

SEAHAM HIGH SCHOOL



Prevent Policy

Review Date	Cycle	Reviewer	Adopted	Committee
October 2020	Annually	L Whitehead	October 2020	Policy & Curriculum
October 2021	Annually	L Whitehead	November 2021	Full Governors
October 2022	Annually	L Whitehead	November 2022	Full Governors
November 2023	Annually	L Whitehead	December 2023	Full Governors

Prevent Policy

Introduction

This Preventing Radicalisation Policy is part of our commitment to keep our students and community safe. Since the Education and Inspections Act 2006 academies, schools and colleges have a duty to promote community cohesion. Over the last few years, global events have led to a growth of extremist viewpoints, including advocacy of violent extremism. Schools and Colleges have an important part to play in both educating children and young people about extremism and recognising when students start to become radicalised. In March 2015, new statutory duties were placed on academies by the Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015, which means they must work to prevent children being drawn into extremism. Safeguarding children from all risks of harm is an important part of schools safeguarding priorities and protecting them from extremism is one aspect of that.

Statutory Duties

The duty to prevent children and young people being radicalised is set out in the following documents:

- Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015
- Keeping Children Safe in Education 2023
- Prevent Duty Guidance 2015 (updated 2019)
- Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018

Related Policies

- Online Safety Policy
- Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy
- Equality Policy
- Code of Conduct Policy
- Whistleblowing Policy
- Anti-Bullying Policy
- Behaviour Policy

Definitions of Extremism, Radicalisation and Terrorism

Extremism is defined in the 2011 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. Radicalisation refers to the process by which a person comes to support terrorism and extremist ideologies associated with terrorist groups. British values

are democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs. Terrorism is an action that endangers or causes serious violence to a person/people; causes serious damage to property, or interferes or disrupts an electronic system. The use or threat must be designed to influence the government or to intimidate the public and is made for the purpose of advancing political, religious or ideological cases and beliefs.

Roles and responsibilities

Seaham High School will:

- Have due regard to the need to prevent students and staff being drawn into terrorism
- Promote the fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, and mutual respect and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs
- Make our school a safe space
- Follow safeguarding procedures to report a concern

Seaham High School has a nominated Safeguarding Governor who will liaise with the Headteacher and DSL and Deputy DSLs and other staff about issues relating to protecting students from radicalisation.

Role of the Headteacher

It is the role of the Headteacher to:

- 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

Role of Designated Safeguarding Leads

It is the role of the Safeguarding/Designated Safeguarding Lead to:

- ensure that staff understand the issues of radicalisation, that they are able to recognise the signs of susceptibility or radicalisation and know how to refer their concerns
- receive safeguarding concerns about students who may be susceptible 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

Role of Staff

It is the role of staff to understand the issues of radicalisation, that they are able to recognise the signs of susceptibility or radicalisation and know how to refer their concerns. Staff also must report any concerns immediately to the DSLs.

Role of Governors

It is the role of Governors to ensure that a Prevent Policy is in place for Seaham High School and that the policy is compliant with the requirements set out by the Department for Education.

Curriculum

We are committed to ensuring that our students are offered a broad and balanced curriculum that aims to prepare them for life in modern Britain.

We encourage our students to be inquisitive learners who are open to new experiences and are tolerant of others. Our values support the development of the whole child as a reflective learner within a safe respectful learning environment where students feel they can discuss any concerns or worries they have in relation to radicalisation and extremist behaviours.

Online Safety

The internet provides children and young people with 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 and monitoring systems used in our school block inappropriate content, including extremist content. Where staff, students or visitors find unblocked extremist content they must report it immediately to the Headteacher or DSLs. The Online Safety and Internet/Acceptable User Policy refers to preventing radicalisation and related extremist content. Students and staff know how to report internet content that is inappropriate or of concern.

Staff Training

Staff will be given training to help them understand the issues of radicalisation, so that they are able to recognise the signs of susceptibility or radicalisation and know how to refer their concerns. This information also forms part of the annual safeguarding training/refreshers.

Safer Recruitment

Our recruitment procedures are rigorous and we follow the statutory guidance published in part 3 of Keeping Children Safe in Education 2023. DBS checks are carried out in accordance with up-to-date guidance on persons having regular unsupervised access to children. Recent changes to KCSIE 2023 advise schools to conduct social media screening as part of safer recruitment processes. We will conduct this search on all shortlisting candidates and take up any concerns during the interview process. At least one member of the interviewing panel will have undertaken Safer Recruitment Training.

Visitors

On arrival to the school, visitors including external speakers are made aware of our safeguarding and child protection policies and are given information about what to do if they are concerned about any aspect of child welfare. Visitors/external speakers will be supervised at all times if they do not hold a valid DBS Certificate and will not be allowed to speak to students without a member of staff being present.

Signs

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

- underachievement or becoming disengaged
- being in possession of extremist literature or becoming increasingly interested
- traumatic events – either in early childhood or more recent events
- global or national event that may trigger other behaviours
- religious conversion that may highlight worrying comments or interests
- fundamental change in behaviour or attitudes
- extremist influences
- conflict with family over lifestyle
- confused identify or changing social groups
- victim or witness to race or hate crimes
- rejection by peers, family, social groups or faith
- becoming withdrawn in class or from other activities that have been previously interested in
- aggressive behaviour towards peers or towards staff
- rebelling against school rules and sanctions
- attendance – change in pattern or general attendance

Recognising extremism

Early indicators of radicalisation or extremism may include:

- showing sympathy for extremist causes
- glorifying violence, especially to other faiths or cultures
- making remarks or comments about being at extremist events or rallies outside school
- evidence of possessing illegal or extremist literature – including online devices
- advocating messages similar to illegal organisations or other extremist groups
- out of character changes in dress, behaviour and peer relationships (there are also very powerful narratives, programmes and networks that young people can come across online so involvement with particular groups may not be apparent)
- secretive behaviour or disengagement
- on-line searches or sharing extremist messages or social profiles – inside and outside of school
- intolerance of difference, including faith, culture, gender, race or sexuality
- graffiti, art work or writing that displays extremist themes
- attempts to impose extremist views or practices on others
- verbalising anti-Western or anti-British views
- using radicalised terminology
- advocating violence towards others - including peers of adults/staff in school

Also consider families at risk:

- not buying into schools ethos or systems
- questioning policies or ethos of the school
- keeping apart from other parents and being increasingly isolated from school events

Risk

A risk assessment should be carried out to assess how our students and staff may be at risk of being radicalised into terrorism, including online. Where specific risks are identified, an action plan will set out the steps taken to mitigate the risk.

Referral Process

Staff and visitors to Seaham High School must refer all concerns about students who show signs of being susceptible or radicalisation to the DSL or other Designated Safeguarding Leads using the usual methods for reporting other safeguarding concerns via CPOMS. When there are significant concerns about a student, a referral will be made to the appropriate body and the Headteacher will be informed at each stage of the process.

With any safeguarding related concerns, all niggles, concerning behaviours or observations must be reported to the DSL or Deputy Safeguarding Leads immediately.

When seeking to share personal data regarding a student susceptible to radicalisation, the DSL does not need to rely on the student's consent to share if there is a lawful basis for doing so. Information about a student susceptible to radicalisation can also be shared without the consent of parents/carers.

Useful links

The following links may be useful for further reading with regard to Radicalisation and Extremism:

- www.internetmatters.org
- www.educateagainsthate.com
- www.durham-scp.org.uk/multiagencysafeguardingarrangements/prevent-counter-terrorist

The SPOC for Seaham High School is Lynn Whitehead

Durham Police Prevent Team - Telephone 0191 3752234
Email: HQspecialbranch@durham.pnn.police.uk

Appendix 1

Indicators of Susceptibility to Radicalisation

1. Radicalisation refers to the process by which a person comes to support terrorism and forms of extremism leading to terrorism.
2. 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.
3. Extremism is defined by the Crown Prosecution Service as:
The demonstration of unacceptable behaviour by using any means or medium to express views which:
 - Encourage, justify or glorify terrorist violence in furtherance of particular beliefs;
 - Seek to provoke others to terrorist acts;
 - Encourage other serious criminal activity or seek to provoke others to serious criminal acts; or
 - Foster hatred, which might lead to inter-community violence in the UK.
4. There is no such thing as a “typical extremist”: those who become involved in extremist actions come from a range of backgrounds and experiences, and most individuals, even those who hold radical views, do not become involved in violent extremist activity.
5. Children and young people may become susceptible to radicalisation through a range of social, personal and environmental factors - it is known that violent extremists exploit susceptibilities in individuals to drive a wedge between them and their families and communities. It is vital that all childcare provider staff are able to recognise those susceptibilities.
6. Indicators of susceptibility include:
 - Identity Crisis – the child or young person is distanced from their cultural / religious heritage and experiences discomfort about their place in society;
 - Personal Crisis – the child or young person may be experiencing family tensions; a sense of isolation; and low self-esteem; they may have dissociated from their existing friendship group and become involved with a new and different group of friends; they may be searching for answers to questions about identity, faith and belonging;
 - Personal Circumstances – migration; local community tensions; and events affecting the child or young person’s country or region of origin may contribute

to a sense of grievance that is triggered by personal experience of racism or discrimination or aspects of Government policy;

- Unmet Aspirations – the child or young person may have perceptions of injustice; a feeling of failure; rejection of civic life;
- Experiences of Criminality – this may include involvement with criminal groups, imprisonment, and poor resettlement / reintegration;
- Individual Needs – child or young person may experience difficulties with social interaction, empathy with others, understanding the consequences of their actions and awareness of the motivations of others.

However, this list is not exhaustive, nor does it mean that all children or young people experiencing the above are at risk of radicalisation for the purposes of violent extremism.

7. More critical risk factors could include:

- being in contact with extremist recruiters;
- accessing violent extremist websites, especially those with a social networking element;
- possessing or accessing violent extremist literature;
- using extremist narratives and a global ideology to explain personal disadvantage;
- justifying the use of violence to solve societal issues;
- joining or seeking to join extremist organisations;
- significant changes to appearance and / or behaviour; and
- experiencing a high level of social isolation resulting in issues of identity crisis and /or personal crisis.

Appendix 2

Roles and Responsibilities of the Single Point of Contact (SPOC)

The SPOC for Seaham High School is Lynn Whitehead who is responsible for:

- Ensuring that staff are aware that you are the SPOC in relation to protecting children and young people from radicalisation and involvement in terrorism;
- Maintaining and applying a good understanding of the relevant guidance in relation to preventing children and young people from becoming involved in terrorism, and protecting them from radicalisation by those who support terrorism or forms of extremism which lead to terrorism;
- Raising awareness about the role and responsibilities of Seaham High School in relation to protecting children and young people from radicalisation and involvement in terrorism;
- Raising awareness within the organisation of safeguarding processes relating to protecting children and young people from radicalisation and involvement in terrorism;
- Acting as the first point of contact within the organisation for case discussions relating to children and young people who may be at risk of radicalisation or involved in terrorism;
- Collating relevant information in relation to referrals of susceptible children and young people into the Channel* process via the Police Prevent Team*; and
- Attending Channel meetings, where necessary, to support assessment and intervention.
 - *The Police Prevent Team will carry out an initial assessment to ascertain whether the child or young person may be at risk of radicalisation, and where relevant, will refer them to the Local Authority Channel Panel.
 - *Channel is a multi-agency approach to provide support to individuals who are at risk of being drawn into terrorist related activity. Channel aims to:
- Establish an effective multi-agency referral and intervention process to support susceptible individuals;
- Safeguard individuals who might be susceptible to being radicalised, so that they are not at risk of being drawn into terrorist-related activity; and
- Provide early intervention to protect and divert people away from the risks they face and reduce susceptibility.