

# HOLY FAMILY CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

## SERVING THE COMMUNITY

# Tackling Extremism and Radicalisation Policy

## Our Mission Statement

With Christ at the centre, we live, love and learn together,  
reaching out to all.

**Together, with Jesus, we can do it!**



## **Vision:**

**'Only the best is good enough'**

**Revised:** 5<sup>th</sup> February 2023

**Date of next review:** February 2026

**Signed:**

**Role:** Chair of Governing Body

**Adopted by the Governing Body:** 8<sup>th</sup> February 2023

## **POLICY STATEMENT**

Holy Family Catholic 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
- 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.
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## **PROCEDURES FOR REFERRALS**

Although serious incidents involving radicalisation have not occurred at Holy Family Catholic 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.

## **GOVERNORS, LEADERS AND STAFF**

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.

Prejudicial behaviour can be a factor in radicalisation and extremism. With this in mind, Holy Family Catholic Primary School has updated procedures for dealing with prejudicial behaviour, as outlined in our Equality Policy.

## **THE ROLE OF THE CURRICULUM**

Our curriculum is “broad and balanced” it promotes the spiritual, moral and cultural development of pupils and prepares them for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of life in modern Britain. 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 PSHE provision is embedded across the curriculum. It directs our assemblies and underpins the ethos of the school. 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**

Staff will complete the online training module: via National College.

Through further INSET 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.

## **VISITORS AND THE USE OF SCHOOL PREMISES**

If any member of staff wishes to invite a visitor to the school, they must only do so after agreement from the Head Teacher. Safeguarding procedures must be followed for all visitors to the school. Children are NEVER left unsupervised with external visitors, regardless of safeguarding check outcomes.

## 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 – Channel Panel – 0151 443 2600
- 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.