PREVENTING EXTREMISM AND RADICALISATION

Rationale

Wearmouth Learning Trust is fully committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all of its students and we recognise that safeguarding against radicalisation is as important as safeguarding against any other vulnerability.

At Wearmouth Learning Trust all staff 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.

The Trust Board has a zero tolerance approach to extremist behaviour for all community members. We rely on our strong values to steer our work and ensure the pastoral care of our students which protects them from exposure to negative influences.

Furthermore, our positive promotion of our Behaviour Policy equips our students with the skills to reject violence in all its forms.

Aims and Objectives

The main aims of this policy statement are to ensure that:
- staff are fully engaged in being vigilant about radicalisation;
- staff maintain an attitude of 'it could happen here'; and
- we work alongside other professional bodies and agencies to ensure that our students are safe from harm.

The principle objectives are that:
- all directors, governors and staff will have an understanding of what radicalisation and extremism are and why we need to be vigilant in school
- all directors, governors and staff will know what the academy policy is on anti-radicalisation and extremism and will follow the policy when issues arise
- all parents/carers and students know that the academy has policies in place to keep students safe from harm and that the academy regularly reviews its systems to ensure they are appropriate and effective
- students are encouraged to adopt and live out the 'British Values' of tolerance, respect, understanding, compassion and harmonious living
- students are helped to understand the importance of democracy and freedom of speech, through assemblies and through the elected School Council members
- students are taught how to keep themselves safe, in school and when using the internet and other forms of modern technology
- students participate in local community events so that they appreciate and value their neighbours and friends who may not share their faith background
- students wellbeing, confidence and resilience is promoted through our planned curriculum , personal development, enrichment and learning opportunities
- students are supported in making good choices from a very young age, so they understand the impact and consequences of their actions on others.
- The Office for Security and Counter Terrorism works to counter the threat from terrorism and their work is detailed in the counter terrorism strategy. This strategy is based on four areas of work:
  - Pursue – To stop terrorist attacks
  - Prevent – To stop people becoming terrorist or supporting terrorism

- o Protect – To strengthen out protection against a terrorist attack
- o Prepare – To mitigate the impact of a terrorist accack

Definitions and Indicators

Radicalisation is defined as the act or process of making a person more radical or favouring of extreme or fundamental changes in political, economic or social conditions, institutions or habits of the mind.

Extremism is defined as the holding of extreme political or religious views.

Procedures and Referrals

Although serious incidents involving radicalisation have not occurred within our academies to date, it is important for us to be constantly vigilant and remain fully informed about the issues which affect the region in which we teach.

Staff are reminded to suspend any professional disbelief that instances of radicalisation 'could not happen here' and to refer any concerns through the Designated Safeguarding Lead or their deputy.

As a Trust it is our duty to safeguard children and young people against being drawn into violent and non-violent extremism. Staff should be vigilant and be aware of the possible risks faced within school:
- A student/former student caries out an act of extremism
- A student tries to radicalise another within school
- Dangerous or inappropriate literature is brought into school
- Dangerous or inappropriate literature is accessed in school
- Students leave school and travel to dangerous locations
- Parents remove children from school to visit dangerous locations
- Use of school premises by an extremist speaker
- Use of school premises by and extremist club/society.

Channel is a key element of the Prevent strategy. It is a multi-agency approach to protect people at risk from radicalisation. Channel uses existing collaboration between local authorities, statutory partners (such as health, education, social services), the police and local community to follow a five stage process:
1. Individual or potential concern is identified
2. Referral made to Prevent Team/Channel Officer
3. Preliminary assessment; engagement, capability, intent
4. Multi Agency Panel
5. Support Package (diversion, mentoring etc)

If a member of staff has a concern the academy's normal safeguarding procedures should be followed, including discussing with the academy's designated safeguarding lead, and where deemed necessary, with children's social care.

If necessary a referral should be made to Together For Children's Integrated Contact and Referral Team using the Child Protection/Child in Need/Child Concern referral form and clearly mark prevent on the referral.

The local police can also discuss concerns in confidence (dial 101)

The Department for Education has a dedicated telephone helpline to enable staff and governors/directors to raise concerns relating to extremism directly (020 7340 7265) or can be contacted by email (counter.extremism@education.gov.uk). Please note however, that the helpline is not intended for emergency use, in which case normal emergency safeguarding procedures should be followed.

The Role of the Curriculum

- our curriculum promotes respect, tolerance and diversity. Students are encouraged to share their views and recognise that they are entitled to have their own different beliefs, which should not be used to influence others
- our PHSE and SMSC provision is embedded across the curriculum
- It is recognised that children with low aspirations are more vulnerable to radicalisation and therefore we strive to equip all our students with confidence, self-belief, respect and tolerance as well as setting high standards and expectations for themselves
- students are regularly taught about how to stay safe when using the internet and other forms of modern technology and are encouraged to recognise that people are not always who they say they are online.

Students are taught to seek adult help if they are upset or concerned about anything they read or see online or in any other form.

Staff Training

Through INSET and other training opportunities we will ensure that our staff are full aware of the threats, risks and vulnerabilities that are linked to radicalisation; are aware of the process of radicalisation and how this might be identified early.

Please note that this protocol should be read in conjunction with the:
Child Protection Policy
Equality and Diversity Policy
Behaviour Policy
Anti-Bullying Policy
E-Safety Policy
Working Together to Safeguard Children (2018)
Keeping Children Safe in Education (2018)

This policy was updated in October 2018 and will be reviewed every 2 years or earlier if necessary.

Signed_____ Executive Headteacher   Date_____

Signed _____ Director   Date_____