

Bankfields Primary School



**Be happy
Be successful
Be proud
Be Bankfields**

Preventing Radicalisation and Extremism Policy

September 2023

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1: POLICY STATEMENT

Bankfields 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. Bankfields Primary School values the fundamental rights of freedom of speech, expression of beliefs and ideology and tolerance of others which are the core values of our democratic society. However, all rights come with responsibilities and free speech or beliefs designed to manipulate the vulnerable or which advocate harm or hatred towards others will not be tolerated. Bankfields Primary School seeks to protect its pupils and staff from all messages and forms of violent extremism and ideologies including those linked to, but not restricted, to the following: Far Right/Neo Nazi, White Supremacist ideology, extremist Islamic ideology, Irish Nationalist and Loyalist paramilitary groups.

Bankfields Primary School is clear that exploitation and radicalisation will be viewed as a safeguarding concern and will be referred to the appropriate safeguarding agencies. 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. This policy should be read in conjunction with the national guidelines from the PREVENT strategy (HM Government).

2: 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:
 1. physical or verbal assault or provocative behaviour
 2. damage to property
 3. derogatory name calling
 4. possession of prejudice-related materials
 5. prejudice related ridicule or name calling
 6. inappropriate forms of address
 7. refusal to co-operate
 8. attempts to recruit to prejudice-related organisations
 9. condoning or supporting violence towards others.

3: PROCEDURES FOR REFERRALS

Although serious incidents involving radicalisation have not occurred at Bankfields Primary School to date, it is important for us to be constantly vigilant and remain fully informed about the issues which affect the 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 in accordance with our Safeguarding and Child Protection Policies. See Appendix 1 for further details.

4: THE ROLE OF THE CURRICULUM

At Bankfields Primary School we promote respect, tolerance and diversity through our broad and balanced curriculum which promotes Fundamental British Values. 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 Citizenship and SMSC provision is embedded across the curriculum, including in Religious Education. It directs our assemblies and underpins the ethos of the school.

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 (see our Computing and Online Safety Policy). In addition, we offer Family Learning opportunities in order to educate the pupils’ parents in E-Safety matters too. Pupils at Bankfields Primary School are taught to seek adult help if they are upset or concerned about anything they read or see on the internet.

5: 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.

6: POLICY REVIEW

The Bankfields Primary School Preventing Radicalisation and Extremism Policy will be reviewed annually as part of the overall Child Protection and Safeguarding policy review. This policy should be read in conjunction with The Prevent Duty Guidance 2023 (HM Government).

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 SLT or the Head Teacher.
- All incidents will be fully investigated and recorded, 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.
- The SLT 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 Redcar and Cleveland's Children's Services on 01642 771500 / 01642 130700
- In the event of a referral relating to serious concerns about potential radicalisation or extremism, the school will also contact Cleveland Police Counter Terrorism Unit (CTU) Security and Partnership Office 01642 326326 or the CTU hotline 0845 678 123. Any individuals referred to Cleveland Police will be assessed to see if they are suitable for support through Channel.