

# Tackling Extremism & Radicalisation Policy



*In our school, we want to celebrate God's gift of life together;  
by inspiring, enhancing and developing tomorrow's talent, today!*

*We respect all; aiming to achieve and live our values.*

*A place to allow humanity to flourish!*

# ST LEO'S AND SOUTHMEAD CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

## TACKLING EXTREMISM AND RADICALISATION POLICY

<b>Feedback Policy Approved:</b> The Governing Body of St Leo's and Southmead Catholic Primary School approved this policy on 14 <sup>th</sup> September 2017
<b>Implementation Date:</b> 15 <sup>th</sup> September 2017

### POLICY STATEMENT

St Leo's and Southmead Primary School is fully committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all its pupils. Every member of staff recognises that safeguarding against radicalisation and extremism is no different to safeguarding against any other vulnerability in today's society. The Tackling Extremism and Radicalisation Policy sets out our beliefs, strategies and procedures to protect vulnerable individuals from being radicalised or exposed to extremist views, by identifying who they are and promptly providing them with support.

### LINKS TO OTHER POLICIES

This policy also links to the following School policies;

- Child Protection and Safeguarding
- Equality Policy
- Anti-bullying Policy
- Positive Behaviour Management Policy
- On-line Safety Policy.
- British values policy/statement

### AIMS AND PRINCIPLES

This 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.

### 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.

In the social dynamic of our school community, we recognise that this may take the form of extreme right wing beliefs.

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 to 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 FOR REFERRALS**

Although serious incidents involving radicalisation have not occurred at St Leo's and Southmead 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, 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. (See appendix 1 – Dealing with referrals)

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 strong safeguarding practices based on the most up-to-date guidance and best practise.

Any concerns will be raised with the Headteacher. The Head Teacher will decide the most appropriate course of action on a case-by-case basis and will decide when a referral to external agencies is needed (see appendix 1 – Dealing with referrals)

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 staffroom.



## Appendix 1 – 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 Head Teacher or a SLT member.
- 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 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 in the Safeguarding folder.
- The Head Teacher or a member of the SLT 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.
- If deemed necessary, serious incidents will be discussed and referred to Knowsley Safeguarding Board.
- In the event of a referral relating to serious concerns about potential radicalisation or extremism, the school will also contact [Special.branch@merseyside.pnn.police.uk](mailto:Special.branch@merseyside.pnn.police.uk) – 0151 777 8505 or [Clive.finch@liverpool.gov.uk](mailto:Clive.finch@liverpool.gov.uk) 0151 233 7015

The Department for Education has dedicated a telephone helpline (020 7340 7264

[counter.extremism@education.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:counter.extremism@education.gsi.gov.uk) Please note that the helpline is not intended for use in emergency situations, such as a child being at immediate risk of harm or a security incident, in which case the normal emergency procedures should be followed.