



Sponsored by Academy Transformation Trust

Community Cohesion & Preventing Extremism & Radicalisation Policy

Adopted	March 2015
Date of Review	February 2016

*Inspire,
Aspire,
Achieve!*

Community Cohesion – Preventing Extremism

Statement of Intent

The Academy aims to:

- safeguard and protect the welfare of students
- fully promote community cohesion
- create a community that is resilient to different forms of extremism
- manage risks that may have an impact on the Academy community

This will be done through:

- Leadership and Values – promoting the core British values of shared responsibility and of democratic society
- Teaching, Learning and the Curriculum – promote universal rights and builds the resilience of students to explore controversial issues
- Student Support – staff take preventative steps to implement anti-bullying policies and challenge racist behaviour
- Manage Risks – understanding and managing internal and external risks, respond appropriately to local, national or international news that may impact on students and develop ICT security and responsible user policies.

Staff will ensure that students:

- become critical users of media and technology
- accept their own and others identity – cultural diversity
- become global citizens
- become independent enquirers and effective participators

Preventing Extremism and Radicalisation

Introduction

The Academy is committed to providing a secure environment for students, where children feel safe and are kept safe. All adults at the Academy recognise that safeguarding is everyone's responsibility, irrespective of the role they undertake or whether their role has direct contact or responsibility for children or not.

In adhering to this policy and the procedures therein, staff and visitors will contribute to the Academy's delivery of the outcomes to all children, as set out in Section 10 (2) of the Children Act 2004*. This Preventing Extremism and Radicalisation Policy is one element within our overall Academy arrangements to Safeguard and Promote the Welfare of all Children, in line with our statutory duties set out at Section 175 of the Education Act 2002 (Section 157 of the Education Act 2002).

This policy also draws upon the guidance contained in DfE Guidance "Keeping Children Safe in Education, 2014"; and specifically DCSF Resources "Learning Together to be Safe", "Prevent: Resources Guide", "Tackling Extremism in the UK", DfE's "Teaching Approaches that help Build Resilience to Extremism among Young People" and Peter Clarke's Report of July 2014.

* *the physical, mental health and emotional well-being of children; the protection of children from harm and neglect; the education, training and recreation of children; the contribution made by them to society; and their social and economic well-being.*

2. Academy Ethos & Practice

When operating this policy, the Academy uses the following accepted Governmental definition of extremism which 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; and/or calls for the death of members of our armed forces, whether in this country or overseas'.

There is no place for extremist views of any kind in our Academy, whether from internal sources - students, staff or Advisory Council members, external sources - the Academy community, external agencies or individuals. Our students see the Academy as a safe place where they can explore controversial issues safely and where teachers encourage and facilitate this - we have a duty to ensure this happens.

As an Academy we recognise that extremism and exposure to extremist materials and influences can lead to poor outcomes for children and so should be addressed as a safeguarding concern as set out in this policy. We also recognise that if we fail to challenge extremist views we are failing to protect our students.

Extremists of all persuasions aim to develop destructive relationships between different communities by promoting division, fear and mistrust of others based on ignorance or prejudice and thereby limiting the life chances of young people. Education is a powerful weapon against this; equipping young people with the knowledge, skills and critical thinking, to challenge and debate in an informed way.

Therefore, the Academy will provide a broad and balanced curriculum, delivered by skilled professionals, to enrich our students so they understand and become tolerant of difference and diversity and also to ensure that they thrive, feel valued and not marginalized.

Furthermore, at the Academy, we are aware that young people can be exposed to extremist influences or prejudiced views from an early age which emanate from a variety of sources and media, including the internet and, at times, students may themselves reflect or display views that may be discriminatory, prejudiced or extremist, including using derogatory language.

Any prejudice, discrimination or extremist views, including derogatory language, displayed by students or staff will always be challenged and, where appropriate, dealt with in line with our Behaviour Policy for students and the Code of Conduct for staff. Where misconduct by a teacher is proven, the matter will be referred to our Human Resources Department for their consideration as to whether a Prohibition Order is warranted.

As part of wider safeguarding responsibilities, Academy staff will be alert to:

- Disclosures by students of their exposure to the extremist actions, views or materials of others outside of the Academy, such as in their homes or community groups, especially where students have not actively sought these out
- Graffiti symbols, writing or art work promoting extremist messages or images
- Students accessing extremist material online, including through social networking sites

- Parental reports of changes in behaviour, friendship or actions and requests for assistance
- Partner schools, local authority services, police reports of issues affecting students in other schools or settings
- Students voicing opinions drawn from extremist ideologies and narratives
- Use of extremist or 'hate' terms to exclude others or incite violence
- Intolerance of difference, whether secular or religious or, in line with our equalities policy, views based on, but not exclusive to, gender, transgender, disability, homophobia, race, colour or culture
- Attempts to impose extremist views or practices on others
- Anti-western or Anti-British views.

The Academy will closely follow any locally agreed procedure as set out by the Local Authority and/or the Local Authority Safeguarding Children Board's agreed processes and criteria for safeguarding individuals vulnerable to extremism and radicalisation.

At the Academy, we have determined "British Values" to be:

- Democracy
- The rule of law
- Individual liberty
- Mutual respect
- Tolerance of those with different faiths, beliefs and lifestyles

As an Academy, we aim to develop and nurture these by having:

- a vibrant, engaging Assembly programme with core ethical values and beliefs at its heart
- a well-structured Personal, Social, Health and Citizenship education programme which addresses all of the requirements of the programmes of study (looking at Democracy, Freedom, the rule of law, Human Rights and responsibilities)
- a strong Religious Education programme in every phase
- an effective and well-managed School Council and Student Aspirations Team enabling students to actively participate in the democratic process
- a broad and balanced curriculum which addresses many of these core values across a range of subject areas
- a clearly communicated and consistently applied Behaviour Policy so that students understand what is expected of them and the consequences of both meeting and failing to meet these expectations
- a Code of Conduct which is regularly referred to and communicated with students, reiterating that we are a school community built on mutual respect and understanding
- a restorative approach, where possible, to resolve any difficulties between members of our Academy community
- a rigorous commitment to student safety (for example, trips and visits policy and procedures, Safeguarding procedures, Code of Conduct and Health and Safety procedures).

Teaching Approaches

We will all strive to eradicate the myths and assumptions that can lead to some young people becoming alienated and disempowered, especially where the narrow approaches children may experience elsewhere may make it harder for them to challenge or question these radical influences. In the Academy this will be achieved by good teaching, primarily via PSHE but also by adopting the

methods outlined in the Government's guidance 'Teaching approaches that help build resilience to extremism among young people' DfE 2011.

We will ensure that all of our teaching approaches help students build resilience to extremism and give students a positive sense of identity through the development of critical thinking skills. We will ensure that all of our staff are equipped to recognise extremism and are skilled and confident enough to challenge it.

We will be flexible enough to adapt our teaching approaches as appropriate, so as to address specific issues and become even more relevant to the current issues of extremism and radicalisation. In doing so we will apply the 'key ingredients' for success as set out in the Table in Appendix 1, taken from the DfE document referenced above and we will apply the methodologies set out in that document following the three broad categories of:

- making a connection with young people through good teaching and a student centered approach
- facilitating a 'safe space' for dialogue, and
- equipping our students with the appropriate skills, knowledge, understanding and awareness for resilience.

Therefore this approach will be embedded within the ethos of the Academy so that students know and understand what safe and acceptable behaviour is in the context of extremism and radicalisation. This will work in conjunction with the Academy's approach to the Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural development of students as defined in OFSTED's School Inspection Handbook and will include the sound use of assemblies to help further promote this rounded development of our students.

Our goal is to build mutual respect and understanding and to promote the use of dialogue, not violence, as a form of conflict resolution. We will achieve this by using a curriculum that includes:

- open discussion and debate
- work on anti-violence and a restorative approach addressed throughout the curriculum and the behaviour policy
- focused educational programmes.

We will also work with local partners, families and communities in our efforts to ensure our school understands and embraces our local context and values in challenging extremist views and to assist in the broadening of our students' experiences and horizons.

We will help support students who may be vulnerable to such influences as part of our wider safeguarding responsibilities and where we believe a student is being directly affected by extremist materials or influences we will ensure that that student is offered mentoring. Additionally, in such instances, the Academy will seek external support from the Local Authority and/or local partnership structures working to prevent extremism.

The Academy will promote the values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, mutual respect and tolerance for those with different faiths and beliefs. We will teach and encourage students to respect one another and to respect and tolerate difference, especially those of a different faith or no faith. It is indeed our most fundamental responsibility to keep our students safe and prepare them for life in modern multi-cultural Britain and globally.

Use of External Agencies and Speakers

The Academy encourages the use of external agencies or speakers to enrich the experiences of our students. However, we will positively vet those external agencies, individuals or speakers who we engage to provide such learning opportunities or experiences for our students.

These external agencies will be vetted to ensure that we do not unwittingly use agencies that contradict each other with their messages or that are inconsistent with, or are in complete opposition to, the Academy's values and ethos. We must be aware that in some instances, the work of external agencies may not directly be connected with the rest of the Academy curriculum so we need to ensure that this work is of benefit to students.

The Academy will assess the suitability and effectiveness of input from external agencies or individuals to ensure that:

- any messages communicated to students are consistent with the ethos of the school and do not marginalise any communities, groups or individuals
- any messages do not seek to glorify criminal activity or violent extremism or seek to radicalise students through extreme or narrow views of faith, religion or culture or other ideologies
- activities are properly embedded in the curriculum and clearly mapped to schemes of work to avoid contradictory messages or duplication
- activities are matched to the needs of students
- activities are carefully evaluated by schools to ensure that they are effective.

We recognise, however, that the ethos of the Academy is to encourage students to understand opposing views and ideologies, appropriate to their age, understanding and abilities, and to be able to actively engage with them in informed debate and we may use external agencies or speakers to facilitate and support this.

Therefore by delivering a broad and balanced curriculum and enrichment programme augmented by the use of external sources where appropriate, we will strive to ensure our students recognise risk and build resilience to manage any such risk themselves where appropriate to their age and ability but also to help students develop the critical thinking skills needed to engage in informed debate.

Whistle Blowing

Where there are concerns of extremism or radicalisation, students, staff, parents and Advisory Council members will be encouraged to make use of our internal systems to Whistle Blow or raise any issue in confidence.

They must inform the Principal/Head of School immediately (or if it relates to the Principal/Head of School, inform the Executive Principal) or an appropriate external agency (e.g. Police, LA, DfE or EFA).

Safeguarding

Please refer to our Safeguarding Policy for the full procedural framework on our Safeguarding and Child Protection duties.

Staff at the Academy will be alert to the fact that whilst Extremism and Radicalisation is broadly a safeguarding issue, there may be some instances where a child or children may be at direct risk of harm or neglect. For example, this could be due to a child displaying risky behaviours in terms of the activities they are involved in or the groups they are associated with or staff may be aware of information about a child's family that may equally place a child at risk of harm (these examples are for illustration and are not definitive or exhaustive).

Therefore, all adults working in the Academy, including visiting staff, volunteers, contractors, and students on placement, are required to report instances where they believe a child may be at risk of harm or neglect to the Designated Senior Leads or Principal/Head of School.

The Academy Safeguarding reporting arrangements are set out fully in our Safeguarding Policy.

The Designated Senior Leads are:

- Fatima Rodrigues – Head of Academy
- Martin Agyei – Child Protection Officer

The Designated Senior Lead works in-line with the responsibilities as set out at Annex B of the DfE Guidance 'Keeping Children Safe in Education' which is detailed in the Safeguarding Policy.

The Role of the Local Governing Body

The Local Governing Body will undertake appropriate training to ensure that they are clear about their role and the parameters of their responsibilities, including their statutory safeguarding duties.

They will support the ethos and values of the Academy and will support the Academy in tackling extremism and radicalisation.

In-line with the provisions set out in the DfE guidance 'Keeping Children Safe in Education, 2014' the Governing Body will challenge the Academy's senior management team on the delivery of this policy and monitor its effectiveness.