Michaela Community School

Prevent: Anti-Radicalisation Policy

Safeguarding pupils who are vulnerable to extremism

This policy is part of our commitment to keeping children safe. Schools have an important part to play in both educating children and young people about extremism and recognising when pupils start to become radicalised. In March 2015, new statutory duties were placed on schools 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 a school's work and protecting them from extremism is one aspect of that.

Ethos

At Michaela Community School we ensure that through our school vision, values, rules, curriculum and teaching we promote the British values of democracy, rule of law, individual liberty, mutual respect and tolerance. The governing body also ensures that this ethos is reflected and implemented effectively in school policy and practice and that there are effective risk assessments in place to safeguard and promote pupils' welfare.

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 (2015)
- Prevent Duty Guidance (2015)
- Working Together to Safeguard Children (2015)

Freedom of Speech

Michaela Community School values freedom of speech and the expression of beliefs and ideologies as fundamental rights underpinning our society's values. Both pupils and teachers have the right to speak freely and voice their opinions. However, 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 values. Free speech is not an unqualified privilege: it is subject to laws and policies governing equality, human rights, community safety and community cohesion.

Michaela Community School seeks to protect pupils against the messages of all violent extremism including Islamist ideology, far right/ Neo Nazi/ White Supremacist ideology, paramilitary groups and extremist animal rights movements.

Risk

The school governors, the Headmistress and the Designated Safeguarding Lead will assess the level of risk within the school and put actions in place to reduce that risk. Risk assessment may include consideration of the school's curriculum, SEND policy, the use of school premises by external

premises by external agencies, integration of pupils by gender and SEN, anti-bullying policy and other issues specific to the school's profile, community and philosophy.

Response

The school's Prevent Single Point of Contact (SPOC) is Deputy Head Katie Ashford, who will be the lead within the organisation for safeguarding in relation to protecting individuals from radicalisation and involvement in terrorism.

When any member of staff has concerns that a pupil may be at risk of radicalisation or involvement in terrorism, they should speak with the SPOC immediately.

Internet 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 systems used in our school blocks inappropriate content, including extremist content.

We also filter out social media, such as Facebook. Searches and web addresses are monitored and ICT technicians notify senior staff where there are any concerns.

Where staff, pupils or visitors find unblocked extremist content they must report it to a senior member of staff immediately.

Staff Training

Staff receive annual training in the Prevent Strategy and awareness of the issues surrounding radicalisation so that they are aware of the signs of vulnerability and know how to refer their concerns. This information also forms part of induction safeguarding training. Frontline staff and Senior Leaders are updated as necessary in weekly safeguarding briefings.

All training is up to date.

Pupil Awareness

Pupils are exposed to the following themes through the curriculum (especially the Humanities and English), tutor time discussions, assemblies and 'family lunch' topics:

- Resilience to anti-radicalisation
- Fundamental British values
- Enablement to challenge extremist views
- Awareness of the dangers of social media
- Awareness of 'hate' crime

Safer Recruitment

We ensure that the staff we appoint to the school are suitable. Our recruitment procedures are rigorous and we follow the statutory guidance in part 3 of '*Keeping Children Safe in Education*' (2015). Vetting and barring checks are undertaken on relevant people including governors and volunteers.

Full details of our recruitment procedures are available on the policies section of our website.

Visitors

We undertake due diligence to ensure that visiting speakers are appropriate and do not provide a platform for anyone with extremist views. Speakers will be supervised at all times and will not be allowed to speak to children without a member of staff present.

Staff must not invite speakers into the school without first obtaining permission from the Headmistress.

Signs of vulnerability

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

- Being in possession of extremist literature
- Traumatic events
- Change in behaviour
- Extremist influences
- Conflicts with family/social groups, including faith groups
- Confused identity
- Victim or witness to hate or race crimes

Recognising Extremism

Early indicators of radicalisation or extremism may include:

- Showing sympathy for extremist causes
- Glorifying violence, especially towards other faiths or cultures
- Making remarks or comments about attendance at extremist rallies or events
- Being in possession of extremist literature
- Out of character change in dress, behaviour and peer relationships
- Secretive behaviour
- Online searches or sharing extremist messages or social profiles
- Intolerance of difference, including faith, culture, gender, race or sexuality
- Graffiti, art work or writing that displays extremist themes
- Attempts to impose extremists views or practices on others
- Verbalising anti-Western or anti-British views
- Advocating violence towards others

Approval by Governing Body and Review Date

This policy and plan has been formally approved and adopted by the Local Governing Body at a formally convened meeting.

Signed: _____

Chair of Governing Body

Date: 3 July 2017

Review Date: 3 July 2018

End of Statement