

Beech Hill Primary School



Anti- Radicalisation Policy 2024

Aims and Principles

The main aims of this statement are to ensure that staff 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 aim is to stop people from becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism including safeguarding learners from extreme ideologies and radicalisation.

The principle objectives are that:

- All governors, teachers, teaching assistants 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, teaching assistants and non-teaching staff will know what the school policy is on anti-radicalisation and extremism and will follow the procedures 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.

Definitions and Indicators

Definitions

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, and in Britain, a vocal or active opposition to fundamental British values. These include democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs.

Indicators

- Disclosures by students 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 students have not actively sought these out.

- Graffiti symbols, writing or art work promoting extremist messages or images
- Students accessing extremist material online, including through social networking sites
- Parental reports of changes in behaviour, friendship or actions and requests for assistance
- Local authority services, and police reports of issues affecting students in other schools or settings
- Students 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 attempts to impose extremist views or practices on others Anti-Western or Anti-British views

Links to other policies

Beech Hill Primary School’s anti-radicalisation policy links to the following:

- Child Protection / Safeguarding Policy
- Attendance Policy
- E-Safety
- Safer Recruitment
- Equality policy
- Anti-bullying policy
- Behaviour policy
- Code of conduct for parents and visitors policy
- Parent partnership policy
- Racial equality policy

As a school we also aim to develop and nurture British Values within the teaching of PSHE, covering:

- Democracy
- The rule of law
- Individual liberty

- Mutual respect
- Tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs

Policy statement

Beech Hill Primary School is fully committed to providing a secure environment for students, where children feel safe and are kept safe. As a school we recognise that safeguarding against radicalisation is no different to safeguarding against any other vulnerability. The Anti-Radicalisation Policy sets out our beliefs, strategies and procedures to protect vulnerable individuals from being radicalised and exposed to extremist views. At Beech Hill Primary School all staff take responsibility for upholding and promoting the fundamental principles of British values, including democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of those with those with different faiths and beliefs.

Procedures for referrals

Although serious incidents involving radicalisation have not occurred at Beech Hill Primary School to date, it is important for us to be constantly vigilant and remain fully informed about these issues. 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.

In the event of concerns related to radicalised behaviour:

- All incidents will be reported directly to the Head teacher of school or in their absence to a member of the Leadership Team.
- All incidents will be fully investigated and recorded on safeguarding referral form. Once completed the referral will be stored in a secure location.
- Parents will be contacted and the incident discussed in detail, aiming to identify motivating factors, any changes in circumstances at home, parental views of the incident and to assess whether the incident is serious enough to warrant a further referral. A note of this meeting is kept alongside the initial referral.
- The Head teacher /Leadership team follow-up any referrals for a period of four weeks after the incident to assess whether there is a change in behaviour and/or

attitude. A further meeting with parents would be held if there is not a significant positive change in behaviour. If deemed necessary in the event of a referral relating to serious concerns about potential radicalisation or extremism, the School will contact Northumbria Police and Newcastle Social Services.

It is important to intervene to protect people who are vulnerable. Early intervention is vital and staff must be aware of the established processes for front line professionals to refer concerns about individuals and groups. We must have the confidence to challenge, the confidence to intervene and ensure that we have strong safeguarding practices.

Staff have been fully briefed about what to do if they are concerned about the possibility of radicalisation relating to a pupil. Any new staff will be briefed on this procedure.

Role of the Curriculum

Our curriculum/values promote 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.

The R.E, PSHE (Personal, Social and Health Education), Citizenship and SMSC (Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural) provision is embedded across the curriculum, and underpins the ethos of the school. Safeguarding recognises 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.