



THE PERSE
SCHOOL
CAMBRIDGE

Preventing Extremism and Radicalisation Policy

The Perse School

January 2021

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Introduction

The Perse School (the **School**) is committed to providing a secure environment for all of our pupils, staff and visitors.

Schools have had a legal duty to prevent extremism since the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 came into force on 1 July 2015. Schools are required to have “*due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism*”.

The current threat from terrorism extremism in the United Kingdom can involve the exploitation of vulnerable people, including children, young people and vulnerable adults to involve them in terrorism or activity in support of 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 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 Perse values freedom of speech and the expression of beliefs / ideology as fundamental rights. Both pupils and teachers have the right to speak freely and voice their opinions. However, freedom comes with responsibilities and free speech that is designed to manipulate the vulnerable or that leads to violence and harm to others goes against the moral principles in which freedom of speech is valued. Free speech is not an unqualified privilege; it is subject to laws and policies restricting free speech in the interests of public safety, national security and the prevention of disorder or crime.

The current threat from terrorism in the United Kingdom may include the exploitation of vulnerable people so as to involve them in terrorism or in activities in support of extremism and terrorism. The Perse is clear that this exploitation and radicalisation is viewed as a safeguarding concern.

The School’s *Preventing Extremism and Radicalisation Policy* has regard to "Revised Prevent Duty Guidance for England and Wales" (HM Government, April 2019), "Channel Duty Guidance: Protecting vulnerable people from being drawn into terrorism" (April 2015) and "Keeping Children Safe in Education" (September 2020). It also draws upon the guidance contained in the “Prevent Strategy, 2011”, DfE advice on “The Prevent Duty” – June 2015; “Tackling Extremism in the UK – Dec 2013”, DfE’s “Teaching Approaches that help Build Resilience to Extremism among Young People (DfE, May 2011) ” and Peter Clarke’s Report of July 2014.

Definitions of radicalisation and extremism, and indicators of vulnerability to radicalisation are to be found in Appendix 1. Practical advice for teachers, parents and school leaders on protecting children from extremism and radicalisation can be found on the website [Educate Against Hate \(HM Government\)](#).

In adhering to this policy, and the procedures therein, staff, governors, volunteers, peripatetics and visitors will contribute to the safety and wellbeing of all children, as set out in the Children Act 2004.

School Ethos and Practice

There is no place for the expression of extremist views of any kind in the School, whether from internal sources – pupils, staff, parents, peripatetics, or governors, or external sources - school community, visiting speakers, volunteers, contractors, external agencies or individuals.

It is imperative that pupils and parents see school as a safe place where they can discuss and explore controversial issues safely and in an unbiased way and where teachers encourage and facilitate this.

The School recognises that extremism and exposure to extremist materials and influences can lead to poor outcomes for its pupils. It also recognises that if it fails to challenge extremist views it is failing to protect its pupils.

Extremists aim to develop destructive relationships between different communities by promoting division, fear 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, the School will provide a broad and balanced curriculum, delivered by skilled professionals, so that its pupils are enriched, understand and become tolerant of difference and diversity and also to ensure that they thrive, feel valued and not marginalised.

The School's staff are aware that young people can be exposed to extremist influences from an early age which emanate from a variety of sources and media, including via the internet, and at times pupils may themselves reflect or display views that may be discriminatory, or extremist, including using derogatory language.

Any discrimination or extremist views, including derogatory language, displayed by pupils, staff, peripatetics, volunteers, visitors or parents will always be challenged and where appropriate, disciplinary action will be taken or the School will cease to use the services of individuals.

As part of wider safeguarding responsibilities school 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.
- Parental reports of changes in behaviour, friendship or actions and requests for assistance.
- Local schools', Local Authority services', and police reports of issues affecting pupils in other schools or settings.

- Pupils voicing opinions drawn from extremist ideologies and narratives.
- Use of extremist or 'hate' terms to exclude others or incite violence.
- Intolerance of difference, in particular with regard to protected characteristics.
- Attempts to impose extremist views or practices on others.

Linked Policies

- Acceptable use of ICT Policy for Pupils
- Acceptable use of ICT Policy for Staff
- Code of Conduct
- Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy
- Policy on Special Education Needs and Learning Difficulties and Learning Support
- Risk Assessment Policy for Pupil Welfare
- Relationships Education, and Relationships and Sex Education Policy
- Visitors and Visiting Speakers Policy

Reducing Risk of Radicalisation and Extremism

The School has a legal duty to have due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism

The School will help pupils build resilience to extremism and give pupils a positive sense of identity through the development of critical thinking skills. In the School this will be achieved by good teaching, primarily during PSHE and Emotional Wellbeing lessons and assemblies; but also by adopting the methods outlined in the Government's guidance 'Teaching approaches that help build resilience to extremism among young people' DfE 2011. The School will ensure that all teaching staff are trained to recognise the risk of radicalisation and extremism.

The School will address themes relevant to the current issues of extremism and radicalisation.

This approach will be embedded within the ethos of The School so that pupils know and understand what safe and acceptable behaviour is in the context of extremism and radicalisation. This will work in conjunction with The School's spiritual, moral, social and cultural approach including a programme of assemblies dedicated to promoting fundamental British values to help further promote this rounded development of our pupils.

The School will also work with local partners, families and communities in its efforts to ensure The School understands and embraces the local context and values in challenging extremist views and to assist in the broadening of our pupil's experiences and horizons. The School will help support pupils who may be vulnerable to such influences as part of its wider safeguarding responsibilities and where it believes a pupil is being directly affected by extremist materials or influences it will ensure that that pupil is supported. Additionally in such instances the School will seek external support from the nominated Local Police Officer and/or local partnership structures working to prevent extremism.

The School promotes values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, mutual respect and tolerance for those with different faiths and beliefs. It encourages pupils to respect one another and to tolerate and embrace differences, especially those of a different faith or no faith.

The School uses filtering and monitoring software on internet use through its network to reduce the risks of extremism and also to teach all pupils how to stay safe online. The School gives clear guidance to staff on acceptable behaviour in the *Acceptable Use of ICT Policy for Staff* and the *Code of Conduct*.

Use of Visiting Speakers and External Agencies

The School encourages the use of external agencies or speakers to enrich the experiences of our pupils, however, as a minimum, it will check (through internet searches) those external agencies individuals or speakers who it engages to provide such learning opportunities or experiences for its pupils. More detail can be found in the *Visitors and Visiting Speakers Policy*.

Monitoring

The school governors, the Head and the Designated Safeguarding Personnel (which includes the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL), Deputy DSL and Prevent Leads) will assess the level of risk within the School and put actions in place to reduce that risk. This risk assessment will be reviewed as part of the annual report to governors. Risk assessment may include consideration of the School's assembly schedule, Philosophy and RS curriculum, PSHE programme, *Acceptable Use of ICT Policy for Pupils*, *Acceptable Use of ICT Policy for Staff*, SEND policy, visiting speakers, the use of school premises by external agencies, *Anti-Bullying Policy* and other issues specific to the School's profile, community and philosophy.

Response

The School is required to identify a Prevent Lead (who is a DSL or DDSL) who will be the lead within the organisation for safeguarding in relation to protecting individuals from radicalisation and involvement in terrorism. The responsibilities of the Prevent Lead are described in Appendix 2. At the Perse this is:

- Upper: Danielle Creese (Assistant Head (Welfare) (DDSL).
- Prep: Deputy Head, Thomas Knowles (DSL).
- Pelican: Deputy Head, Tim Ankin (DSL)

Staff at The Perse will be alert to the fact that whilst Extremism and Radicalisation is broadly a safeguarding issue there may be some instances where a child or children may be at direct risk of harm or neglect. For example; this could be due to a child displaying risky behaviours in terms of the activities they are involved in or the groups they are associated with or staff may be aware of information about a child's family that may equally place a child at risk of harm. (These examples are for illustration and are not definitive or exhaustive).

All staff are required to report instances where they believe a child may be at risk of harm or neglect or if they have concerns that a pupil may be at risk of radicalisation or involvement

in terrorism. They should speak to the DSL or DDSL (which includes the Prevent Lead) and complete a Myconcern report.

Staff Training

The School will ensure that all teaching staff doing teaching work and those in a pupil supervisory role are equipped to identify children at risk of being drawn into terrorism and refer them appropriately, as well as challenge extremist ideas. Prevent duty training will be consistent with Home Office WRAP (Workshop to Raise Awareness of Prevent) training.

All other staff learn about radicalisation and extremism as part of the Safeguarding and Child Protection training.

Working in Partnership

The Prevent Lead liaises regularly with the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Safeguarding Children Partnership Board (CPSCP) which provides the School with information on general levels of risk in the local area. See Appendix 3 for the model flowchart for referral.

Record Keeping

All records created in accordance with this policy are managed in accordance with the School's *Records Management Policy* and *Records Retention Schedule*.

Records created in accordance with this policy may contain personal data. The School has a number of privacy notices which explain how the School will use the personal data of pupils and parents. The privacy notices are published on the School's website. In addition, staff must ensure that they follow the School's data protection policies and procedures when handling personal data created in connection with this policy. This includes the School's *Data Protection Policy for Staff, Governors and Volunteers* and *Information Security and Sharing Data Guidance* which are both contained in the *Data Protection and Information Security Handbook*.

Version Control

Date of adoption of this policy	5 th January 2021
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Appendix 1 – Indicators of vulnerability to radicalisation

1. Radicalisation refers to the process by which a person comes to support terrorism and forms of extremist ideologies associated with terrorist groups.
2. Extremism is defined by the Government in the Prevent Strategy as:
Vocal or active opposition to fundamental British values, including democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs. We also include in our definition of extremism calls for death of members of our armed forces, whether in this country or overseas.
3. Extremism is defined by the Crown Prosecution Service as:
The demonstration of unacceptable behaviour by using any means or medium to express views which:
 - Encourage, justify or glorify terrorist violence in furtherance of particular beliefs;
 - Seek to provoke others to terrorist acts;
 - Encourage or seek to provoke others to serious criminal activity;
 - Foster hatred which might lead to inter-community violence in the UK.
4. This is no such thing as a “typical extremist”: those who become involved in extremist actions come from a range of backgrounds and experiences, and most individuals, even those who hold radical views, do not become involved in violent extremist activities.
5. It is possible to protect vulnerable people from extremist ideology and intervene to prevent those at risk of radicalisation being radicalised. As with managing other safeguarding risks, staff should be alert to changes in children’s behaviour which could indicate that they may be in need of help or protection. School staff should use their professional judgement in identifying children who might be at risk of radicalization and act proportionately which may include the DLS making a Prevent referral.
6. Terrorism is an action that endangers or causes serious violence to a person/people; causes serious damage to property; or seriously interferes or disrupts an electronic system. The use or threat must be designed to influence the government or to intimidate the public and made for the purpose of advancing a political, religious or ideological cause.
7. Pupils may become susceptible to radicalisation through a range of social, personal and environmental factors – it is known that violent extremists exploit vulnerabilities in individuals to drive a wedge between them and their families and communities. It is vital that school staff are able to recognise those vulnerabilities. Radicalisation can occur through many different methods (such as social media) and settings (such as the internet). [The Use of Social Media for Online Radicalisation \(July 2015\)](#) includes information on how social media is used to radicalise young people and guidance on protecting pupils at risk.
8. Indicators of vulnerability include:
 - Identity Crisis – the pupil is distanced from their cultural / religious heritage and experiences discomfort about their place in society;
 - Personal Crisis – the pupil may be experiencing family tensions; a sense of isolation; and low self-esteem; they may have dissociated from their existing friendship group

and become involved with a new and different group of friends; they may be searching for answers to questions about identity, faith and belonging;

- Personal Circumstances – migration; local community tensions; and events affecting the pupil’s country or region of origin may contribute to a sense of grievance that is triggered by personal experience of racism or discrimination or aspects of Government policy;
 - Unmet Aspirations – the pupil may have perceptions of injustice; a feeling of failure; rejections of civic life;
 - Experiences of Criminality – which may include involvement with criminal groups, imprisonment, and poor resettlement / reintegration;
 - Special Educational Need – pupils may experience difficulties with social interaction, empathy with others, understanding the consequences of their actions and awareness of the motivations of others.
7. However, this list is not exhaustive, nor does it mean that all young people experiencing the above are at risk of radicalisation for the purposes of violent extremism.
8. More critical risk factors could include:
- Being in contact with extremist recruiters;
 - Accessing violent extremist websites, especially those with a social networking element;
 - Possessing or accessing violent extremist literature;
 - Using extremist narratives and a global ideology to explain personal disadvantage;
 - Justifying the use of violence to solve societal issues;
 - Joining or seeking to join extremist organisations;
 - Significant changes in appearance and / or behavior;
 - Experiencing a high level of social isolation resulting in issues of identity crisis and /or personal crisis.

Appendix 2 – Roles and Responsibilities of The Prevent Lead

The Prevent Lead is responsible for:

- Providing training consistent with Home Office WRAP (Workshop to Raise Awareness of Prevent);
- Ensuring that staff of the School are aware of the Prevent Lead in relation to protecting pupils from radicalisation and involvement in terrorism;
- Maintaining and applying a good understanding of the relevant guidance in relation to preventing pupils from becoming involved in terrorism, and protecting them from radicalisation by those who support terrorism or forms of extremism which lead to terrorism;
- Raising awareness about the role and responsibilities of The Prevent Lead in relation to protecting pupils from radicalisation and involvement in terrorism;
- Monitoring the effect in practice of the School's RS, Spiritual Moral Social and Cultural (SMSC) and PSHE curricula and assembly schedule to ensure that they are used to promote community cohesion and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs;
- Raising awareness within the School about the safeguarding processes relating to protecting pupils from radicalisation and involvement in terrorism;
- In accordance with their role as DSL or DDSL, the Prevent Lead acts as the first point of contact within the School for case discussions relating to pupils who may be at risk of radicalisation or involved in terrorism;
- Making contact with the nominated local police officer where necessary – all contact details can be found in the School's *Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy*;
- Collating relevant information from in relation to referrals of vulnerable pupils into the Channel* process;
- Attending Channel* meetings as necessary and carrying out any actions as agreed;
- Reporting progress on actions to the Channel* Co-ordinator;
- Sharing any relevant additional information in a timely manner; and
- In the case of the Upper School, sharing all concerns raised with the DSL

*Channel is a multi-agency approach to provide support to individuals who are at risk of being drawn into terrorist related activity. It aims to:

- Establish an effective multi-agency referral and intervention process to identify vulnerable individuals;
- Safeguard individuals who might be vulnerable to being radicalised, so that they are not at risk of being drawn into terrorist-related activity; and
- Provide early intervention to protect and divert people away from the risks they face and reduce vulnerability.

Appendix 3 – Peterborough City Council & Cambridgeshire County Council Prevent Referral Pathway Flowchart

Prevent Referral Process (Children's)

