



## **TACKLING EXTREMISM & RADICALISATION POLICY**

### **POLICY STATEMENT**

Aspire North East Multi Academy 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 North East Multi Academy Trust Tackling Extremism and Radicalisation Policy links to the following Trust policies;

- Child Protection / Safeguarding Policy
- Equal Opportunities Policy
- Anti-bullying Policy
- Behaviour Management Policy
- Acceptable Use Policy

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

- Prevent Duty Guidance: England & Wales Home Office, 2023
- Keeping Children Safe in Education DfE 2025
- Working Together to Safeguard Children DfE 2023

### **AIMS AND PRINCIPLES**

The 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 that:

- All trustees/governors, teachers, and support staff will have an understanding of what radicalisation and extremism is and why we need to be vigilant in school.
- All trustees/governors, teachers and support staff will know what the 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.

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 not happen here and ensure that we work alongside other professional bodies and agencies to ensure that our pupils are safe from harm.

## **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.

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**

Although serious incidents involving radicalisation have not occurred within the Trust 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.

Key staff members (see Appendix 2) are trained as Designated Safeguarding Leads and will deal swiftly with any referrals made by staff or with concerns reported by staff.

The Headteacher / Designated Safeguarding Leads 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.

## **TRUSTEES, GOVERNORS, LEADERS AND STAFF**

The Headteacher and all members of the Senior Leadership Team are the leaders for referrals relating to extremism and radicalisation. In the unlikely event that a member of the Senior Leadership Team or the Headteacher are not available, all staff are aware of the channels by which to make referrals via the safeguarding information around the site (including in main reception).

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 Senior Leadership Team will work in conjunction with the Headteacher, Pastoral Care Team and external agencies to decide the best course of action to address concerns which arise.

Prejudicial behaviour can be a factor in radicalisation and extremism. With this in mind, the Trust has updated procedures for dealing with prejudicial behaviour, as outlined in the Behaviour Policy and Equality Policy.

## **THE ROLE OF THE CURRICULUM**

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.

Our PSHCE provision is embedded across the curriculum and in Personal Development lessons. It also 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. They are taught about disinformation, misinformation and conspiracy theories and the risks of exposure to those online risks.

## **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 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 into the school, they must first 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 an academy, all visitors including contractors, will see posters which are clearly visible. Posters give details of the safeguarding designated leads and offer guidance on how to report any issues or concerns.

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  
**APPENDIX 2:** PREVENT information and referral  
**APPENDIX 3:** Key contacts at individual schools within the Trust

**Last review date:** 25.03.26

**Next review due:** Spring 2028

**Person responsible:** Deputy Headteacher / DSL (Sandhill View Academy)  
Assistant Headteacher / DSL (Southmoor Academy)

## 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 Headteacher / Senior Leadership Team.
- 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 Senior Leadership Team 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 Danielle Rose (Designated Safeguarding Officer / Together for Children on 0191 5613901).
- In the event of a referral relating to serious concerns about potential radicalisation or extremism, the school will also contact Northumbria Police Counter Terrorism.

## APPENDIX 2

Prevent is about stopping people from being radicalised and becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism.

Safeguarding vulnerable people from radicalisation is no different from safeguarding from other forms of harm.

### **What is the Prevent duty?**

Section 26 of the Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015 placed a duty on specified agencies in the exercise of their functions to have "due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism". Sunderland has a multi-agency Prevent Co-ordination Group which ensures that the specified agencies are compliant with the duty.

### **What should I do if I think someone is at risk of radicalisation?**

You need to make a Prevent referral. To do this, you must follow Sunderland's safeguarding policies and procedures.

For a **child**: Download and complete the Together for Children Sunderland's Child protection/child in need/child care concern Referral Form. This is the interagency referral form and it should be emailed to [safeguarding.children@sunderland.gcsx.gov.uk](mailto:safeguarding.children@sunderland.gcsx.gov.uk) (secure email only). Make sure you state that you are making a referral under 'Prevent' (radicalisation).

For an **adult**: You need to make an adult safeguarding referral for Prevent *and clicking on 'information for employees and volunteers' and go to the bottom of the page to download the safeguarding adult concern (SAC) form and submit it. Make sure you state that you are making a referral under 'Prevent' (radicalisation).*

### **What is the Channel Programme?**

Channel is a programme which focuses on providing support at an early stage to people who are identified as being vulnerable to being drawn into terrorism.

### **What is CONTEST?**

CONTEST is the name of the UK's Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

CONTEST is split into four work streams that are known within the counter-terrorism community as the "four P's": Prevent, Pursue, Protect, and Prepare.

**Prevent**: The purpose of Prevent is to stop people from becoming drawn into or supporting terrorism. This includes countering terrorist ideology and challenging those who promote it; supporting individuals who are especially vulnerable to becoming radicalised; and working with sectors and institutions where the risk of radicalisation is assessed to be high.

**Pursue**: The purpose of Pursue is to stop terrorist attacks by detecting, prosecuting and otherwise disrupting those who plot to carry out attacks against the UK or its interests overseas.

**Protect**: The purpose of Protect is to strengthen protection against a terrorist attack in the UK or against its interests overseas and so reduce their vulnerability. The work focuses on border security, the transport system, national infrastructure and public places.

**Prepare:** The purpose of Prepare is to mitigate the impact of a terrorist attack where that attack cannot be stopped. This includes work to bring a terrorist attack to an end and to increase the UK's resilience so we can recover from its aftermath.

### **Useful Contact Numbers**

Anti- Terrorist Hotline Tel: 0800 789 321

Northumbria Police's Prevent Team Tel: 101 extension 63854 or

email [specialbranch@northumbria.pnn.police.uk](mailto:specialbranch@northumbria.pnn.police.uk)

Integrated Contact and Referral Team (Together for Children) [Contact Us \(IRT\)](#)

Adult Safeguarding ([Contact Health and wellbeing](#)) or make an [online referral](#).

Department of Education Counter Extremism helpline Tel: 020 7340 7264 to enable staff and governors to raise concerns relating to extremism directly. Concerns can also be raised by email

to [counter.extremism@education.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:counter.extremism@education.gsi.gov.uk)

If someone is at immediate risk of harm, the matter should be reported to the police straight away on 999 or by calling the Anti-Terrorist hotline on the number above.

### **How do I report online terrorist or extremist content?**

If you've come across a website or online content (including emails, forums or social media) that you feel is of a violent extremist or terrorist nature, please report it using the UK government's quick and anonymous online tool.

APPENDIX 3

**TACKLING EXTREMISM & RADICALISATION POLICY**

**Key contacts at individual schools within the Trust**

	<b>Southmoor Academy</b>	<b>Sandhill View Academy</b>
Designated Safeguarding Lead	Mrs Olivia Thompson	Mrs Allison Johnston
Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead(s)	Mrs Nicola Harris Ms Nicola Doherty Mr Simon Wareham Mr Mark Laing Ms Claudia Zakaidze Mrs Hannah Winlow	Mrs Amy O'Donnell