

Hornchurch High School
Dealing with Extremism Policy

Introduction (Taken from 'Tackling Extremism in the UK' Report from the Prime Minister's Task Force on Tackling Radicalisation and Extremism.)

We have a responsibility to protect children from extremist views in schools. All schools in England, whether in the state or independent sectors, including those with a faith ethos, must expect that they will be inspected and assessed on their measures to protect their pupils from extremist material.

1.1 Teaching Staff

All members of staff are made aware through the process of Performance Management of their fundamental responsibilities in this area. The Performance Management reviewers evaluate their reviewees against the Standards for Teachers, including these elements in Part 2 of the Standards: 'showing tolerance of and respect for the rights of others' 'not undermining fundamental British values, including democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and respect, and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs' 'ensuring that personal beliefs are not expressed in ways which exploit pupils' vulnerability or might lead them to break the law'

Teachers must not promote partisan political views in the teaching of any subject and are required to ensure that whenever political issues are brought to the attention of pupils a balanced presentation of the opposing views are also explained.

The staff and Governors, aspire to ensure that all our pupils, irrespective of ability and regardless of anyone's doubts, achieve their potential in full. Any teacher failing to comply with these requirements would be liable to disciplinary action.

1.2 The Curriculum and Combating Extremism

The core values of the school informs the curriculum, as it does all aspects of our work. The values include the following – honesty, thoughtfulness, respect for others and taking care of each other. We endeavour to promote personal responsibility and understanding the differences between right and wrong. We also promote respect and the understanding of the need for rules.

The school takes every opportunity for the development in the personal and spiritual aspects of the pupils so enabling the children to become positive and emotionally resilient adults with the knowledge and confidence to challenge ideas that they do not agree with. Some of the most valuable work in combatting extremism at the Albany School is carried out in PRCE lessons in KS3 and R.E in KS4. The tutorial and assembly programme also supports this process. We try to ensure that tolerance and understanding are championed through learning about diversity. The school aims to be a safe place for children to share their views within the acknowledged respectful culture of the learning environment.

1.3 The use of the Internet and other Electronic Means

It is strictly forbidden to use the school's website, IT facilities or other elements of the information management systems or processes for the promotion, planning or execution of violent extremism in the name of ideology or belief. The school reserves the right to exercise control over all activities on its IT facilities and networks, including the monitoring of systems and electronic communications and access to external electronic resources.

The school recognises its obligations under legislation relating to the prevention of terrorism, in particular the requirement to respond within two working days to requests from the Police to remove or amend any statement published on the School hosted website that may appear to encourage or promote terrorism.

1.4 Freedom of Speech within the school premises

The School is committed to the principle of free speech. Therefore so far as it is reasonably practicable, access to the school premises is not denied to any pupil or employee or any individual or body of persons invited to the school by a pupil or member of staff on any grounds related to the beliefs or views of the student, employee or invited persons. Nor is access denied due to the policies or objectives of that body.

Where the expression of such beliefs, views, policies or objectives are unlawful and where it is deemed these might be expressed on the school site, the school reserves the right for these beliefs etc not to be expressed on the school site.

The school recognises the needs to balance the rights of the freedom of speech with the provisions of the Racial and Religious Hatred Act 2006 which outlaws the use of threatening words or behaviour, or the display of any threatening written material, with the intent to stir up religious hatred.

1.5 Reporting Arrangements

The School recognises the importance of identifying and taking action to prevent or remove behaviour or activity described in this policy. All Staff and other individuals connected with the school play a vital role in reporting concerns relating to the behaviour described in this policy. The procedures are based upon the principles of the school's whistleblowing policy. Where children are concerned a disclosure should be treated as a child protection issue and the appropriate steps taken. If a concern is raised suitable action will be taken in consultation with the relevant authorities both within and outside the school. If the disclosure involves the Head teacher, then the individual is required to contact the Chair of Governors.

Appendix 1 Spotting Possible Signs of Extremism / Radicalisation

There is no catch-all description, or foolproof signs to look out for. However there are factors which mean a young person may be more vulnerable to those seeking to radicalise them, including;

- A conviction that their religion or culture is under threat and treated unjustly.
- A tendency to look for conspiracy theories and distrust of mainstream media.
- The need for identity and belonging.

- The need for more excitement and adventure.
- Being susceptible to influence by their peers/friends.

In addition, there are certain behaviour changes that may indicate a risk of radicalization / extremism;

- Have they become more argumentative and domineering?
- Are they quick to condemn those who don't agree, and do they ignore viewpoints which contradict their own?
- Do they express themselves in a divisive 'them and us' manner about others who do not share their religion or beliefs?
- Has their language changed? Have they asked inappropriate questions, or expressed themselves in a way that sounds scripted? Have they used derogatory terms about other ethnic groups ?
- Has their circle of friends changed, including on social media, and are they distancing themselves from friends they were previously close to?
- Do their friends express radical or extremist views?
- Have they lost interest in activities they used to enjoy?
- Are they spending increasing amounts of time online, and are they overly secretive about what they are doing?
- Have they changed their style of dress or personal appearance to fit with newfound ideas?
- Have they expressed sympathy with violent extremist groups condoning their actions and ideology?
- Have they expressed sympathy or understanding for other young British people who have joined these groups?

1.6 Policy Review

This policy is to be reviewed every 3 years or sooner if necessary in the light of specific events or relevant statutory changes.

