

Prevent Duty Policy

From 1st July 2015 all schools, registered early years childcare providers are subject to a duty under section 26 of the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015, in the exercise of their functions, to have “due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism”. This duty is known as the Prevent duty. This applies to a wide range of public-facing bodies.

What is Radicalism?

Radicalism refers to the process by which a person comes to support terrorism and forms of extremism. Protecting children from the risk of radicalisation is seen as part of Rainbow Corner Nursery Schools wider safeguarding duties and is similar in nature to protecting children from other forms of harm and abuse. During the process of radicalisation it is possible to intervene to prevent vulnerable people being radicalised.

There is no single way of identifying an individual who is likely to be susceptible to an extremist ideology. It can happen in many different ways and settings. Specific background factors may contribute to vulnerability which are often combined with specific influences such as family, friends or online, and with specific needs for which an extremist or terrorist group may appear to provide an answer. The internet and the use of social media in particular has become a major factor in the radicalisation of young people.

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. We also include in our definition of extremism calls for the death of members of our armed forces, whether in this country or overseas.

Constant Practice and Procedure

At Rainbow Corner Nursery School it is essential that staff are able to identify children and/or their parents who may be vulnerable to radicalisation, and know what to do when they are identified. Protecting children from the risk of radicalisation should be seen as part of ‘schools and childcare providers’ 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 children’s resilience to radicalisation by promoting British Values and enabling them to challenge extremist views (for early years providers the statutory framework for the EYFS sets standards for learning, development and care for children from 0-5, thereby assisting their personal, social and emotional development and understanding of the world).

We will provide appropriate training for staff as soon as possible. Part of this training will enable staff to identify children who may be at risk of radicalisation.

We will assess the risk, by means of a formal risk assessment, of children being drawn into terrorism, including support for extremist ideas that are part of terrorist ideology.

We will ensure that all staff understand the risks, so that they can respond in an appropriate and proportionate way.

We will be aware of the online risk of radicalisation through the use of social media and the internet.

As with managing other safeguarding risks, our staff will be alert to changes in children's behaviour which could indicate that they may be in need of help or protection (children at risk of radicalisation may display different signs or seek to hide their views). The key person approach means we already know our key children well, and so we will be able to notice any changes in behaviour, demeanour personality quickly.

We will not carry out unnecessary intrusion into family life but we will take action when we observe behaviour of concern. The Key person approach means that we already have a rapport with our families so we will be able to notice any changes in behaviour, demeanour or personality quickly.

We will work in partnership with our Local Safeguarding Children Partnership for guidance and support.

We will build up an effective engagement with parents/carers and families. (This is important as they are in key position to spot signs of radicalisation).

We will assist and advise families who raise concerns with us. It is important to assist and advise families who raise concerns and be able to point them to the right support mechanisms.

We will ensure that our Designated Safeguarding Officers will undertake Prevent awareness training (as a minimum) so that they can offer advice and support to other members of staff.

We will ensure that any resources used in the nursery are age appropriate for the children in our care and that our have the knowledge and confidence to use the recourses effectively.

All staff are DBS checked and sign in a daily basis to confirm there are no changes to their personal circumstances that may affect their ability to work with children.

Procedure for reporting concerns

If a member of staff at Rainbow Corner Nursery School has a concern about a particular child or their parent/s, they should follow the nurseries normal safeguarding policy and procedures, including discussing with the Nursery Manager (Designated officer), who will, where deemed necessary, contact children's social care

You can also contact our local police force or dial 101 (the non-emergency number). They can talk to you in confidence about your concern and help you to gain access to support and advice. Also, they can advise you if this would be a case for Channel, the Department for Education has a dedicated telephone helpline (020 7340 7264) to enable staff and governors to raise concerns relating to extremism directly.

Concerns can also be raised by email to counter.extremism@education.gsi.gov.uk .

Channel

Channel is a programme which focuses on providing support at an early stage to people who are identified as being vulnerable to being drawn into terrorism. It provides a mechanism for Schools and childcare providers to make referrals if they are concerned that an individual might be vulnerable to radicalisation. An individual's engagement with the programme is entirely voluntary at all stages.

Section 36 of the CTSA 2015 places a duty on local authorities to ensure Channel panels are in place. The panel must be chaired by the local authority and include the police for the relevant local authority area. Following a referral the panel will assess the extent to which identified individuals are vulnerable to being drawn into terrorism, and where considered appropriate and necessary consent is obtained, to arrange for support to be provided to those individuals.

Useful Contacts:

Emma Fowles – Designated Safeguarding Officer
Abbie Hendry – Designated Safeguarding Officer
Clare Purdy – Designated Safeguarding Officer
Police Prevent Advice Line – 0800 011 3764
Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) – 08456 710 271 (Children’s Social Care)
Emergency Duty Team (out of hours) – 08456 004 555 (Children’s Services Department)
Portsmouth Safeguarding Children Partnership – 02392 841 540
Police (non-emergency) – 101
Channel is available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/channel-guidance>
Department for Education – 02073 407 264 – counter.extremism@education.gsi.gov.uk
Rebecca Paradise – LADO - 02392 882 500 - LADO@secure.portsmouthcc.gov.uk

Useful Guidance:

Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018
Keeping Children Safe in Education 2019
Prevent Duty 2015
Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage 2018
Inspecting Safeguarding in early years, education and skills settings 2019 (Ofsted)
Early Years Inspection Handbook 2019 (Ofsted)

Useful Links:

<https://actearly.uk/>
Portsmouth Safeguarding Children Partnership – <https://www.portsmouthscp.org.uk/>
Educate Against Hate - <https://educateagainsthate.com/>
NSPCC – <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/>
Childline – <https://www.childline.org.uk/>
E-learning Prevent - <https://www.elearning.prevent.homeoffice.gov.uk/edu/screen1.html>

This policy was reviewed on: 1st July 2024

By: Emma Fowles (Operations Manager)