



Woolwich Polytechnic
School for Girls



WOOLWICH POLYTECHNIC SCHOOL FOR GIRLS

Preventing Radicalisation Policy

Reviewed: September 2023
Approved: December 2023
Revision due: December 2024

Background

This 'Preventing 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 pupils 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.

Ethos

At Woolwich Polytechnic we ensure that through our school vision, values, rules, diverse curriculum and teaching we promote tolerance and respect for all cultures, faiths and lifestyles. The Local Academy Committee also ensures 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. Pupils who attend our school have the right to learn in safety. We do not tolerate bullying of any kind and will challenge derogatory language and behaviour towards others.

Statutory Duties

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 (2015)
- Prevent Duty Guidance (2015)
- Working together to Safeguard Children (2015)

Definitions

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.

Roles and Responsibilities

Role of the Local Academy Committee

It is the role of the Local Academy Committee to ensure that the school meets its statutory duties with regard to preventing radicalisation. The Local Academy Committee has a nominated person who will liaise with the Head of Schools and other staff about issues to do with protecting children from radicalisation.

Role of the Head of Schools

It is the role of the Head of Schools 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.

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 Local Academy Committee on these matters.

Role of Staff

It is the role of staff to understand the issues of radicalisation and know how to refer their concerns. To ensure that extremist ideas are challenged and reported.

Curriculum

We are committed to ensuring that our pupils are offered a broad and balanced curriculum that aims to prepare them for life in modern Britain. We encourage our pupils to be inquisitive learners who are open to new experiences and are tolerant of others. Our values support the development of the whole child as a reflective learner within a calm, caring, happy and purposeful atmosphere.

Teaching the schools core values 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.

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 the messages. The filtering and monitoring systems used in our

school blocks inappropriate content, including extremist content, and reports are sent to the DSP regarding inappropriate use of the internet.

Staff Training

Staff will be given training to help them understand the issues of radicalisation, are able to recognise the signs of vulnerability or radicalisation and know how to refer their concerns. This information also forms part of induction safeguarding training. This will happen every 2 years, and recorded on the staff training record.

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 Keeping Children Safe in Education (2018). Vetting and barring checks are undertaken on relevant people, including governors and volunteers. The Head of School and DSL have full Safer Recruitment training. There are also social media checks.

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.

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
- 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
- secretive behaviour
- online searcher 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

Referral Process

Staff and visitors to the school must refer all concerns about children and young people who show signs of vulnerability or radicalisation must be passed directly to the DSL using the usual methods for reporting other safeguarding concerns.

When there are significant concerns about a pupil the Designated Safeguarding Lead, in liaison with the Head of School, will make a referral to the appropriate body (Prevent, MASH, Early Help etc.)