

Ellwood Community Primary School

Believe, Achieve, Belong



Tackling Extremism & Radicalisation Policy

Date reviewed: July 2024

Next review date: July 2027

Policy Statement

Ellwood Primary School takes safeguarding very seriously. It is fully committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all its pupils. Every member of staff within the school recognises that safeguarding against radicalisation and extremism is very important. This is the same as safeguarding against any other vulnerability in today's society. The Tackling Extremism and Radicalisation sets out our strategies and procedures to protect all children and staff within our school, particularly vulnerable individuals from being radicalised or exposed to extremist views. We strive to identify who they are the most vulnerable and swiftly ensure we offer the support they need.

Links to other Policies

The Ellwood Primary School Tackling Extremism and Radicalisation Policy links to the following school policies:

- Child Protection and Safeguarding
- Disability and Equalities Guidance
- E-Safety Policy
- Anti-Bullying Policy
- Behaviour Policy

- Acceptable Users Policies for staff and pupils

The following national guidelines should also be read when working with this policy:

- PREVENT Strategy HM Government
- Keeping Children Safe in Education DfE (latest version)
- Working together to Safeguard Children HM Government (latest version)

Aims and Principles

The Tackling 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 in school we are well placed to be able to identify safeguarding issues and concerns. This policy sets out how the school will deal with such incidents. It also identifies how the school curriculum and ethos underpins our actions.

Our aims and objectives are that:

- All governors and staff will have an understanding of what radicalisation and extremism is and why we need to be attentive in school.
- All governors and staff will know what the school policy is on tackling extremism and radicalisation and will follow the policy guidance rapidly when matters arise.
- All pupils will understand the dangers of radicalisation and exposure to extremist views (at their own development level); 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.

The main aims of this policy 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 and remain safe.

Definitions and Indicators

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.

There are a number of behaviours which may indicate a child is at risk of being radicalised or exposed to extreme views. These include;

- Spending increasing time in the company of other suspected extremists.
- Changing their style of dress or personal appearance to accord with the group.
- Day-to-day behaviour becoming increasingly centred on an extremist ideology, group or cause.
- Loss of interest in other friends and activities not associated with the extremist ideology, group or cause.
- Possession of materials or symbols associated with an extremist cause.

- Attempts to recruit others to the group/cause.
- Communications with others that suggests identification with a group, cause or ideology. Using insulting or derogatory names for another group.
- Increase in prejudice-related incidents committed by that person-

These may include

- Physical or verbal assault
- Provocative behaviour
- Damage to property
- Derogatory name calling
- Possession of prejudice-related materials
- Prejudice related ridicule or name calling
- Inappropriate forms of address
- Refusal to co-operate
- Attempts to recruit to prejudice-related organisations
- Condoning or supporting violence towards others.

Procedures and Referrals

Although serious incidents involving radicalisation have not occurred at Ellwood Primary School to date, it is important for us to be constantly vigilant and remain fully informed about the issues which affect the local area, and the 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.

We believe that it is possible 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/or groups. We must have the confidence to challenge, the confidence to intervene and ensure that we have safeguarding practices on the most up-to-date guidance and best practice.

The DSL (Designated Safeguarding Lead) or DDSL (Deputy Designated Safeguard Lead) will deal promptly with any referrals made by staff or with concerns reported by staff.

The Headteacher will discuss the most appropriate course of action on a case-by-case basis and will decide when a referral to external agencies is needed.

As with any child protection referral, staff must be made aware that if they do not agree with a decision not to refer, they can make the referral themselves and will be given the contact details to do this via the safeguarding board in the staff room.

Governors, Leaders and Staff

The Headteacher is the leader for referrals relating to extremism and radicalisation. If the Headteacher is not available, staff can refer to the DDSL (Deputy Safeguarding Lead).

Staff will be fully informed about what to do if they are concerned about the possibility of radicalisation relating to a pupil, or if they need to discuss specific children whom they consider to be vulnerable to radicalisation or extremist views.

The Headteacher will work with external agencies to decide the best course of action to address concerns which arise.

The Role of the Curriculum

Our curriculum promotes respect, tolerance and diversity. Children 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.

Our PSHCE (life skills) provision is embedded across the curriculum. It directs our assemblies and underpins the ethos of the schools. It is recognised that children 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 standard and expectations for themselves.

Children 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

Through INSET, CPD and staff meetings and other opportunities in school, we will ensure that our staff are fully aware of the threats, risks and vulnerabilities that are linked to radicalisation; are aware of the process of radicalisation and how this might be identified early on and are aware of how we can provide support as a school to ensure that our children are resilient and able to resist involvement in radical or extremism. Staff and Governors undertake on line prevent training.

Visitors and the use of school Premises

If any member of staff wishes to invite a regular visitor to the school, they must seek agreement from the Headteacher. Therefore, the visitor will be subject to Safeguarding checks including DBS checks and photo identification. Visitors for one off occasions will not need a DBS but will be supervised at all times.

If any agreement is made to allow non-school groups or organisations to use the premises, appropriate checks will be made before agreeing the contract. Usage will be monitored and in the event of any behaviour not in-keeping with the Tackling Extremism and Radicalisation Policy, the school will contact the police and terminate the contract.

Dealing with referrals

We are aware of the potential indicating factors that a child is vulnerable to being radicalised or exposed to extreme views, including peer pressure, influence from other people or the internet, bullying, crime and anti-social behaviour, family tensions, race/hate crime, lack of self-esteem or identity, prejudicial behaviour and personal or political grievances.

In the event of prejudicial behaviour the following system will be followed:

- All incidents of prejudicial behaviour will be reported directly to the Headteacher.

- All incidents will be fully investigated and recorded in line with the Behaviour Policy and records will be kept in line with procedures for any other safeguarding incident.
- Parents/carers will be contacted and the incident discussed in detail, aiming to identify motivating factors, any changes in circumstances at home, parental views or the incident and to assess whether the incident is serious enough to warrant a further referral. A note of this meeting is kept in the pupil's confidential file.

The Headteacher will 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.

This policy will be reviewed every 3 years.

Further Reading

- The prevent Strategy, GOV.UK – Home Office
- Keeping Children Safe in Education DfE
- Working Together to Safeguard Children HM GOV 2018