School is fully committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all its pupils. As a school we recognise that safeguarding against radicalisation is no different from safeguarding against any other vulnerability. At Sithney Community Primary School all staff are expected to uphold and promote the fundamental principles of British values, including democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect, and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs.

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 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 suggest identification with a group, cause or ideology.
- Using insulting to derogatory names for another group.
- Increase in prejudice-related incidents eg physical or verbal assault, provocative behaviour, damage to property, derogatory name calling, possession of prejudice related materials, refusal to cooperate, attempts to recruit to prejudice related organisations, condoning or supporting violence towards others.

Procedures for Referrals:

Although serious incidents involving radicalisation have not occurred at Sithney Community Primary School to date, it is important for us to be constantly vigilant and remain fully informed about the issues which affect the region in which we teach. Staff are reminded to suspend any professional disbelief that instances of radicalisation 'could not happen here' and to refer any concerns through the appropriate channels (currently via the Single Point of Contact, also the Designated Safeguarding Lead, who is the Headteacher, Emma Stritt).

The Role of the Curriculum:

Our curriculum is broad and balanced and promotes respect, tolerance and diversity. Pupils 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. Our Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE) provision is embedded across the curriculum, and underpins the ethos of the school. It is recognised that pupils 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. Pupils 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 are taught to seek adult help if they are upset or concerned about anything they read or see on the internet.

Staff Training:

Through INSET opportunities in school, we will ensure that our staff and governors:

- 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;
- are aware of the referral procedures to ensure that support is identified and offered at an early stage;
- are aware of how we can provide support as a school to ensure that our pupils are resilient and able to resist involvement in radical or extreme activities.

Visitors and the Use of School Premises:

All visitors must report to the school office and sign in, in accordance with the Visitors Policy. Visitors must be accompanied at all times to ensure that pupils are not left unsupervised with visitors, unless they are a regular visitor with a current DBS check. Staff should be vigilant in ensuring that unaccompanied visitors are challenged and that there are no opportunities to target vulnerable pupils or for radicalisation.

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 radicalisation or extremism, the school will contact the police and terminate the contract.

Policy Review

This policy will be reviewed every 2 years as part of the overall Child Protection and Safeguarding policy review.