



# Bamburgh School Preventing Extremism and Radicalisation Safeguarding Policy

## Introduction

Bamburgh School is committed to providing a secure environment for pupils, where learners feel safe and are kept safe. All adults at Bamburgh recognise that safeguarding is everyone's responsibility irrespective of the role they undertake or whether their role has direct contact or responsibility for learners or not.

In adhering to this policy, and the procedures therein, staff and visitors will contribute to Bamburgh's delivery of the outcomes to all learners, as set out in s10 (2) of the Children's Act 2004<sup>1</sup>. This Preventing Extremism and Radicalisation Safeguarding Policy is one element within our overall arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of all learners in line with our statutory duties.

Our school's Preventing Extremism and Radicalisation Safeguarding Policy also draws upon the guidance contained in the DfE publication "Keeping Learners safe in Education, 2014", and specifically DCSF Resources "Learning Together to be Safe", "Prevent: Resources Guide", "Tackling Extremism in the UK", DfE's "Teaching Approaches that help build resilience to Extremism among Young People" and Peter Clarke's Report of July 2014.

*<sup>1</sup> the physical mental health and emotional well-being of children; the protection of children from harm and neglect; the education, training and recreation of children; the contribution made by them to society; and their social and economic well-being.*

## Objectives

The Preventing Extremism and Radicalisation Policy is intended to provide a framework for dealing with issues relating to vulnerability, radicalisation and exposure to extreme views. We recognise that we are well placed to be able to identify safeguarding issues and this policy clearly sets out how the school will deal with such incidents and identifies how the curriculum and ethos underpins our actions.

The 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 tackling extremism and radicalisation and will follow the policy guidance swiftly when issues arise.
- All pupils will understand the dangers of radicalisation and exposure to extremist views; building resilience against these and knowing what to do if they experience them.
- All parents/carers 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.

## **Ethos and Practice**

When operating this policy Bamburgh School uses the following accepted Governmental definition of extremism which is:

*'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; and/or calls for the death of members in our armed forces, whether in this country or overseas'.*

There is no place for extremist views of any kind in our school, whether from internal, sources – pupils, staff or governors, or external sources – school community, external agencies or individuals. Our pupils see our school as a safe place where they can explore controversial issues safely and where our teachers encourage and facilitate this – we have a duty to ensure this happens.

As a school we recognise that extremism and exposure to extremist materials and influences can lead to poor outcomes for pupils and so should be addressed as a safeguarding concern as set out in this policy. We also recognise that if we fail to challenge extremist views we are failing to protect our pupils.

Extremists of all persuasions aim to develop destructive relationships between different communities by promoting division, fear and mistrust of others based on ignorance or prejudice and thereby limiting the life chances of young people. Education is a powerful weapon against this; equipping young people with the knowledge, skills and critical thinking to challenge and debate in an informed way.

Therefore at Bamburgh School we will provide a broad and balanced curriculum so that our pupils are enriched, understand and become tolerant of difference and diversity and also to ensure that they thrive, feel valued and not marginalised.

Furthermore at Bamburgh School we are aware that young people can be exposed to extremist influences or prejudiced views from an early age which emanate from a variety of sources and media, including via the internet and at times pupils may themselves reflect or display views that may be discriminatory, prejudiced or extremist, including using derogatory language. As part of our whole school e-safety programme we highlight the potential risks pupils may face in relation to on-line radicalisation and encourage students to report any concerns they may have for themselves or other students.

Any prejudice, discrimination or extremist views, including derogatory language, displayed by pupils or staff will always be challenged and where appropriate dealt with in line with our behaviour policy.

As part of wider safeguarding responsibilities staff will be alert to:

- Disclosures by pupils 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 pupils have not actively sought these out.
- Graffiti symbols, writing or art work promoting extremist messages or images
- Pupils accessing extremist material online, including through social networking sites

- Distributing extremist literature and documentation
  - Parental reports of changes in behaviour, friendship or actions and requests for assistance
  - Partner schools, local authority services and police reports of issues affecting pupils in other schools or settings
  - Pupils 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 within our equalities policy, views based on, but not exclusive to, gender, disability, homophobia, race, colour or culture
  - Attempts to impose extremist views or practices on others
  - Anti-Western or Anti-British view

We recognise that pupils in vulnerable social and domestic situations (mental health issues, single parent families, involvement in gangs) may be at greater risk of radicalisation than other pupils. Through pupils meetings information is shared on pupils who have caused a concern and appropriate external support accessed as necessary.

In conclusion we will closely follow any locally agreed procedure as set out by the Local Authority and criteria for safeguarding individuals vulnerable to extremism and radicalisation.

### **Ethos and Approach**

We will all strive to eradicate the myths and assumptions that can lead to some young people becoming alienated and disempowered, especially where the narrow approaches learners may experience elsewhere may make it harder for them to challenge or question these radical influences. This guidance and support will be delivered through the whole school curriculum and PSHCE coverage. We will ensure that all of our support and approaches will help our pupils build resilience to extremism and give them a positive sense of identity through the development of critical thinking skills. We will develop strategies and staff training to ensure that all our staff are equipped to recognise extremism and are skilled and confident enough to challenge it.

We will be flexible enough to adapt our teaching approaches, as appropriate and address specific issues so as to become even more relevant to the current issues of extremism and radicalisation. We will facilitate the following principles:

- Making a connection with young people through positive engagement and a pupil centred approach.
- Facilitating a 'safe space' for dialogue to ensure pupils feel safe and comfortable talking about their feelings and views on a wide range of social, political, religious and cultural issues.
- Equipping our pupils with the appropriate skills, knowledge, understanding and awareness for resilience.

Therefore this approach will be embedded within the ethos of our school so

that pupils know and understand what safe and acceptable behaviour is in the context of extremism and radicalisation. This will work in conjunction with our schools approach to the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils. We recognise the importance of guiding students to be intolerant of all forms of extremism, ie – violent animal rights extremism, political extremism.

Our goal is to build mutual respect and understanding and to promote the use of dialogue not violence as a form of conflict resolution. We will achieve this by using an approach that includes:

- Citizenship/PSD Programmes
- Open discussion and debate
- Targeted programmes led by external providers
- Annual audits of curriculum and PSHCE provision to ensure the values of democracy and individual liberty are promoted throughout the wider curriculum

We will also work with families and communities in our effort to ensure our school understands and embraces our local context and values in challenging extremist views and to assist in the broadening of our pupils' experiences and horizons. We will help support pupils who may be vulnerable to such influences as part of our wider safeguarding responsibilities and where we believe a learner is offered mentoring. Additionally in such instances our school will seek external support from the Local Authority working to prevent extremism.

At Bamburgh School we will promote the values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, mutual respect and tolerance for those with different faiths and beliefs. We will teach and encourage pupils to respect and to respect one another and to respect and tolerate difference, especially those of a different faith or no faith. It is indeed our most fundamental responsibility to keep our pupils safe and prepare them for life in modern multi-cultural Britain and globally.

Therefore by delivering a broad and balanced curriculum, we will strive to ensure our pupils recognise risk and build resilience to manage any such risk themselves where appropriate to their age and ability but also help pupils develop the critical thinking skills needed to engage in informed debate.

### **Safeguarding**

Please refer to our Safeguarding Policy for the full procedural framework on our Safeguarding duties. The school follows the guidance outlined by the South Tyneside's Safeguarding Board.

Although serious incidents involving radicalisation have not occurred at Bamburgh School to date, it is important for us to be constantly vigilant and remain fully informed about the issues which affect the local area, city and society in which we teach. Staff are reminded to suspend any 'professional disbelief' that instances of radicalisation 'could not happen here' and to be 'professionally inquisitive' where concerns arise, referring any concerns through the appropriate channels.

Staff at Bamburgh School will be alert to the fact that whilst Extremism and

Radicalisation is broadly a safeguarding issue there may be some instances where a child or pupils may be at direct risk of harm or neglect. For example; this could be due to a pupil displaying risky behaviours in terms of the activities they are involved in or the groups they are associated with or staff be aware of information about a pupil's family that may be equally place a young person at risk of harm. (These examples are for illustration and are not definitive or exhaustive).

Therefore all adults working in Bamburgh School (including visiting staff, volunteers' contractors, and students on placement) are required to report instances where they believe a young person may be at risk of harm, linked to radicalisation, to the Designated Safeguarding Lead (Kim Nichol or Claire Sharp). The DSP will follow up these concerns by contacting the appropriate external agencies.

### **Training**

Whole school in-service training on Safeguarding will be organised for staff and governors on an annual basis and will comply with the prevailing arrangements agreed by the Local Authority.

Information is provided to staff as part of our safeguarding training programme (PREVENT) to allow staff to identify possible changes in student behaviour that may suggest the student has become influenced by extremist ideology. This may include changing their style of dress, particularly in the sixth form, loss of contact with traditional groups of friends, using insulting or derogatory language to describe groups opposed by extremists or evidence the student may have recently joined a gang in the local community. Annual staff training is delivered by the PREVENT (Counter Terrorism Team).

### **Policy, Adoption, Monitoring and Review**

This policy was considered and adopted by the Governing body in line with their overall duty to safeguard and promote the welfare of pupils as set out in the DfE guidance 'Keeping Children Safe in Education'. Parents will be issued with a hard copy of this policy on request.

In Bamburgh School the Designated Safeguarding Lead will actively evaluate the effectiveness of this policy by monitoring the staff group's understanding and application of the procedures within this policy as their overall duty to safeguard pupils. The policy, in line with updated DfE and Local Authority guidance, will be reviewed on an annual basis.

Originator – Julia Whittle-Richens

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Approved by Governors –

Review November 2017

