The Policy and Procedures for Radicalisation

Our school helps us to walk with Jesus to be the best that we can be. Through God's love and guidance, we create an ethos of shared endeavour, friendship, and cooperation to help us flourish academically, emotionally, and spiritually.

"I can do all things through Christ, who strengthens me."

Philippians 4:13

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Equality Statement

At Baxenden St John's School, equality is a key principle for treating all people fairly and creating a society in which everyone has the opportunity to fulfil their potential - irrespective of their gender, ethnicity, disability, religion or belief, sexual orientation, age or any other recognised area of discrimination.

PURPOSE & AIMS

Baxenden St. John's Primary School is fully committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all its pupils. We recognise that safeguarding against radicalisation and extremism is no different to safeguarding against any other vulnerability in today's society.

Our school fully recognise the contribution they can make to promoting the welfare of children and protecting them from harm. This policy sets out our strategies and procedures to protect vulnerable pupils from being radicalised or exposed to extremist views. The elements of our policy are prevention, protection and support.

Baxenden St. John's Primary School will ensure that:

- All staff, volunteers and governors, have an understanding of what radicalisation and extremism is and why we need to be vigilant in school.
- Through training, staff, volunteers and governors will know what the school policy is on tackling extremism and radicalisation and how to respond when concerns arise.
- Through our curriculum, we will promote the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils (PHSE, SMSC, Pupil voice)
- 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 these systems to ensure they are appropriate and effective.

This policy applies to all pupils, staff, parents, governors, volunteers and visitors.

A glossary of related terms and indicators of vulnerability to extremism can be found in Appendices 1 & 2 of this policy.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

It is the responsibility of *every* member of staff, volunteer and regular visitor to our school to ensure that they carry out the requirements of this policy and, at all times, work in a way that will safeguard and promote the welfare of all of the pupils at this school.

The Governing Body of Baxenden St. John's Primary School is accountable for ensuring the effectiveness of this policy and our compliance with it. The Governing Body will ensure that:

- This policy is reviewed every two years but does also sit alongside our Safeguarding & Child Protection Policy (which is updated on an annual basis).
- All staff undertake appropriate training that equips them with the skills to identify and respond appropriately to concerns regarding extremism and radicalisation.
- The Headteacher and Designated Safeguarding Lead will assess the risk of pupils being drawn into extremist views. The risk assessment may include consideration of the school's curriculum, the use of school premises by external agencies and any other local issues relating to the school community.
- A broad curriculum is in place to deliver the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils.
- Appropriate safeguarding arrangements are in place by working in partnership with other agencies and communities as required.
- There are systems in place for keeping pupils safe from extremist material when accessing the internet in our school by using effective filtering and usage policies.

The Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) will carry out their role in accordance with the responsibilities outlined in Annex B of *'Keeping Children Safe in Education'.* As part of this responsibility, the DSL will act as the point of contact within our school for any concerns relating to radicalisation and extremism.

The DSL at Baxenden St. John's Primary School (Julie Green, Headteacher) will make referrals in accordance with LA procedures.

The DSL is responsible for ensuring that all staff members and volunteers are aware of our policy and the procedures they need to follow They will ensure that all staff have received appropriate training.

TRAINING

As a minimum, staff will have refresher training at least every two years using https://www.gov.uk/guidance/prevent-duty-training Through this training and ongoing regular safeguarding updates, we will ensure that all of our staff are made fully aware of the threats, risks and vulnerabilities that are linked to radicalisation. Staff will be able to identify children at risk of being drawn into extremism and develop the confidence to challenge extremist ideas. All staff will understand how we can provide support to ensure that our pupils are resilient and supported to resist involvement in radical or extreme activities.

Our governing body will also undertake appropriate training to ensure they are able to carry out their duty to safeguard all of the children at our school.

The role of the curriculum at Baxenden St. John's Primary School will provide pupils with a broad and balanced curriculum and promote the spiritual, moral, social and cultural (SMSC) development of our pupils. Pupils will be encouraged to regard people of all faiths, races and cultures with respect and tolerance.

Through our curriculum and teaching of British Values we will aim to:

- enable students to develop their self-knowledge, self-esteem and self-confidence;
- enable students to distinguish right from wrong and to respect the civil and criminal law of England;
- encourage students to accept responsibility for their behaviour, show initiative, and to understand how they can contribute positively to the lives of those living and working in the locality of the school and to society more widely;
- enable students to acquire a broad general knowledge of and respect for public institutions and services in England;
- further tolerance and harmony between different cultural traditions by enabling students to acquire an appreciation of and respect for their own and other cultures;
- encourage respect for other people; and
- encourage respect for democracy and support for participation in the democratic processes, including respect for the basis on which the law is made and applied in England

VISITORS AND THE USE OF SCHOOL PREMISES

Baxenden St. John's Primary School recognise the role that external agencies and speakers can play in enhancing the learning experiences of our pupils. Where we use external agencies and individuals in this way, we will positively vet them to ensure that their messages are consistent with, and not in opposition to, the school's values and ethos.

Our school will assess the suitability and effectiveness of input from external agencies or individuals to ensure that:

- Any messages communicated to pupils are consistent with the ethos of the school and do not marginalise any communities, groups or individuals;
- Any messages do not seek to glorify criminal activity or violent extremism or seek to radicalise pupils through extreme or narrow views of faith, religion or culture or other ideologies;
- Activities are properly embedded in the curriculum and clearly mapped to schemes of work to avoid contradictory messages or duplication;
- Activities are matched to the needs of pupils;
- Activities are carefully evaluated by schools to ensure that they are effective.

Any guest speakers or external agencies will be provided with a copy of our safeguarding procedures on arrival at the school and will be appropriately supervised at all times.

PROCEDURES FOR MANAGING CONCERNS

Baxenden St. John's Primary School adheres to the procedures that have been agreed locally through the LA Children's Safeguarding Board, for safeguarding individuals vulnerable to extremism and radicalisation. Please also refer to our Safeguarding & Child Protection Policy & Online Safety Policy for further information about our wider safeguarding responsibilities.

We recognise that staff at our school play a particularly important role as they are in a position to identify concerns early and provide help for children to prevent concerns from escalating. **All staff are advised to maintain an attitude of *'it could happen here'* where safeguarding is concerned and this includes vulnerability to radicalisation.**

At all times we will work in partnership and endeavour to establish effective working relationships with parents, carers and colleagues from other agencies.

The Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) should be used as a first point of contact for any safeguarding concerns in our school. Any member of staff or visitor to the school who receives a disclosure of or suspects that a child is at risk of radicalisation must report it immediately to the DSL or, if unavailable, to the deputy designated person (Charlotte McCormack). In the absence of either of the above, the matter should be brought to the attention of the most senior member of staff (Helen Williams).

Following receipt of any information raising concern about vulnerability to radicalisation, the DSL will consider what action to take and will follow the LA procedures by making a referral as required by LA. All information and actions taken, including the reasons for any decisions made, will be fully documented on our CPOMs behaviour system.

If an allegation is made or information is received about an adult who works in our setting which indicates that they may be unsuitable to work with children because of concerns relating to extremism and radicalisation, the member of staff receiving the information should inform the Headteacher or Chair of Governors immediately in line with the procedures outlined in our Safeguarding Policy and the Staff Whistleblowing Policy.

STATUTORY FRAMEWORK

This policy has been devised in accordance with the following legislation and local and national guidance

- LCC Procedures
- The Counterterrorism & Security Act 2015
- 'Prevent Duty Guidance for England & Wales', HM Government (2023)
- 'Promoting fundamental British values as part of SMSC in schools Departmental advice for maintained schools', DfE (2014)
- *'Keeping Children Safe in Education'*, DfE (2026)
- Working Together to Safeguard Children – a guide to inter-agency working (2026)
- *'Working Together to Safeguard Children A guide to inter-agency working to safeguard and promote the welfare of children'*, DfE (2026)
- 'Information Sharing Advice for practitioners', DfE (March 2024)

Appendix 1: Glossary of Terms

'Extremism' is defined in the 2011 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.

'Non-violent extremism' is extremism, as defined above, which is not accompanied by violence.

'Prevention' in the context of the Prevent duty means reducing or eliminating the risk of individuals becoming involved in terrorism. Prevent includes but is not confined to the identification and referral of those at risk of being drawn into terrorism into appropriate interventions. These interventions aim to divert vulnerable people from radicalisation.

'Radicalisation' refers to the process by which a person comes to support terrorism and extremist ideologies associated with terrorist groups.

The current UK definition of **'terrorism'** is given in the Terrorism Act 2000 (TACT 2000) In summary this defines terrorism as an action that endangers or causes serious violence to a person/people; causes serious damage to property; or seriously interferes or disrupts an electronic system. The use or threat must be designed to influence the government or to intimidate the public and is made for the purpose of advancing a political, religious or ideological cause.

Terrorist-related offences' are those (such as murder) which are not offences in terrorist legislation, but which are judged to be committed in relation to terrorism.

'Vulnerability' describes the condition of being capable of being injured; difficult to defend; open to moral or ideological attack. Within Prevent, the word describes factors and characteristics associated with being susceptible to radicalisation.

Appendix 2: Warning Signs/Indicators of Concern

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.

Pupils may become susceptible to radicalisation through a range of social, personal and environmental factors. It is vital that school staff are able to recognise those vulnerabilities. However, this list is not exhaustive, nor does it mean that all young people experiencing the above are at risk of radicalisation for the purpose of violent extremism.

Factors which may make pupils more vulnerable may include:

- **Identity Crisis:** the pupil is distanced from their cultural/religious heritage and experiences discomfort about their place in society.
- **Personal Crisis:** the pupil may be experiencing family tensions; a sense of isolation; 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 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 pupil may have perceptions of injustice; a feeling of failure; rejection of civic life.
- **Experiences of Criminality** involvement with criminal groups, imprisonment, poor resettlement or reintegration.
- **Special Educational Need** pupils may experience difficulties with social interaction, empathy with others, understanding the consequences of their actions and awareness of the motivations of others.

Pupils who are vulnerable to radicalisation may also be experiencing

- Substance and alcohol misuse
- Peer pressure
- Influence from older people or via the Internet
- Bullying
- Domestic violence
- Race/hate crime.
    -

Behaviours which may indicate a child is at risk of being radicalised or exposed to extremist views could include:

- Being in contact with extremist recruiters and/or spending increasing time in the company of other suspected extremists;
- Loss of interest in other friends and activities not associated with the extremist ideology, group or cause;
- Pupils accessing extremist material online, including through social networking sites;

- Possessing or accessing materials or symbols associated with an extremist cause;
- Using extremist narratives and a global ideology to explain personal disadvantage;
- Pupils voicing opinions drawn from extremist ideologies and narratives, this may include justifying the use of violence to solve societal issues;
- Graffiti symbols, writing or artwork promoting extremist messages or images;
- Significant changes to appearance and/or behaviour increasingly centred on an extremist ideology, group or cause;
- Changing their style of dress or personal appearance to accord with the group;
- Attempts to recruit others to the group/cause;
- 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.
- 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.