

Prevention of Radicalisation

Cottenham Village College recognises that it has a duty under Section 26 of the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act, 2015, in the exercise of its functions, to have due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism. We have a responsibility to protect children from extremist and violent views in the same way that we protect them from other safeguarding issues.

Rationale

Key Terms

Extremism – vocal or active opposition to fundamental British values such as democracy, the rule of law and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs.

Ideology – a set of beliefs.

Terrorism – a violent action against people or property, designed to create fear and advance a political, religious or ideological cause.

Radicalisation – the process by which a person comes to support extremism and terrorism.

Since 2010, when the Government published the Prevent Strategy, there has been an awareness of the specific need to safeguard children, young people and families from violent extremism. There have been several occasions both locally and nationally in which extremist groups have attempted to radicalise vulnerable children and young people to hold extreme views including views justifying political, religious, sexist or racist violence, or to steer them into a rigid and narrow ideology that is intolerant of diversity and leaves them vulnerable to future radicalisation.

The Counter-terrorism and Security Act, 2015 places a duty on authorities (including schools) 'to have due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism'.

The current threat from terrorism in the United Kingdom may include the exploitation of vulnerable people, to involve them in terrorism or in activity in support of terrorism. The normalisation of extreme views may also make children and young people vulnerable to future manipulation and exploitation. The Cottenham Village College is clear that this exploitation and radicalisation should be viewed as a safeguarding concern.

The Department for Education has published advice for schools on their Prevent duty. The advice complements the Prevent guidance and signposts other sources of advice and support. The statutory Prevent guidance summarises the requirements on schools in terms of four general themes: risk assessment, working in partnership, staff training and IT policies. The Prevent strategy covers all types of terrorism and extremism, including the extreme right wing, religious extremists and other causes. The Prevent strategy is not solely about discussing extremism; it is also about teaching children values such as tolerance and mutual respect.

Prevent Duty at Cottenham Village College

Schools have been required to promote British values since 2014 and this continues to be part of the College's response to the Prevent strategy.

British Values include:

- Democracy
- The rule of law
- Individual liberty and mutual respect
- Tolerance of different faiths and beliefs

The Prevent Lead at the school has undertaken WRAP training and is the Lead Designated Person for Safeguarding at the College. The Prevent Lead is therefore able to provide advice and support to other members of staff on protecting children from the risk of radicalisation. Through Prevent Awareness training, all staff at Cottenham Village College are therefore cognisant of their Prevent Duty. Senior staff, Middle Leaders and Governors have also received further training on the WRAP in September 2015. Staff training on Prevent Duty has provided staff and Governors with an awareness of how to identify individual children who may be at risk of radicalisation and the Designated Persons at the College know what to do to support them, including how to liaise with the relevant external agencies,



such as MASH (Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub, Cambs) and the local Channel panels. Staff are aware of their responsibility in that if they have any concerns that a student may be at risk of radicalisation or involvement in terrorism, they should speak with the Designated Safeguarding Lead.

The Lead Prevent has carried out an audit of key actions required for the implementation of Prevent Duty and an action plan put in place (appendix 1). The College also makes reference to the "Prevent" duty in other policies, such as the E-Safety Policy and the Safeguarding Policy. With regards to safety online, the College ensures that suitable filtering is in place as part of our E-safety policy and in our day to day systems and procedures. Students are made aware through the AUP, and through the curriculum, as to how to stay safe online and to inform about safer use of the Internet.

The updated version of Part One of Keeping Children Safe in Education (July 2015) has been communicated to all staff and has been included in the College's induction processes for new staff and volunteers. Staff have signed to confirm that they have read this key document.

Student Awareness

Extremism can take many forms, including political, religious and misogynistic extremism. Some of these may be a bigger threat in our area than others. We give our students the skills to protect them from any extremist views they may encounter, now or later in their lives. Cottenham Village College will ensure that any discussions that take place are suitable for the age and maturity of the children involved.

Many of the things we do at the College help our students to become positive, happy members of society hence contributing to the Prevent strategy.

These include:

- Exploring other cultures and religions and promoting diversity
- Challenging prejudices and racist comments
- Developing critical thinking skills and a strong, positive self-identity
- Promoting the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils, as well as British values such as democracy

We protect children from the risk of radicalisation. We use filters on the internet to make sure they are not able to access extremist and terrorist material and all visitors are vetted fully about what they want to say in advance, e.g. including vetting via google search.

The College provides a safe place for students to discuss such issues so that they better understand how to protect themselves. Students develop the knowledge, skills and understanding which will prepare them to play a full and active part in society. The College therefore provides a "safe environment" in which to discuss "controversial issues". Through PSHE/Conference Days, and other curriculum activities, students are able to explore political, religious and social issues. Students are taught about the diverse national, regional and ethnic identities in the UK and the need for mutual respect. British Values are also explored and discussed in curricular areas during PSHE/Conference Days.

References

- "Keeping Children Safe in Education: Information for all school and college staff" DfE, July 2015
- "The Prevent Duty: Departmental advice for schools and childcare providers", DfE, June 2015

This statement was ratified on

And will be reviewed on

**Signed by the Executive Headteacher/
And Chair of Trustees**



Appendix 1 "Prevent" Action Plan

COTTENHAM VILLAGE COLLEGE recognises that it has a duty under Section 26 of the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act, 2015, in the exercise of its functions, to have due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism.

| Duty | What this means | Action | By whom |
|---|--|---|---|
| Risk assessment | | | |
| Assess the risk of children being drawn into terrorism | Staff can demonstrate a general understanding of the risks affecting children and young people | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All staff have read "Keeping Children Safe in Education", July 2015 and signed to confirm The Prevent Lead has informed staff of their duties as set out in "The Prevent Duty" (DfE, June 2015). | All staff Prevent Lead |
| | Staff can identify individual children who may be at risk of radicalisation and how to support them. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Prevent Lead has informed staff about signs and indicators of radicalisation. | Prevent lead |
| | There is a clear procedure in place for protecting children at risk of radicalisation. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All staff have read the Safeguarding Policy which includes a statement regarding the school's "Prevent" duty. All staff understand how to record and report concerns regarding risk of radicalisation. | All staff All staff |
| | The school has identified a Prevent Lead. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All staff know who the Prevent Lead is and that this person acts as a source of advice and support. | All staff |
| Prohibit extremist speakers and events in the school | The school exercises "due diligence" in relation to requests from external speakers and organisations using school premises. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Request an outline of what the speaker intends to cover Research the person/organisation to establish whether they have demonstrated extreme views/actions. Deny permission for people/organisations to use school premises if they have links to extreme groups or movements. Provide justification for their decisions in writing. | Prevent lead |
| The school is using existing local partnership arrangements in exercising its Prevent duty. | Staff record and report concerns in line with existing policies and procedures. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All staff record and report concerns on the usual "Logging Concerns Form". | All staff |
| | The Prevent Lead makes appropriate referrals to other agencies including the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) and Channel Panel. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Records of referrals are kept in the Welfare File. Referrals are followed up appropriately. | Prevent Lead |

| Staff training | | | |
|--|---|---|--|
| Equip staff to identify children at risk of being drawn into terrorism and to challenge extremist ideas. | Assess the training needs of staff in the light of the school's assessment of the risk to pupils at the school of being drawn into terrorism. | As a minimum the school should: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that the designated safeguarding lead undertakes Prevent Awareness Training. • Ensure that the designated safeguarding lead is able to provide advice and support to other members of staff on protecting children from the risk of radicalisation. • Relevant staff will complete the "General Awareness Training on Channel". (Referred to in the DfE guidance cited below) – recently released Sept 2015 | Designated Safeguarding Lead/Prevent Lead Relevant staff identified by the Prevent Lead. Prevent Lead had WRAP training July 2015 |
| IT Policies | | | |
| Ensure that children are safe from terrorist and extremist material when accessing the internet in schools | The school has policies in place which make reference to the "Prevent" duty. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • E safety policy • Acceptable use policy • Anti-bullying policy | Prevent Lead |
| | Children are taught about on-line safety with specific reference to the risk of radicalisation. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The curriculum reflects this duty. | |
| Building children's resilience to radicalisation | | | |
| Ensure that pupils have a "safe environment" in which to discuss "controversial issues". | Pupils develop "the knowledge, skills and understanding to prepare them to play a full and active part in society". | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Through PSHE/Citizenship, and other curriculum activities, pupils are able to explore political, religious and social issues. • Pupils are taught about the diverse national, regional and ethnic identities in the UK and the need for mutual respect. • Relevant staff are aware of the government guidance : https://www.gov.uk/government/news/guidance-on-promoting-british-values-in-schools-published/ | PSHE staff Other relevant staff |

References:

"Keeping Children Safe in Education: Information for all school and college staff" DfE, July 2015

"The Prevent Duty: Departmental advice for schools and childcare providers", DfE, June 2015