



## **BIRCHINGTON CE PRIMARY SCHOOL**

# **TACKLING EXTREMISM & RADICALISATION POLICY**

**2024-2025**

### **LEARNING AND GROWING; SAFE IN GOD'S LOVE**

#### **1. Policies**

Birchington CE 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 susceptible individuals from being radicalised or exposed to extremist views, by identifying who they are and promptly providing them with support. When school staff follow all the expectations laid out in schools' guidance and in law, our approach will also be in line with the meaning of the words within our Christian Vision and School Values.

#### **2. Links to other Policies**

Birchington CE Primary School Tackling Extremism and Radicalisation Policy links to the following school policies;

- Child Protection Policy
- Equal Opportunities Policy
- Single Equality Scheme
- Anti-Bullying Policy
- Behaviour Policy
- Online Safety Policy
- Acceptable Use Policy

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

- The Prevent Duty (DfE Advice for schools and childcare providers – July 2015)
- Keeping Children Safe in Education DfE September 2024
- Working Together to Safeguard Children 26 March 2015

#### **3. Aims and Principles**

3.1 Birchington CE Primary School's 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 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.

3.2 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 be taught how to keep themselves safe, building resilience and knowing what to do if they experience anything that concerns or upsets them in life or online
- All parents/carers and pupils will know that the school has policies in place to keep pupils safe from harm and via the school website/or as part of learning
- The school regularly reviews its systems to ensure they are appropriate and effective

3.3 The main aims of this policy are to ensure that all adults in school are fully engaged in being vigilant about radicalisation and approach this subject with the professional belief that such issues could happen here. Adults are also expected to work alongside other professional bodies and agencies to ensure that our pupils are safe from harm.

#### **4. Definitions and Indicators**

4.1 Radicalisation is defined as the act or progress 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.

4.2 Extremism is defined as the holding of extreme political or religious views.

4.3 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**

- 5.1 Although serious incidents involving radicalisation in schools are rare, 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 be 'professionally inquisitive' where concerns arise, referring any concerns through the appropriate channels. (See Appendix 1 – Dealing with Referrals)
- 5.2 We believe that it is possible to intervene to protect people who are susceptible. 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 intervene and ensure that we have strong safeguarding practices based on the most up-to-date guidance and best practise.
- 5.3 The school's Lead DSL, Mrs L Wilson (Headteacher), Mr J Forwood (Deputy Headteacher/Deputy DSL), Mrs K Downs (Inclusion Leader/Deputy DSL) and Mrs S Cooper (Pastoral Manager/ FLO/Deputy DSL) will deal swiftly with any referrals made by staff or with concerns reported by staff.
- 5.4 The DSL and/or Deputy DSLs 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.  
(See Appendix 1 – Dealing with Referrals)
- 5.5 As with any safeguarding 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.

## **6. Governors, Leaders and Staff**

- 6.1 The Lead DSL and Deputy DSLs are the leaders for referral relating to extremism and radicalisation. In the unlikely event that no DSLs are available, staff will speak to one of the Phase Leaders.
- 6.2 Staff will be fully briefed through an online training module, about what to do if they are concerned about the possibility of radicalisation relating to pupils, or if they need to discuss specific children whom they consider to be susceptible to radicalisation or extremist views. This will be revisited every 2 years.
- 6.3 The SLT/Phase Leaders will work in conjunction with the Headteacher, Pastoral Team and external agencies to decide the best course of action to address concerns which arise.
- 6.4 Prejudicial behaviour can be a factor in radicalisation and extremism. With this in mind, Birchington CE Primary School has updated procedures for dealing with prejudicial behaviour, as outlined in the Behaviour Policy and Equal Opportunities Policy.

## **7. The Role of the Curriculum**

- 7.1 Our curriculum is broad and balanced. It 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.
- 7.2 Our PSHCE provision is embedded across the curriculum, including within RSE. It is brought into our Collective Worship and other lessons and underpins the ethos of the school. We recognise that children with low aspirations could be more susceptible to radicalisation and therefore we strive to equip our pupils with confidence, self-belief, respect and tolerance as well as setting high standards and expectations for themselves.
- 7.3 Children are regularly taught about how to stay safe online and are encouraged to recognise that people are not always who they say they are. They are taught to seek adult help if they are upset or concerned about anything that is said to them, is read or they see on the internet.

## **8. Staff Training**

8.1 Through staff meetings or training 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 extreme activities. A log of staff training is kept in the school office and with the Headteacher, this training includes areas that address the contents of this policy.

## **9. Visitors and the use of the School Premises**

9.1 Supply staff and parent and carer helpers/volunteers are subject to Safeguarding checks including DBS checks, photo identification and reference checks. All visitors are requested to show photo identification. Children are never left on their own unsupervised with external visitors, regardless of safeguarding check outcomes.

9.2 Upon arriving at the school all visitors including contractors, will be made aware of Safeguarding guidance and be told who the DSL/Deputy DSLs are and how to report any concerns which they may experience.

9.3 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.

## **10. Policy Review and Risk Assessment**

10.1 Birchington CE Primary School Tackling and Radicalisation Policy will be reviewed annually as part of the overall Safeguarding Policy review.

10.2 A Prevent Risk Assessment will be completed and updated annually by the Lead DSL. This will be sent to be reviewed by the Governing Body alongside this policy. Both documents will be published on our school website, [www.birchington-primary.com](http://www.birchington-primary.com).

**HT & Governors reviewed: September 2024**

**To be reviewed: September 2025**



## Dealing with Referrals

## Appendix 1

We are aware of the potential indicating factors that a child is susceptible 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 Lead DSL or Deputy DSL in her absence
- All incidents will be fully investigated and recorded in line with the Safeguarding Policy
- In the event of a referral relating to serious concerns about potential radicalisation or extremism, the school will also contact East Kent Police Counter Terrorism Unit (CTU) Security and Partnership Office for our locality - 01622 690690
- 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 will be kept alongside the initial referral in the Safeguarding folder
- The DSL/a Deputy DSL will ensure follow-up monitoring of 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/carers will be held if there is not a significant positive change in behaviour
- Advice will be sought from the KCC Safeguarding Team

Contact details:

Safeguarding Team  
Tel: 03301 651 140

LADO Team:  
Tel: 03000 411 111

Integrated Front Door  
Tel: 03000 410 888

Email addresses: [gcsxsafeguardingunit@kent.gcsx.gov.uk](mailto:gcsxsafeguardingunit@kent.gcsx.gov.uk) or  
[kentchildrenslado@kent.gov.uk](mailto:kentchildrenslado@kent.gov.uk)