



BENSHAM MANOR School

Anti-Radicalisation Policy

Last reviewed: June 2017



Policy Statement

Bensham Manor School is fully committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all its pupils. As a school we recognise that safeguarding against radicalisation is no different from safeguarding against any other vulnerability. The Anti-Radicalisation Policy sets out our beliefs, strategies and procedures to protect vulnerable individuals from being radicalised or exposed to extremism by identifying who they are and providing them with support.

Links to other Policies

The Bensham Manor School Anti-Radicalisation policy links to the following school policies:

- Child Protection Policy
- Equality Policy
- Behaviour & Discipline Policy
- Anti-Bullying & Anti-Discrimination Policy

Aims & Principles

The Bensham Manor School Anti-Radicalisation Policy is intended to provide a framework for dealing with issues relating to vulnerability, radicalisation and exposure to extreme views. It clearly sets out how the school will deal with incidents and identifies how the curriculum and ethos underpins our actions.

The objectives are that:

- The Governing Body and all staff will have an understanding of what radicalisation is and why we need to be vigilant in school.
- The Governing Body and all staff will know what the school policy is on anti-radicalisation and will follow the policy when issues arise.
- All parents and carers 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.

The main aims of this policy are to ensure that staff are fully engaged in being vigilant about radicalisation and extremist views; that they overcome professional disbelief that such issues will not happen here and ensure that we work alongside other professional bodies, parents, carers and specialist agencies (e.g. the Home Office) to ensure that our pupils are safe from harm.

Definitions & 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, social 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.
- Their 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 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 Referral

Although serious incidents involving radicalism have not occurred at Bensham Manor School to date, it is important for us to be constantly vigilant and remain fully informed about the issues which affect the area in which we teach or support and where our pupils come from. Staff are reminded to suspend any 'professional disbelief' that instances of radicalisation 'could not happen here' and to refer 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 or groups. We must have the confidence to challenge, the confidence to intervene, and ensure that we have strong safeguarding practices.

The Designated Safeguarding Lead or another member of the Senior Leadership Team will deal swiftly with any referrals made by staff or with concerns reported by staff.

The Headteacher and the Leadership Team 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).

Role of the Curriculum

Our curriculum promotes respect, tolerance and diversity. Children and parents/carers 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, and directs our assemblies and underpins the ethos of the school. It is recognised that all children are vulnerable to radicalisation and, therefore, we strive to equip our students with confidence, self-belief, respect and tolerance as well as setting high standards and expectations for themselves.

Students are regularly taught how to stay safe when using the internet and are encouraged to recognise that people are not always who they say they are on-line. They are taught to seek adult help if they are upset or concerned about anything they see or read on the internet.

Staff Training

Through 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 processes of radicalisation and how this might be identified early on and are aware of how we can provide support as a school to ensure our children are resilient and are able to resist involvement in radical or extreme activities.

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:-

- All incidents of prejudicial behaviour will be reported directly to the Designated Safeguarding Lead for Child Protection or, in their absence, any other member of the Leadership Team.
- All incidents will be fully investigated and recorded as a Child Protection concern.
- Students will be challenged on their views and educated through individual or group work.

Parents are contacted by the appropriate agency. If extreme, this will be the Home Office; if more vulnerable, this will be Social Care or Bensham Manor School's Senior Leadership Team 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 if the incident is serious enough to warrant a further referral. A note of this meeting is to be kept alongside the initial referral. The designated Lead will follow up any referrals for a period of four weeks after the incident, to assess whether there is any change in behaviour and/or attitude. If deemed necessary, serious incidents will be discussed and referred to the Local Croydon Safeguarding Board.

In the event of a referral relating to serious concerns about potential radicalisation or extremism, the school will contact MASH(multi-agency support hub) or the police.

Additional Materials

- Prevent Strategy, Gov.UK - Home Office (adobe pdf file)

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/97976/prevent-strategy-review.pdf

- Learning Together to be Safe: A toolkit to Help Schools Contribute to the Prevention of Violent Extremism was published in 2008 by the Department for Children, Schools and Families(DCSF), a predecessor of the Department for Education