

South Farnham Educational Trust

Prevent Policy

1. INTRODUCTION

South Farnham Educational Trust has a statutory duty under *The Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015* and the statutory *Prevent Guidance 2015* to have due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism.

Prevent is part of the Government's overall counter-terrorism strategy and has three specific objectives:

1. Respond to the ideological challenge of terrorism and the threat we face from those who promote it.
2. Prevent people from being drawn into terrorism and ensure that they are given appropriate advice and support.
3. Work with sectors and institutions where there are risks of radicalisation that we need to address.

In line with *Prevent Guidance 2015*, South Farnham Educational Trust has a zero tolerance acceptance of extremist behaviour and ensures that our care, guidance and curriculum empower young people to reject violent or extremist behaviour.

Whilst it remains very rare for primary school age children to become involved in extremist activity, young people can be exposed to extremist influences or prejudiced views, including via the internet, from an early age. Early intervention is a preferable way of tackling extremism.

2. EXTREMISM AND RADICALISATION

Extremism can be defined as vocal or active opposition to fundamental values of our society, including democracy, the rule of the law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs.

Radicalisation is defined as the act or process of encouraging extremist views or actions in others, including forms of extremism leading to terrorism.

There are a number of behaviours which may indicate a child is at risk of being radicalised or exposed to extremist views which could include becoming distant or showing loss of interest in friends and activities or possessions of materials or symbols associated with an extremist cause.

South Farnham Educational Trust staff are expected to be vigilant in protecting pupils from the threat of radicalisation and to refer any concerns to the Designated Safeguarding Lead. Staff will receive appropriate training to ensure they have the knowledge and confidence to identify pupils at risk, challenge extremist ideas and know where and how to refer concerns.

3. STRATEGIES FOR PREVENTING EXTREMISM

The Office for Security & Counter Terrorism (OSCT) works to counter the threat from terrorism and their work is detailed in the counter terrorism strategy CONTEST. This strategy is based on four areas of work:

- **Pursue** - to stop terrorist attacks
- **Prevent** - to stop people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism
- **Protect** - to strengthen our protection against a terrorist attack
- **Prepare** - to mitigate the impact of a terrorist attack

Our role as a trust/school is outlined more specifically in the Department for Children, Schools and Families (now Department for Education) document, *Learning together to be safe: A toolkit to help schools contribute to the prevention of violent extremism* in response to the first iteration of the Prevent Strategy in 2008, which was aimed to help schools contribute to the prevention of violent extremism, and the *Prevent Guidance 2015 (both appended)*.

4. AIMS

At South Farnham Educational Trust, we follow the principles outlined in the DCSF toolkit and the *Prevent Guidance 2015* which seeks to:

- **Raise awareness** within school of the threat from violent extremist groups and the risks for young people.
- Provide **information** about what can cause violent extremism, about preventative actions taking place locally and nationally and where we can get additional information and advice.
- Help schools understand the **positive contribution** they can make to empower young people to create communities that are more resilient to extremism and **protecting the wellbeing** of particular pupils or groups who may be vulnerable to being drawn into violent extremist activity.
- Provide advice on **managing risks** and responding to incidents locally, nationally or Internationally, that might have an impact on the school community.

South Farnham Educational Trust will use these principles to guide our work in all areas including building on our work in:

- Promoting Every Child Matters (ECM) outcomes for all pupils
- Promoting pupil wellbeing, equalities and community cohesion
- Building the resilience of the school, working with partners, to prevent pupils becoming the victims or causes of harm
- Working with other agencies and parents to build community networks of support for the school.

References

- HM Government (2008): Learning together to be safe: A toolkit to help schools contribute to the prevention of violent extremism, HMSO, London*
- HM Government (2015): Prevent Duty Guidance for England and Wales, Home Office*