



# **Preventing Extremism and Radicalisation Policy**

**November 2021**

Date of Next Review – November 2022

**Responsibility for Review: Director of Care, Guidance and Welfare**  
**Date of Last Review: November 2021**

## 1.0 Policy Statement

This 'Preventing Extremism and Radicalisation Policy' is part of our commitment to keeping children safe. Since the 'Education and Inspections Act 2006' schools have a duty to promote community cohesion. Over the last few years global events have led to a growth of extremist viewpoints, including advocacy of violent extremism. Schools have an important part to play in both educating children and young people about extremism and recognising when students start to become radicalised. In March 2015 new statutory duties were placed on schools by the 'Counter Terrorism and Security Act,' (2015) which means they must work to prevent children being drawn into extremism. Safeguarding children from all risks of harm is an important part of a school's work and protecting them from extremism is one aspect of that.

## 2.0 Scope and Purpose

At the Apollo Partnership Trust (APT) we ensure that through our vision, values, rules, diverse curriculum and teaching we promote tolerance and respect for all cultures, faiths and lifestyles. The Senior Leadership Teams also ensure that this ethos is reflected and implemented effectively in school policy and practice and that there are effective risk assessments in place to safeguard and promote students' welfare. We have a duty to prepare our children for life in modern Britain and to keep them safe. Students who attend our schools have the right to learn in safety. We do not tolerate bullying of any kind and will challenge derogatory language and behaviour towards others.

Extremism is defined in the 2011 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.

Radicalisation refers to the process by which a person comes to support terrorism and extremist ideologies associated with terrorist groups.

British Values are democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs.

The duty to prevent children and young people being radicalised is set out in the following documents:

- Counter Terrorism and Security Act (2015)
- Keeping Children Safe in Education (2021)
- Prevent Duty Guidance (2015)
- Working together to Safeguard Children (2018)

Related Policies:

- Behaviour Policy
- Safeguarding Policy
- Staff Code of Conduct
- Whistleblowing Policy

## 3.0 Roles & Responsibilities

### 3.1 Role of the Head of School/Headteacher:

It is the role of the Head of School/Headteacher to:

- ensure that the school and its staff respond to preventing radicalisation on a day to-day basis,
- ensure that the school's curriculum addresses the issues involved in radicalisation
- ensure that staff conduct is consistent with preventing radicalisation.

### **3.2 Role of Designated Safeguarding Lead:**

It is the role of the designated safeguarding lead to:

- ensure that staff understand the issues of radicalisation, are able to recognise the signs of vulnerability or radicalisation and know how to refer their concerns
- receive safeguarding concerns about children and young people who may be vulnerable to the risk of radicalisation or are showing signs of radicalisation
- make referrals to appropriate agencies with regard to concerns about radicalisation
- liaise with partners, including the local authority and the police
- report to the Head of School / Headteacher on these matters.

### **3.3 Role of Staff:**

It is the role of staff to understand the issues of radicalisation and know how to refer their concerns.

## **4.0 Curriculum**

We are committed to ensuring that our students are offered a broad and balanced curriculum that aims to prepare them for life in modern Britain. We encourage our students to be inquisitive learners who are open to new experiences and are tolerant of others.

Our vision is to support the development of the whole child as a reflective learner within a calm, caring, happy and purposeful atmosphere. Teaching the schools' vision alongside the fundamental British values supports quality teaching and learning, whilst making a positive contribution to the development of a fair, just and civil society.

## **5.0 Internet Safety**

The internet provides children and young people with access to a wide range of content, some of which is harmful. Extremists use the internet, including social media, to share their messages. The filtering systems used in our school blocks inappropriate content, including extremist content.

## **6.0 Staff Training**

Staff will be given training to help them understand the issues of radicalisation, to be able to recognise the signs of vulnerability or radicalisation and to know how to refer their concerns. This information also forms part of induction safeguarding training. Staff are updated as necessary in weekly safeguarding briefings.

## **7.0 Safer Recruitment**

We ensure that the staff we appoint to the school are suitable, our recruitment procedures are rigorous and we follow the statutory guidance published in part 3 of Keeping Children Safe in Education (2021). Vetting and barring checks are undertaken on relevant people, including governors and volunteers.

## **8.0 Visitors**

Visitors to the school are made aware of our safeguarding and child protection policies and are given information about what to do if they are concerned about any aspect of child welfare

## **9.0 Signs of Vulnerability**

There are no known definitive indicators that a young person is vulnerable to radicalisation, but there are a number of signs that together increase the risk. Signs of vulnerability include:

- underachievement
- being in possession of extremist literature
- poverty

- social exclusion
- traumatic events
- global or national events
- religious conversion
- change in behaviour
- extremist influences
- conflict with family over lifestyle
- confused identity victim or witness to race or hate crimes
- rejection by peers, family, social groups or faith

## 10.0 Recognising Extremism

- Early indicators of radicalisation or extremism may include:
- showing sympathy for extremist causes
- glorifying violence, especially to other faiths or cultures
- making remarks or comments about being at extremist events or rallies
- evidence of possessing illegal or extremist literature
- advocating messages similar to illegal organisations or other extremist groups
- out of character changes in dress, behaviour and peer relationships (but there are also very powerful narratives, programs and networks that young people can come across online so involvement with particular groups may not be apparent)
- secretive behaviour
- online searches or sharing extremist messages or social profiles
- intolerance of difference, including faith, culture, gender, race or sexuality
- graffiti, art work or writing that displays extremist themes
- attempts to impose extremist views or practices on others
- verbalising anti-Western or anti-British views
- advocating violence towards others

## 11.0 Referral Process

Staff and visitors to the school must refer all concerns about children and young people who show signs of vulnerability or radicalisation to the Designated Safeguarding Lead, via CPOMS, or day, dated signed paper statement.

When there are significant concerns about a student the Designated Safeguarding Lead will make a referral to the Leicestershire Prevent Team, using the Prevent Referral form on the Leicestershire Traded Services website.

Channel is a multi-agency forum that offers help and guidance to people who may be at risk of becoming involved in extremism. Concerns that an individual may be vulnerable to radicalisation does not mean that you think the person is a terrorist; it means that you are concerned that they are prone to being exploited by others. Radicalisation of vulnerable children (including young children) and adults is a safeguarding issue.

It is important to use your professional judgement - if you are concerned that someone is at risk of getting involved in extremism, contact the Leicestershire Prevent Team.

<https://www.leicesterprevent.co.uk/>

## 12.0 Review

This policy will be reviewed by the Apollo Director of Care and Guidance at least annually.