

Extremism and Radicalisation Policy

Statement of intent

Belle Vue 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 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 should be read in conjunction with other school policies including:

- Child Protection Policy Equality Policy
- Behaviour Policy
- E-Safety Policy

National Guidelines:

PREVENT Strategy

Keeping Children Safe in Education

Working Together to Safeguard Children

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:

- Teaching staff and governors will understand what radicalisation and extremism are and why we need to be vigilant in school.
- Teaching staff and governors will know what the school policy is on tackling extremism and radicalisation and will follow the policy guidance swiftly when issues arise.
- Teaching staff and governors will understand the dangers of radicalisation and exposure to extremist views; building resilience against these and knowing what to do if they experience them.
- Teaching staff and governors 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. There are a number of behaviours which may indicate a child is at risk of being radicalised or exposed to extreme views. These include:

Indicators of an identity crisis:

- Distancing themselves from their cultural/religious heritage
- Uncomfortable with their place in society
- Changing style of dress or personal experience to accord with the group
- Conversation increasingly focussed on a particular (potentially extremist) ideology
- Possession of materials or symbols associated with an extremist cause

Indicators of a personal crisis:

- Family tensions
- A sense of isolation
- Low self-esteem
- Disassociation from existing friendship groups
- Loss of interest in activities which they previously engaged with
- Searching for answers to questions about identify, faith and belonging

Indicators of vulnerability through personal circumstances:

- Migration
- Local community tensions
- Events affecting their country or region of origin
- Alienation from UK values
- A sense of grievance triggered by personal experience of racism or discrimination

Indicators of vulnerability through unmet aspirations:

- Perceptions of injustice
- Feelings of failure
- Rejection of civic life

Other indicators:

- Using derogatory language about a particular group
- Inappropriate forms of address
- Possession of prejudice related material

- Property damage
- Refusal to cooperate with teachers/adults requests
- Condoning or supporting engagement with extremist ideologies or groups

Procedures for referrals

Although serious incidents involving radicalisation have not occurred at Belle Vue 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 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 to the school's DSL, **Mrs C. Davies** or to one of the Deputy DSL's **Mrs S. Richardson**, **Mrs A. Perrett** or **Mrs C. Mulligan.** We work alongside other professional bodies and agencies to ensure that our pupils are safe from harm.

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 DSL/Deputy DSL's will deal swiftly with any referrals made by staff or with concerns reported by staff. The DSL/Deputy DSL's 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. As supervisor to the DSL, the school's Headteacher, **Mr. J Marshall** will also be informed.

Senior leaders, staff and governors

The DSL and Deputy DSL's are the leaders for referrals relating to extremism and radicalisation. In the unlikely event that no SLT members and the Head Teacher are not available, all staff know the channels by which to make referrals via the safeguarding board in the staffroom. 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 DSL/Deputy DSL's will work in conjunction with the Head Teacher and external agencies to decide the best course of action to address concerns which arise.

The role of the curriculum

Our curriculum is 'broad and balanced' and promotes the school's vision and values of wellbeing, possibilities, understanding, fluency and initiative. 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. 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. Through others aspects of the curriculum such as PSHE, al aspects of British Values is taught.

Staff training

Through INSET and Staff Meeting 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. The DSL and Deputy DSL's attend safeguarding update training every two years with updates passed on to staff. All staff receive safeguarding training annually and every three they undertake 'Prevent' refresher training. As part of the Belle Vue induction process, all new staff meet with the school's DSL to go through school policy and procedures which includes safeguarding and reporting methods.

Visitors and the use of school premises

If any member of staff wishes to invite a visitor in the school, they must first discuss this with their Phase Leader or Headteacher. Only after agreement from the Head Teacher can the visitor enter school and then they will be subject to Safeguarding Checks including DBS checks and photo identification. Children should **NEVER** be 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. All visitors must sign in and out of the building and visitor passes/badges must be visible.

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.

Policy review

Belle Vue's Extremism and Radicalisation Policy will be reviewed annually as part of the overall Child Protection Policy review.

This policy will be reviewed in or before September 2025

Mr J. Marshall - Headteacher