



Esh Winning Primary School

School PREVENT Policy

Protecting Children from Extremism and Radicalisation

Schools have a vital role to play in protecting children and young people from the risks of extremism and radicalization. This role 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.

The Prevent Strategy, published by the Government in 2011 is part of an overall counter terrorism strategy CONTEST. The aim of the Prevent strategy is to reduce the threat to the UK from terrorism by stopping people from becoming terrorists or supporting terrorist activity. This has raised the specific need to safeguard children, young people and families from violent extremism and terrorism.

Nationally, there have already been attempts by extremist groups to radicalise vulnerable children and young people – whether by encouraging them to hold extreme views (including the justification of political, religious, sexist or racist violence) or by steering them towards a rigid and narrow ideology which opposes fundamental British values, such as mutual respect, the embracing of diversity, and tolerance for different faiths and beliefs.

Esh Winning Primary School is fully committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all children and young people with whom we work. As a school we recognise that safeguarding against radicalisation is no different from safeguarding against any other risks.

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.

Esh Winning Primary School values freedom of speech and the expression of beliefs / ideology as fundamental rights underpinning our society's values. Children, young people and all school staff have the right to speak freely and voice their opinions. However, freedom comes with responsibility and Free speech which is designed to manipulate the vulnerable or that which leads to violence against or harm to others goes against the moral structure 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 vulnerable people, 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. Esh Winning Primary School is clear that this exploitation and radicalisation should be viewed as a safeguarding concern.

Esh Winning Primary School seeks to protect children and young people against the messages of all violent extremism including, but not restricted to, those linked with extreme Islamist ideology,

Far Right, Neo Nazi or White Supremacist ideology, Irish Nationalist and Loyalist paramilitary groups or extremist Animal Rights movements.

Links to other policies

Policy Statement links to the following policies:

- Safeguarding
- Equality and Discrimination Policy
- Anti-Bullying Policy
- Positive Behaviour Policy

Aims and Principles

To ensure all school staff are aware of the Prevent Strategy and are able to protect children and young people who are vulnerable or at risk of being radicalised by working alongside other professional bodies and agencies to ensure that individuals are safe from harm.

The principle objectives are that:

All staff working or volunteering within the school will:

- Understand what radicalisation and extremism are and why we need to be vigilant in our school.
- Know what the school's policy is on safeguarding from radicalisation and extremism and will follow the policy when issues arise.
- All parents will know that Esh Winning Primary School has policies in place to keep children and young people safe from harm and that the school regularly reviews its systems to ensure they are appropriate and effective.

Definitions

- **Radicalisation** refers to the process by which a person comes to support terrorism and extremism leading to terrorism (**Appendix 1**).
- **Extremism** is defined by 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. The definition also includes calls for the death of members of our armed forces (**Appendix 1**).
- **Terrorism** is defined by Government as "*The use of violence in order to accomplish political, religious or social objectives*". Terrorism is a criminal act which influences an audience beyond the immediate victim. The measure of its effectiveness is its impact on the Government and on the public.

Procedures for referrals

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.

Although no incidents involving radicalisation have occurred at Esh Winning Primary School and although the risk is minimal in County Durham, it is important for us to be vigilant and remain

informed about issues which could affect our children. All staff are reminded to dispel the belief that instances of radicalisation 'could not happen here'.

When any member of staff has concerns that a child or young person may be at risk of radicalisation or involvement in terrorism, they should speak with the schools Single Point of Contact (SPOC) for safeguarding pupils from radicalisation and involvement in terrorism. They will be responsible for referring any concerns to the Police Prevent Team who will assess whether the pupil may be at risk of radicalisation and, where relevant, for referring the child to the Channel Panel (**Appendix 2**).

The SPOC for Esh Winning Primary School is Mrs Caroline Hodgson.

The contact details for the Durham Police Prevent Team are:

- Telephone 0191 3752234
- Email: HQspecialbranch@durham.pnn.police.uk

Risk Reduction

The Senior Leadership Team, Board of Governors and the Designated Safeguarding Lead will assess the level of risk within the school and put actions in place to reduce any identified risks.

Children and young people 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

The school will ensure that staff have 'due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism'. They are aware of the threats, risks and vulnerabilities that are linked to radicalisation and they understand the signs that someone may be vulnerable to radicalisation. Training may be undertaken via a briefing, e-learning or a face to face workshop to raise awareness of Prevent (WRAP) session.

Policy Review

This policy statement will be reviewed annually as part of the overall Child Protection and Safeguarding policy review.

Appendix 1

Indicators of Vulnerability 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. Pupils may become susceptible to radicalisation through a range of social, personal and environmental factors. It is known that violent extremists exploit vulnerabilities in individuals to drive a wedge between them and their families and communities. It is vital that school staff can recognise those vulnerabilities.
6. Indicators of vulnerability include:

Identity Crisis – the student / pupil is distanced from their cultural / religious heritage and experiences discomfort about their place in society;

Personal Crisis – the student / pupil 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 student / pupil’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 student / pupil may have perceptions of injustice; a feeling of failure; rejection of civic life;

Experiences of Criminality – including involvement with criminal groups, imprisonment, and poor resettlement / reintegration;

Individual Needs – students / pupils 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 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 Esh Winning Primary School is Mrs Caroline Hodgson who is responsible for:

- Ensuring that staff of the school are aware that she is the SPOC in relation to protecting students/pupils from radicalisation and involvement in terrorism;
- Maintaining and applying a good understanding of the relevant guidance in relation to preventing students/pupils 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 Esh Winning Primary School in relation to protecting students/pupils from radicalisation and involvement in terrorism;
- Raising awareness within the school about the safeguarding processes relating to protecting students/pupils from radicalisation and involvement in terrorism;
- Acting as the first point of contact within the school for case discussions relating to students / pupils who may be at risk of radicalisation or involved in terrorism;
- Collating relevant information in relation to referrals of vulnerable students / pupils into the Channel* process; and
- Attending Channel meetings, where necessary, to support assessment and intervention.

* 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 identify vulnerable individuals;
- Safeguard individuals who might be vulnerable 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 vulnerability.



Together Better Policing

Durham Constabulary PREVENT Flowchart. Referral Process for Partner Agencies



Together Better Policing

Cause for concern identified

Concern reported to Manager/ Safeguard Lead

Further information gathered / concerns put into context

Option 1
No response necessary

Option 2
Low level intervention/ further monitoring/ assessment

Option 3
Urgent... call 999

Option 4
Contact Police PREVENT team

Police PREVENT team complete assessment

Option 1
No further action required

Option 2
Not CT/ DE related but evidence of criminality - referred to other police dept.

Option 3
Referred to other agency e.g. Health

Option 4
Referred to CHANNEL Panel

CHANNEL PANEL convened / risk managed

Notice

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