



Moat Farm Junior School Trust

PREVENTING VIOLENT EXTREMISM IN SCHOOL POLICY

2020-2021

Policy Adopted by the Governing Body:

Date Adopted by the Governing Body:

Signed by Chair Of Governors:

Policy Statement

The Governors of Moat Farm Junior School are committed to the aims of the Prevent Strategy (Part of CONTEST, the Governments Counter Terrorism Strategy 2014-15).

Guidance

What is Extremism?

Extremist organisations can develop and popularise ideas which create an environment conducive to violent extremism and terrorism.

Summary (taken from the *Prevent Strategy 2011*)

(https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/97976/prevent-strategy-review.pdf)

*“The UK faces a range of terrorist threats from groups such as IS, Al Qa’ida and its affiliates and like-minded organisations. All the terrorist groups who pose a threat to the population of the UK seek to radicalise and recruit people to their cause. But the percentage of people who are prepared to support violent extremism in this country is very small **but it is significantly greater amongst young people**”.*

*“There is evidence to indicate that support for terrorism is associated with rejection of a cohesive, integrated, multi-faith society and of parliamentary democracy. Work to deal with radicalisation will depend on **developing a sense of belonging to this country and support for our core values**”.*

“In assessing drivers of and pathways to radicalisation, the line between extremism and terrorism is often blurred. Terrorist groups of all kinds very often draw upon ideologies which have been developed, disseminated and popularised by extremist organisations that appear to be non-violent (such as groups which neither use violence nor specifically and openly endorse its use by others)”.

Why is it important for schools to discuss extremism?

Education can be a powerful tool, equipping young people with the knowledge, skills and reflex to think for themselves, to challenge and debate; and giving young people the opportunity to learn about different cultures and faiths and, to gain an understanding of the values we share. Exploring ideas, developing a sense of identity and forming views are a normal part of growing up.

Schools can support young people in this, providing a safe environment for discussing controversial issues and helping young people to understand how they can influence and participate in decision making. We need to encourage young people to express their views but also to appreciate the impact their views can have on others, to take responsibility for their actions and to understand that the use of violence to further any cause is criminal.

“Schools can facilitate understanding of wider issues within the context of learning about the values on which our society is founded and our system of democratic government. These are important reasons which go far beyond Prevent but they connect to the Prevent Agenda”(Prevent Strategy 2011)

We also need to recognise that. Young people can be exposed to extremist influences or prejudiced views, particularly those via the internet and other social media. *“Schools can help to protect children from extremist and violent views in the same ways that they help to safeguard children from drugs, gang violence or alcohol. Schools’ work on Prevent needs to be seen in this context. The purpose must be to protect children from harm and to ensure that they are taught in a way that is consistent with the law and our values. Awareness of Prevent and the risks it is intended to address are both vital. Staff can help to identify, and to refer to the relevant agencies, children whose behaviour suggests that they are being drawn into terrorism or extremism. [Prevent Strategy 2011]*

Benefits for our school

Extremism affects individuals and communities and can be a catalyst for alienation and disaffection, potentially leading to violence. There is a need to empower learners to come together, with their families and the wider community, to expose extremism to critical scrutiny and reject violence and intolerance in whatever forms they take and whether it be from animal rights activists, ecological protesters, Al Qaida-influenced groups, Irish republican terrorists, racists, fascist organisations or far right extremist groups, or others.

Publicly funded schools remain under a duty to promote community cohesion. This policy and guidance sits alongside Moat Farm’s Equality Policy and Safeguarding Policy. At Moat Farm Junior School we also adhere to a rights respecting ethos which promotes rights but also responsibilities. We give learners the opportunity to learn different cultures and faiths and to debate shared values, so as to enable them to become involved in decision making about important and real issues.

At Moat farm we have high expectations, to enable all to achieve their potential, celebrating success within a caring environment.

Our vision and values:

- are at the core of everything we do. They underpin our teaching and learning, and provide an environment which prepares our pupils as confident, happy citizens.

Our school aims are:-

- To provide a safe and stimulating school environment.
- To promote high standards of teaching and learning.
- To value and develop all members of the school community.

School Actions

- Agreed value statements that are inclusive of all students
- Reviewed curriculum and pupil participation and safeguarding processes

- Developing critical personal thinking skills and using curriculum opportunities including small group work
- Implementing social and emotional aspects of learning
- Exploring and promoting diversity and shared values between and within communities
- Challenging Islamophobia, anti-Semitism and other prejudices
- Supporting those at risk of being isolated
- Building ties with all local communities, seeking opportunities for linking with other schools
- Using anti bullying strategies to minimise hate and prejudice based bullying
- Using restorative approaches to repair harm caused.

Curriculum

The school's curriculum and values are designed designed to meet the needs of its pupils, and within the curriculum we will tackle extremism by promoting British values through teaching Tolerance, Respect, Democracy and Rule of Law and therefore providing all children with an education which will help them to:

- Foster self-esteem and personal responsibility, linked to respect for the needs and feelings of others.
- Facilitate considerate and positive relationships between all members of the school community.
- Ensure equal and inclusive opportunities in relation to gender, race, class, special needs and belief.
- Value and respect all cultures.
- Provide a safe and happy work place.
- Promote a thoughtful attitude towards the immediate and wider environment.

The staff and governors see the school as being a part of the community; we look on our neighbours and families as a resource for learning and we contribute to the community in many ways. All children are regarded as of equal value – with differing needs and different rates of progress. We try to provide for the needs of each child and to offer support and encouragement for all achievements – within or outside the planned curriculum.

SMSC and the promotion of British values and teaching children tolerance, respect and democracy will occur throughout the school curriculum but will be specifically focused in PHSE and Religious Education. As a school we are committed to teach our children about many different faiths and we will involve the local faith communities in this teaching by actively taking our children out to visit these communities and places of worship, this will also support the school's duty to promote community cohesion. The PSHE programme will tackle issues of respect and tolerance of others whilst also looking at democracy and law in the context of the country which we live.

Children are now more than ever at risk of being exposed to a wide range of political and fundamentalist materials via the internet and social media. E-Safety is taught as part of the ICT and PSHE curriculum and within this we will teach children and families how to protect themselves whilst using social media and the internet along with teaching children about bias and personal views in material they may see online.

Teaching Controversial Issues

To effectively reduce the risk of any members of our school community becoming radicalised and drawn into extremism we will need to teach our children about these controversial issues, however this will help our learners challenge the perceptions and misconceptions of their own and others. To do this classroom practices can include:

- Developing questioning techniques to open up safe debate
- Building confidence to promote honesty about a plurality of views
- Ensuring freedom of expression and freedom from threat
- Debating fundamental moral and human rights principles
- Promoting open respectful dialogue and;
- Affirming multiple identities

Identification and monitoring those at risk

As a school we will carry out the following monitoring procedures to help identify children and communities at risk of radicalisation:

- Termly monitoring of school contextual characteristics to identify changes ethnic percentages which may reflect the influx of a particular ethnic group into the local community.
- The DHT and EWO monitor attendance daily and meet weekly to discuss pupil absence, those pupils from certain ethnic backgrounds who are absent for any period of time or those taken on extended foreign holidays are monitored closely and parental contact made to discuss the reasons for absence.
- Any incidents of racial abuse between pupils is recorded on SIMS and dealt with immediately. Repeat offenders can be identified and family contact made if required.
- Ensure adequate staff training so that employees are fully aware of the issues around extremism and how to identify pupils.

External Support

The Local authority point of contact is the Prevent Education Officer:

Justin Nixon
0121 569 2252
07790396643

Justin-nixon@sandwell.gov.uk

Referrals for under 18: access_team@sandwell.gcsx.gov.uk

Training

All staff receive L1 Child Protection training every September or when they join the school. The Prevent agenda is covered in this training.

All staff have been instructed to action the following e-learning packages:

<https://www.elearning.prevent.homeoffice.gov.uk>

http://coursencalt.com/Channel_General_Awareness

Other courses will be attended by the safeguarding team as required.

This policy should be read in conjunction with other relevant school policies which includes:

Child Protection

Equality

Behaviour

Anti-bulling

Curriculum

PSHE

E Safety

DFE – Promoting fundamental British values as part of SMSC in schools

Educational visitors to school policy.