




'Christ at the centre, children at the heart'

Our Lady of Walsingham Catholic MAT

Company No: 08444133

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Signed by Trust CEO:	
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PREVENT POLICY

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Trust Policy Statement

Our Lady of Walsingham Catholic Multi Academy Trust (OLOW) regards the safeguarding and welfare of our pupils as paramount. For the purpose of this policy, the term Trust refers to OLOW. The Trust is committed to ensuring that pupils, staff, and parents/carers understand the absolute importance of preventing pupils from being drawn into terrorism. The Trust recognises that safeguarding against extremism and radicalisation is no different from safeguarding against any other vulnerability.

As part of our focus on diversity and inclusion, OLOW pledges that our policies will seek to promote equality, fairness, and respect for all staff and pupils. Our policies reflect the OLOW values of Catholic social teaching, inclusion, compassion, aspiration, resilience, and excellence.

Background

This 'Prevent Policy' is part of our commitment to keeping children safe. In a landscape where recent global events have led to a growth of extremist viewpoints, the Trust recognises that its duty to promote community cohesion within our schools is more vital than ever.

In accordance with the Counter Terrorism and Security Act (2015) and the Government's Prevent Strategy, the Trust and all our schools have a responsibility which means we must work to prevent children from being drawn into terrorism. We have an important part in both educating children and young people about extremism and recognising when pupils start to become radicalised.

It is recognised that there have been instances in the UK in which extremist groups have attempted to radicalise vulnerable children, both in person and online, to hold extreme views including those that justify political, religious, sexist, transphobic, homophobic or racist violence, or steer them into a rigid and narrow ideology that is intolerant of diversity.

Safeguarding children from all risks of harm is an important part of every school's work and protecting them from extremism and radicalisation is one aspect of that.

Aims of the Policy

This Prevent Policy aims to achieve the following key objectives:

- To work in conjunction with other relevant policies to ensure that all pupils are safe and our schools are environments that are free from bullying, harassment and discrimination.
- To support pupils who may be at risk of radicalisation by signposting appropriate sources of advice and guidance.
- To ensure that all stakeholders are aware of their roles and responsibilities in preventing extremism and radicalisation.
- To promote and reinforce the Trust and British Values which support pupils to develop their own self-awareness, knowledge and encourage them to use their voice confidently in safe and open debate.
- To promote social cohesion by supporting inter-faith and inter-cultural dialogue that develops cultural capital, understanding and prepares pupils to play a full and active role in the wider society.

Ethos

The Trust aims to ensure that through our vision, values, rules, diverse curriculum and teaching we promote tolerance and respect for all cultures, faiths and lifestyles.

All staff in the Trust and across our schools are expected to uphold and promote the fundamental principles of British values including democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect, and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs.

Throughout the Trust, we value freedom of speech and the expression of beliefs as fundamental rights that underpin our society's values. We want to develop our pupils to be confident in articulating their views and opinions about the world and provide safe spaces for them to explore these beliefs with others who may disagree.

Free speech, however, comes with responsibility and that which manipulates the vulnerable or leads to violence and harm against others will not be tolerated, as it goes against the moral principles on which free speech is valued. We have a duty to prepare our pupils for life in modern Britain and to provide an educational environment in which they feel safe.

Definitions

Extremism is defined in the Counter Extremism Strategy 2015 as '*vocal or active opposition to fundamental values, including democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and the mutual respect and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs. We also regard calls for the death of members of our armed forces as extremist*'.

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 Trust Board

It is the role of the Trust Board to ensure that the Trust meets its statutory duties regarding the Government's Prevent strategy.

There is a nominated Safeguarding Director who will liaise with the Head of Safeguarding about the Trust's safeguarding strategy, including Prevent.

Role of Local Governing Bodies

Each governing body has a nominated Safeguarding Governor who will liaise with the Head Teacher and Designated Safeguarding Lead about the school's safeguarding arrangements, including those in relation to Prevent.

Role of the Head Teacher

It is the role of the Head Teacher in each of our schools to:

- Ensure that the school and its staff respond to preventing radicalisation and extremism on a day-to-day basis by following safeguarding policy and procedures.
- Ensure that the school's curriculum addresses the issues involved in radicalisation and Extremism.
- Ensure that staff conduct is consistent with preventing radicalisation and extremism.

Role of Designated Safeguarding Lead

It is the role of the Designated Safeguarding Lead to:

- Ensure that staff understand the issues of radicalisation and extremism, can recognise the signs of vulnerability to radicalisation and extremism and know how to refer their concerns in line with safeguarding procedures.
- Receive safeguarding concerns about children and young people who may be vulnerable to the risks of radicalisation and extremism or are showing signs of radicalisation or extremism and intervene as appropriate in line with safeguarding procedures.
- Make referrals to appropriate agencies with regard to concerns about radicalisation and extremism.
- Represent the school in any multi-agency processes (such as the Channel Panel) that are implemented to safeguard any pupils who are at risk of being drawn into terrorist activity.
- Liaise with partners, including the Trust, Children's Social Care and the Police.

Role of Staff

It is the role of all staff to understand the issues of radicalisation and extremism, recognise the signs and indicators of radicalisation and extremism, identify pupils who may be more vulnerable to radicalisation and extremism, and to refer any concerns onto the Designated Safeguarding Lead in line with the safeguarding policy.

Staff Training

Staff will be given training to help them understand the issues of radicalisation, extremism and their responsibilities under the Prevent strategy. This training will help to ensure that all staff are able to recognise the signs of vulnerability to radicalisation and know how to refer their concerns in line with safeguarding procedures.

Radicalisation and extremism will be covered in mandatory basic awareness safeguarding training on an annual basis, and our schools are expected to ensure that their staff have specific Prevent training on an annual basis.

This training is also part of the induction for all new staff employed by the Trust.

Curriculum

The Trust values in combination with each school's own values support the development of the whole child as a reflective learner within a calm, caring, happy, and purposeful atmosphere. This values-based education is vital to help pupils build resilience to harmful extremist ideologies.

The Trust is committed to ensuring that our pupils are offered a broad and balanced curriculum that aims to prepare them for life in modern Britain. This will be achieved by:

- Embedding equality, diversity, inclusion, wellbeing, and community cohesion throughout the curriculum.
- Promoting the development of wider skills such as the social and emotional aspects of learning.
- Ensuring the curriculum recognises local needs, challenges extremist narratives and promotes universal rights.
- Using teaching and learning strategies that allow pupils to explore controversial issues in ways that promote critical analysis in a calm, safe, and respectful manner.
- Engaging with external partners and experts who can support pupil learning in a way that matches Diocesan, Trust and school's values.
- Encouraging active citizenship and providing opportunities for pupils to contribute positively to their community.

Online Safety

The internet provides children and young people with access to a wide range of content, some of which is harmful. Extremists can use the internet, including social media, to share their messages and radicalise vulnerable children.

The Trust ensures that all of our schools have appropriate filtering and monitoring systems in place that are configured to block inappropriate content, including that which is extremist. IT technicians will alert senior staff where there are concerns and prevent further access if any harmful new sites that are unblocked are found.

Where staff, pupils or visitors find unblocked extremist content, they must report it to the Designated Safeguarding Lead immediately or as soon as possible after the discovery is made.

We are aware that children and young people may have access to unfiltered internet when using their mobile phones and as they get older, so our schools will deliver an online safety curriculum that teaches them the principles of keeping themselves online at an age-appropriate level as they move through their school career.

Signs and Indicators 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 but are not limited to:

- 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/sexuality/religious beliefs/politics
- confused identity e.g. gender or sexuality
- low self-esteem
- victim or witness to race or hate crimes
- rejection by peers, family, social groups or faith

Early indicators of radicalisation or extremism may include but are not limited to:

- showing sympathy for extremist causes

- glorifying violence, especially to people of other faiths or cultures
- making remarks or comments about being at extremist events or rallies outside school
- evidence of possessing illegal or extremist literature
- advocating messages like that of illegal organisations or other extremist groups
- out of character changes in dress, behaviour and peer relationships (although we are mindful that there are also very powerful narratives, programmes and networks that young people can come across online so involvement with particular groups may not be apparent)
- secretive behaviour
- online searches or sharing extremist messages or social profiles
- intolerance of difference, including faith, culture, gender, race or sexuality
- graffiti, artwork or writing that displays extremist themes
- attempts to impose extremist views or practices on others
- advocating violence towards others

Responding to Concerns and the Referral Process

All concerns about children and young people who show signs or indicators of vulnerability to extremism or radicalisation must be passed to the Designated Safeguarding Lead 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 Teacher/Principal will make a referral to the appropriate bodies such as the Police and the local authority.

Visitors

Staff must not invite visiting speakers into school without first obtaining permission from their Head Teacher.

Where schools do proceed with inviting a visiting speaker into school, due diligence must be undertaken on the content of their input to ensure that it is in line with Diocesan, Trust and school values.

Visitors to our schools are made aware of safeguarding procedures on arrival and are given information about what to do if they are concerned about any aspect of child welfare.

Speakers will be supervised at all times and will not be allowed to speak to pupils without a member of staff being present.

Each of our schools are vigilant to the possibility that out-of-hours hire of the premises may be requested by people wishing to run an extremist event. We do not accept bookings from individuals or organisations that are extremist in their views.

Links with Guidance and Other Policies

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 \(2022\)](#)
- [Prevent Duty Guidance \(2015\)](#)
- [Channel Duty Guidance \(2021\)](#)
- [Working Together to Safeguard Children \(2018\)](#)
- [The Equality Act \(2010\)](#)
- [The European Convention on Human Rights \(ECHR\)](#)
- [Bradford District Prevent Action Plan 2022-2024](#)

This Prevent Policy should also be read in conjunction with the following Trust and school level policies:

- Acceptable Use of IT Policy
- Anti-Bullying Policy
- Behaviour Policy
- Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy
- Equality Statement and Objectives
- Lettings Policy
- Personal, Social and Health Education Policy
- Relationships and Sex Education Policy
- Staff Code of Conduct
- Whistleblowing Policy