PREVENT POLICY

2022-2025

Maritime Academy

Part of the Thinking Schools Academy Trust

Date of determination: May 2022

Review date: May 2025

THINKING SCHOOLS
ACADEMY TRUST

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STRENGTH – PRIDE – UNITY

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Aims

In order to fulfil the Prevent duty, it is essential that staff at the Maritime Academy identify children who may be vulnerable to radicalisation, and know what to do when they are identified. Protecting children from the risk of radicalisation is part of all of our wider safeguarding duties, and is similar in nature to protecting children from other harms (e.g. drugs, gangs, neglect, sexual exploitation), whether these come from within their family or are the product of outside influences.

We can also build pupils' resilience to radicalisation by promoting fundamental British Values and enabling them to challenge extremist views. We do not intend to stop pupils talking about or debating controversial issues. On the contrary, in school, we want to provide a safe space in which children, young people and staff can understand the risks associated with terrorism and develop the knowledge and skills to be able to challenge extremist arguments.

What is the Prevent duty?

The Prevent duty requires all schools to "have due regard to the need to prevent people being drawn into terrorism", under the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015. The duty covers all types of extremism, whether political, religious or ideological. https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/prevent-duty-guidance/revised-prevent-duty-guidance-for-england-and-wales

What is Extremism?

"Extremism" is 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. Included in the definition of extremism are calls for the death of members of the armed forces, whether in this country or overseas. Terrorist groups very often draw on extremist ideas developed by extremist organisations.

Risk Assessment

- We should be aware of the increased risk of online radicalisation, as terrorist organisations seek to radicalise young people through the use of social media and the internet.
- There is no single way of identifying an individual who is likely to be susceptible to a terrorist ideology. As with managing other safeguarding risks, we should be alert to changes in children's behaviour which could indicate that they may need help or protection. Children at risk of radicalisation may display different signs or seek to hide their views.

- School staff should use their professional judgment in identifying children who might be at risk of radicalisation and act proportionately.
- Even very young children may be vulnerable to radicalisation by others, whether in the family or outside, and display concerning behaviour. The Prevent duty does not require teachers or childcare providers to carry out unnecessary intrusion into family life but as with any other safeguarding risk, they must take action when they observe behaviour of concern.
- Procedures are in place for protecting children at risk of radicalisation. These procedures are set out in existing safeguarding policies.

Working in partnership

The Prevent duty builds on existing local partnership arrangements.

- Local Safeguarding Children Boards (LSCBs) are responsible for co-ordinating what is done by local agencies for the purposes of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in their local area.
- Local authorities are vital to all aspects of Prevent work - https://www.medway.gov.uk/info/200219/community_safety/1512/reporting_radicalisation_or_extremism_with_prevent
- Working in conjunction with other partners, in particular the police and also civil society organisations, may be able to provide advice and support
- Effective engagement with parents / the family is also important as they are in a key position to spot signs of radicalisation. We would look to assist and advise families who raise concerns and be able to point them to the right support mechanisms.

Staff training

The statutory guidance refers to the importance of Prevent awareness training to equip staff to identify children at risk of being drawn into terrorism and to challenge extremist ideas.

- All of our - Teaching and Support Staff receive training on Prevent as part of our Induction procedures.
- Any staff who join the Academy throughout the year are directed to complete the Prevent training alongside our Safeguarding training.

https://www.elearning.prevent.homeoffice.gov.uk/edu/screen1.html

IT policies

The statutory guidance makes clear the need for schools to ensure that children are safe from terrorist and extremist material when accessing the internet in schools.

- We ensure that suitable filtering is in place.

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- Internet safety is integral to our IT curriculum and is also embedded in SMSC.

Building children's resilience to radicalisation

Schools of all kinds can play a role in enabling young people to explore issues like terrorism and the wider use of violence in a considered and informed way. We believe that we can build pupils' resilience to radicalisation by providing a safe environment for debating controversial issues and helping them to understand how they can influence and participate in decision-making.

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 for reasons which go far beyond Prevent but they connect to the Prevent agenda.

We promote the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils and, within this, fundamental British values. This is effective in providing pupils with time to explore sensitive or controversial issues, and equipping them with the knowledge and skills to understand and manage difficult situations.

The subject teaches pupils to recognise and manage risk, make safer choices, and recognise when pressure from others threatens their personal safety and wellbeing. Through a robust tutor system that teaches the key principles of the British Values we encourage our students to exude those ideologies in their day to day life. Finally, in accordance with the new government guidelines surrounding the statutory teaching of relationships which came in to effect for September 2020, as part of our PSHE programme we explore the issues of radicalisation and extremism as part of the work we do on healthy and non-healthy relationships.

What happens if there is a concern?

- We/you may follow the school's normal Safeguarding and Child Protection procedures, including reporting concerns to Designated Safeguarding Lead, or on their absence the Principal.
- Possible Channel referrals will be discussed by the school Safeguarding Team if appropriate and in accordance with Government guidelines.
- We/you may contact our local police force or dial 101 (the non-emergency number).
- They can talk to you in confidence about your concerns and help you gain access to support and advice.
- The Department for Education has dedicated a telephone helpline (020 7340 7264) to enable you to raise concerns relating to extremism directly. Concerns can also be raised by email to counter.extremism@education.gsi.gov.uk . Please note that the helpline is not intended for use in emergency situations, such as a child being at immediate risk of harm or a security incident, in which case the normal emergency procedures should be followed.

Equality and Diversity

All developments are intended to ensure that no-one is treated in any way less favourably on the grounds of race, colour, national or ethnic or social origin, race, disability, gender, sexual orientation, gender reassignment, marriage & civil partnership, pregnancy & maternity, age, religion/ belief or political/ other personal beliefs.

Related Policies

- Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy
- Equal Opportunities Policy
- https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/439598/prevent-duty-departmental-advice-v6.pdf