

Additional information on PREVENT strategy to be read in conjunction with our safeguarding policy 2019

Safeguarding pupils/students from being drawn into or supporting terrorism

Schools have a vital role to play in protecting pupils from the risks of extremism and radicalisation, a role which is underpinned by the Counter- Terrorism and Security Act 2015 “to have due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism.

Radicalisation refers to the process by which a person comes to support terrorism and forms of extremism leading to terrorism.

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 the death of members of our armed forces, whether in this country or overseas.

The Government’s Prevent Strategy has raised awareness of the specific need to safeguard children, young people and families from violent extremism and terrorism. There have been nationally situations in which extremist groups have attempted to radicalise 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.

St Pius X RCVA Primary School values freedom of speech and the expression of beliefs / ideology as fundamental rights underpinning our society’s values. Both pupils/students and teachers have the right to speak freely and voice their opinions. However, freedom comes with responsibility and free speech that is designed to manipulate the vulnerable or that leads to violence and harm of 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 governing equality, human rights, community safety and community cohesion.

The current threat from terrorism in the United Kingdom may include the exploitation of individuals, 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. (**School Name**) is clear that this exploitation and radicalisation should be viewed as a safeguarding concern.

St Pius x RCVA Primary School seeks to protect children and young people against the messages of all violent extremism including, but not restricted to, those linked to Islamist ideology, or to Far Right / Neo Nazi / White Supremacist ideology, Irish Nationalist and Loyalist paramilitary groups, and extremist Animal Rights movements.

Risk reduction

The school governors, the Head Teacher and the Designated Safeguarding Lead will assess the level of risk within the school and put actions in place to reduce

any identified risks.

Procedure

Keeping children / young people safe from these risks is a safeguarding matter and should be approached in the same way as safeguarding children from other risks.

When any member of staff has concerns that a pupil may be at risk of radicalisation or involvement in terrorism, they should speak with the school's Single Point of Contact (SPOC) for safeguarding pupils from radicalisation and involvement in terrorism. This will normally be the Designated Safeguarding Lead who will have responsibility for assessing whether the pupil may be at risk of radicalisation, and where relevant, for referring the child to the Local Authority Channel Panel.

The SPOC for **St Pius X RCVA Primary School** is Joanne Cruise

Numerous factors can contribute to and influence the range of behaviours that are defined as violent extremism, but most young people do not become involved in extremist action. For this reason the appropriate interventions in any particular case may not have any specific connection to the threat of radicalisation, for example they may address mental health, relationship or drug/alcohol issues.