



Policy for

Tackling Extremism & Radicalisation

Prepared by:	Adopted by Board of Trustees	Signed	Renewal Date (3 year cycle)
MATBOM	May 2017	 ----- Chair of Board of Trustees	Autumn Term 2020

Tackling Extremism & Radicalisation Policy

This policy should be read with the following policies;

- Safeguarding & Child Protection Policy
- Equality Policy
- Anti-Bullying Policy
- Positive Behaviour Management Policy
- E-Safety Policy
- PREVENT Strategy HM Gov
- Keeping Children Safe in Education DfE 2016
- Working Together to Safeguard Children HM Gov 2015

TACKLING EXTREMISM RADICALISATION POLICY

POLICY STATEMENT

The Aspire Educational Trust 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

The Aspire Educational Trust Tackling Extremism and Radicalisation Policy links to the following policies;

- Safeguarding and Child Protection
- Equality Policy
- Anti-bullying Policy
- Positive Behaviour Management Policy
- E-Safety Policy.

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

- PREVENT Strategy HM Government
- Keeping Children Safe in Education DfE 2016
- Working Together to Safeguard Children HM Government 2015.

Details of Local Authorities PREVENT teams can be found at Appendix 3.

AIMS AND PRINCIPLES

The Aspire Educational Trust 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 Trust will deal with such incidents and identifies how the curriculum and ethos underpins our actions.

The objectives are:

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 Trust 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 Trust has policies in place to keep pupils safe from harm and that the academies regularly review their 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 happen here and ensure that we work alongside other professional bodies and agencies to ensure that our pupils are safe from harm.

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 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

It is important for us to be constantly vigilant and remain fully informed about the issues which affect the local areas, towns, cities and societies 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.

The Principal and SLT of each academy 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)

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.

GOVERNORS, LEADERS AND STAFF

The Principal and all members of the SLT of each academy are the leaders for referrals relating to extremism and radicalisation. In the unlikely event that no SLT members and the Principal are not available, all staff know the channels by which to make referrals via the Executive Principal.

Staff will be fully briefed 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 SLT in each academy will work in conjunction with the Principal, Pastoral Care Team and external agencies including the Executive Principal to decide the best course of action to address concerns which arise.

THE ROLE OF THE CURRICULUM

Our curriculums are "broad and balanced. They promote 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.

Each academy has its own PSHE provision embedded across the curriculum. It directs assemblies and underpins the ethos of each academy. 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 standards 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 opportunities in school, we will ensure that all staff receive PREVENT training so that they 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.

VISITORS AND THE USE OF ACADEMY PREMISES

If any member of staff wishes to invite a visitor into an academy, they must first complete a visitor request form. (See Appendix 2 – School Visitor Request Form). Only after written agreement from the Principal can the visitor enter school and then they will be subject to Safeguarding Checks including DBS checks and photo identification. Children are NEVER left unsupervised with external visitors, regardless of safeguarding check outcomes.

Upon arriving at the school, all visitors including contractors, will read the child protection and safeguarding guidance and be made aware of who the DSLs are and how to report any concerns which they may experience.

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.

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 SLT or the Principal.

All incidents will be fully investigated and recorded in line with the Positive 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 SLT 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 the **police** by dialling **101 and requesting an incident number**.

In the event of a referral relating to serious concerns about potential radicalisation or extremism, the school will also contact **The Cheshire Constabulary Counter Terrorism Unit (CTU) on 01606 362121 or the North West CTU hotline 0800 789 321**.



Appendix 2 – Authorising visitors in school

All visitors to the academy **MUST** be authorised by the Principal before entering the building. Please complete the following if you are expecting a visitor:

Name of the person visiting the academy:

Name of the organisation they represent:

Purpose of the visit:

Authorised by the Principal:

Date:

Please pass this to the school **office** who will authorise the visit on the system. This document will be kept in the school office filed under visitor authorisation.

PLEASE NOTE NO VISITORS WILL BE ALLOWED INTO THE ACADEMY WITHOUT THE RELEVANT AUTHORISATION

Appendix 3 – Local Authority PREVENT teams

Cheshire East Council

http://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/environment/community_safety/preventing-violent-extremism.aspx

Cheshire West and Chester Council

'Protecting children from radicalisation: the prevent duty' details can be accessed at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/protecting-children-from-radicalisation-the-prevent-duty>