

West Monmouth School

Ysgol Gorllewin Mynwy



Preventing Extremism and Radicalisation Policy

Polisi Atal Eithafiaeth a
Radicalleiddio

Date Approved by Governors:

Date Reviewed by Governors:

West Monmouth School Preventing Extremism and Radicalisation Policy

Introduction

West Monmouth School is committed to providing a secure environment for pupils, where learners feel safe and are kept safe. All adults at West Monmouth School recognise that safeguarding is the responsibility of all, irrespective of the role they undertake within the school.

‘Safeguarding vulnerable people from radicalisation is no different from safeguarding them from other forms of harm’ (Home Office, Prevent Strategy – June 2015)

The Preventing Extremism and Radicalisation Policy is one element within our overall arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of our learners.

We recognise that the Governing Body has a responsibility to pay ‘due regard to the need to prevent people being drawn into terrorism’ (Counter Terrorism and Security Act, 2015) and ensure the school has a ‘clear approach to implementing the Prevent duty and keeping children and learners safe from the dangers of radicalisation and extremism’.

There is no place for extremist views of any kind in West Monmouth School. Our pupils see our school as a safe place where they can explore controversial issues safely and where our staff encourage and facilitate this – we have a duty to ensure this happens.

As a school we recognise that extremism and exposure to extremist materials and influences can lead to poor outcomes for pupils and so should be addressed as a safeguarding concern as set out in this policy. We also recognise that if we fail to challenge extremist views we are failing to protect our pupils.

Extremists of all persuasions aim to develop destructive relationships between different communities by promoting division and mistrust of others based on ignorance or prejudice and thereby limiting the life chances of young people. Education is a powerful weapon against this; equipping young people with the knowledge, skills and critical thinking to challenge and debate in an informed way.

Therefore at West Monmouth School we will provide a broad and balanced curriculum so that our pupils are enriched, understand and become tolerant of difference and diversity and also to ensure that they thrive, feel valued and not marginalised.

Aims

The Preventing Extremism and Radicalisation Policy is intended to provide a framework for dealing with issues relating to vulnerability, radicalisation and exposure to extreme views. There are different forms of extremist organisations in the UK and the world. Some may be recognised as – ISIL (Islamic State), Al-Qaeda, Boko Haram, British Defence League, Animal Rights extremist groups such as SPEAK, Irish Republican Army (IRA), Anti-Abortion groups.

We recognise that we are well placed to be able to identify safeguarding issues linked to the dangers of extremist views 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 aims and objectives are that:

- All governors, teachers, teaching assistants and non-teaching staff will have an understanding of what radicalisation and extremism is 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 members of staff are able to identify those young people who may be vulnerable to radicalisation and respond by following whole school safeguarding procedures with immediate effect.
- All pupils will understand the dangers of radicalisation and exposure to extremist views; learning about key values to build resilience against these views 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 our young people safe from harm and that the school regularly reviews its systems to ensure they are appropriate and effective.

Definition

When operating this policy West Monmouth School uses the following accepted governmental definition of radicalisation and extremism which is:

Radicalisation – *‘the process by which a person comes to support terrorism and forms of extremism leading to terrorism’ (Prevent Strategy)*

Extremism – *‘vocal or active opposition to fundamental values, including democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect tolerance of different faith and beliefs; and/or calls for the death of members in our armed forces, whether in this country or overseas’ (Prevent)*

Identification

There is no single way of identifying a pupil who is likely to be susceptible to terrorist ideology. As part of wider safeguarding responsibilities staff will be alert to:

- Disclosures by pupils of their exposure to the extremist actions, views or materials of others outside of school such as in their homes or community groups, especially where pupils have not actively sought these out.
- Graffiti symbols, writing or art work promoting extremist messages or images
- Pupils accessing extremist material online, including through social networking sites
- Distributing or voicing opinions drawn from extremist literature and documentation
- Parental reports of changes in behaviour, friendship groups or actions
- Partner schools, local authority services and police reports of issues affecting pupils in other schools or settings
- Use of extremist or ‘hate’ terms to exclude others or incite violence
- Intolerance of difference, whether secular or religious or, in line within our Strategic Equality Plan, views based on, but not exclusive to, gender, disability, homophobia, race, colour or culture
- Attempts to impose extremist views or practices on others
- Use of extremist language in an extremist context, such as:-

‘Dawlah’ – term used by ISIL to refer to the ‘Islamic state’

‘Jihad’ – means ‘struggle’ or ‘violence’

‘Mujahid’ – someone who wants to fight as part of the ‘Jihad’

'Kuffar' – a term used by ISIL to describe non-Muslims
'Ummah' – the phrase is used by ISIL to refer to the 'world community of Muslims'
'Rafidha' – word used by ISIL to refer to those who refuse to accept the Islamic state

Whole School Ethos and Curriculum Provision

At West Monmouth School we promote the values of mutual respect and tolerance for those with different faiths and beliefs. We teach and encourage pupils to respect one another and tolerate difference, especially those of a different faith or no faith. Through our PSE and RE curriculum we actively promote a culture of mutual respect and tolerance, democracy, the rule of law, equal opportunities and freedom. This is something not only achieved through the curriculum but through the school's core values and ethos as well as its provision for pupils beyond formal lessons.

By delivering a broad and balanced curriculum and through themes in our 'Thought for the Week' programme, we strive to ensure our pupils recognise risk and build resilience to manage any such risk as well as develop the critical thinking skills needed to engage in informed debate.

Our PSE and RE curriculum aims to:-

- Make a connection with young people through positive engagement and a pupil centred approach.
- Facilitate a 'safe space' for dialogue to ensure pupils feel safe and comfortable talking about their feelings, views and beliefs on a wide range of social, political, religious and cultural issues.
- Equip our pupils with the appropriate skills, knowledge, understanding and awareness for resilience.

We recognise that the ethos of our school is to encourage learners to understand a wide variety of views and ideologies, appropriate to their age, understanding and abilities, and to be able to actively engage with them in informed debate.

At West Monmouth School we encourage the use of external agencies or visiting speakers to enrich the experiences of our learners. Our school assesses the suitability and effectiveness of external agencies or individual providers to ensure that:

- Any messages communicated to pupils are consistent with the ethos of the school and do not marginalise any communities, groups or individuals
- Any messages do not seek to glorify criminal activity or violent extremism or seek to radicalise pupils through extreme or narrow views of faith, religion or culture or other ideologies
- Activities are matched to the needs of pupils
- Activities are evaluated by the school to ensure that they are effective

Respect is a strong part of West Monmouth School and pupils learn that their behaviour and actions have an effect on their own learning and the learning of others. All members of the school community treat each other with respect and this is reiterated through our teaching and learning environments.

Mutual respect is embraced throughout the curriculum by providing the opportunity for pupils to express their views in a safe environment. Pupils are equipped with the ability to understand their place in a culturally diverse society and are given opportunities to experience such diversity within the school community.

Procedures for reporting a concern regarding extremist behaviour

We all have a role in the prevention of extremism and radicalisation and it is important that all reports of discrimination, intolerance or potential extremist behaviour are investigated and dealt with in order to promote an ethos of mutual respect and safety. All staff, non-teaching adults and pupils at West Monmouth School should follow the procedure for reporting safeguarding concerns if they have a concern regarding extremist behaviour.

Although serious incidents involving radicalisation have not occurred at West Monmouth 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', referring any concerns through the appropriate channels.

Staff at West Monmouth School will be alert to the fact that extremism and radicalisation is a safeguarding issue and there may be some instances where a young person may be at direct risk of harm or neglect. For example; this could be due to a student displaying risky behaviours in terms of the activities they are involved in and/or the groups they are associated with. Staff may also become aware of information regarding a student's family that may equally place a young person at risk of harm.

We will engage with parents / carers as part of our work as we recognise the important role they have in helping us to spot signs of radicalisation. We will support and advise families who raise concerns and signpost them to the appropriate support services.

The use of ICT

We recognise the risk posed to our pupils of on-line radicalisation, as terrorist organisations seek to radicalise young people through the use of social media and the internet. To combat this online threat in school we use the Torfaen firewall system to filter and block any inappropriate online behaviour on a daily basis.

E-safety is referred to in more detail in the E-Safety Policy and forms part of the school curriculum. It equips pupils to stay safe online, both in and out of school. E-safety is delivered predominantly through our PSE curriculum and in our 'Thought for the Week' programme.

Guidance for members of staff

All members of staff have a duty to ensure that this policy is carried out and that the school is a safe place for our pupils and staff. All members of staff will:

- Demonstrate by example the high standards of personal and social behaviour we expect of our pupils
- Foster in our pupils self- esteem, self-respect and respect of others
- Instil in our pupils that they should speak out if they have concerns about the behaviour of their peers or family members
- Be alert to signs of extremist behaviour.

If you are concerned with regards to radicalisation and extremism you should follow the procedures for safeguarding, outlined in the Safeguarding Policy.

Guidance for pupils

Every individual has a duty of care for him/herself and a responsibility to take action to safeguard him/her from extremist opportunities. Remember:

- No one has the right to encourage you act or speak out in an extreme way
- The school values you and you must value yourself
- Tell someone about the problems you are having

We expect our pupils to:

- Respect each other and tolerate differences
- Report to a member of staff any witnessed or suspected instances of extremist behaviour to promote the ethos that radicalisation will be safeguarded against and should be reported and to help prevent further instances

Guidance for parents/carers

We ask parents/carers to support their child and the school by:

- Encouraging your child to talk to you about their life at school
- Informing the school of any suspected extremism, even if your child is not involved
- Being vigilant for signs of unusual behaviour in your child
- Advising their child to report any extreme behaviour to a member of staff and explain the importance of speaking out and the implications if they do not
- Being sympathetic and supportive towards your child, reassuring them that the matter will be dealt with sensitively
- Reporting the incident to the school should the child not feel able to report it by contacting the Safeguarding Officer, Miss Claire Hughes.
- Being as sure as you can of the facts when you report the matter. This will enable us to investigate the incident quickly and efficiently
- Understanding that the school may need time to investigate and address the report
- Working with the school to develop ways to support your child
- Cooperating with the school if your child is identified as being involved in extremist behaviour and try to ascertain the truth
- Supporting the school in reinforcing the implications of radicalisation, both for those involved and those around them
- Monitoring your child's use of the internet and mobile phone at home - particularly the use of Social Media and messaging services and assisting your child to keep safe online. Advice is available from www.ceop.gov.uk and www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents
- Discussing the risks with your child regarding how to use email, text, social networking sites and search facilities safely
- Saving any offensive electronic message and report it to the phone company or website provider and block the sender
- Seeking advice from external agencies.

If your child is behaving in a way that suggests extremist views:

- Do not ignore it
- Speak to your child in a calm and measured manner
- Conversations should concentrate on the behaviour and an awareness of how the behaviour affects others should be fully discussed
- Make it clear that such behaviour is unacceptable both inside and outside of school
- Work with the school to develop ways to support your child

Policy Review

This policy will be reviewed annually and may be amended outside of this timeframe in accordance with any new legislation or guidance or in response to any quality assurance recommendations pertaining to the delivery of this policy and the overall safeguarding arrangements.