

Statement on Prevent

Codsall High Federation of Schools

Introduction

Codsall High Federation of Schools is committed to providing a secure environment for students and all staff recognise that safeguarding and creating a safeguarding culture is the responsibility of everyone who works for the Federation.

The National Prevent Strategy

Codsall High Federation supports the Home Office '4P' Prevent strategy to combat radicalisation and terrorism. The 4P's are:

Protect - to strengthen protection against a terrorist attack in the UK or against its interests overseas and so reduce their vulnerability. This work focuses on border security, the transport system, national infrastructure and public places

Prepare - to mitigate the impact of a terrorist attack where that attack cannot be stopped. This includes work to bring a terrorist attack to an end and to increase the UK's resilience to facilitate recovery from its aftermath

Pursue - to stop terrorist attacks by detecting, prosecuting and otherwise disrupting those who plot to carry out attacks against the UK or its interests overseas

Prevent - to stop people from becoming or supporting terrorism. This includes countering terrorist ideology and challenging those who promote it; supporting individuals who are especially vulnerable to becoming radicalised; and working with sectors and institutions where the risk of radicalisation is assessed to be high.

Whilst the first three strands are clearly the remit of the government and security services, the fourth one is one to which schools and those who work with young people in a wider setting such as youth workers or Social Services can contribute. Codsall High Federation acknowledges this, supports the strategy and strives to take an active part of the Prevent section of the strategy both at a whole school and an individual level. Prevent is a strategy that is also endorsed and supported by Staffordshire County Council

Prevent is a strategy that works to prevent the growth of issues that create a climate which facilitates radicalisation to occur, by creating a climate of mutual trust in which young people grow and develop. This climate works against creating circumstances in which young people feel isolated and become vulnerable to exploitation by those who wish to further a radical agenda.

The creation of schools that are secure and safe places based on appreciation and respect for all has always been a stated aim of the Federation and continues to be so in the school's clear statement of Equality and related policies and procedures.

Extremism in all its forms has no place at Codsall High Federation, as exposure to both extremist materials and influences is detrimental to the development of young people. Extremists of all kinds aim to develop destructive relationships between different communities by promoting division, fear and mistrust of others based on ignorance or prejudice. Education is a powerful weapon against this as it equips young people

with the knowledge, skills and sound judgement to challenge and debate these issues in a secure environment.

At Codsall High Federation of Schools, the Prevent strategy is furthered by –

1. Raising Awareness of the issue of radicalisation with staff so that those who work with young people at the schools appreciate that they are a front line strategy, and act accordingly. This is done through staff training. Federation staff appreciate how positive relationships created within school can remedy the factors that create the environment for dangers of radicalisation. All staff undertook Prevent strategy CPD between September 2015 and May 2016 led by The Staffordshire police prevent Delivery Officer and a trained member of staff Mr David Currall, Inclusion and Mentoring Officer.

Pastoral staff will specifically monitor students under their care and curriculum leaders will ensure that opportunities for combatting radicalisation should be taken when they arise directly in lessons, and indirectly all the time in making sure no student is marginalised or excluded from activities or learning.

2. Raising student awareness: through the curriculum, where a clear understanding of history / religion / tradition promotes an appropriate understanding of the origins of movements such as Nazism and promoting an understanding of Islam and other world religions based on peaceful messages and intent. The pastoral curriculum is designed to encourage students to want to be part of an inclusive society, and the importance of Citizenship is stressed as students are encouraged through learning to strengthen their sense of belonging. Subjects will when applicable, foster an understanding of what terrorism is and how it occurs.

3. Creating an inclusive school: which appreciates the importance of SMSC (Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural) values and delivers it through a shared curriculum for all, encouraging full participation in a broad and balanced curriculum.

4. Celebrating success for all: The reward systems at the schools celebrate and reward achievement and effort, is open to all students and monitored for inclusivity by the Heads of House.

5. Responding to concerns: All concerns raised by staff or other students are investigated as Safeguarding issues according to the school safeguarding protocol and policy. Issues regarding further investigation are reported to the Staffordshire Prevent team for discussion and further action as appropriate.

6. Robust Safeguarding protocols and procedures: All policies and procedures are reviewed as per the policy schedule. The Federation is fully committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all its students. As a Federation we recognise that safeguarding against radicalisation is no different from safeguarding against any other vulnerability. All staff are expected to uphold and promote the fundamental principles of British values, as defined in the Prevent strategy.

7. Clear channels of communication: for passing on concerns. Staffordshire County Council Prevent team have a clear procedure (called 'Channel') which the Federation supports and recognises that concerns passed on to them will be dealt with appropriately.

Should concerns arise about this then the Federation's Whistleblowing policy will be enacted and concerns reported until appropriate action is taken at further level.

8. Internet monitoring: The Federation ICT network applies screening to all internet traffic coming through the schools' servers. Websites with radicalised content are screened through this system. Students found wanting to access sites with radicalised content will be referred through the Staffordshire County Council's Prevent referral process to Channel.

Tackling extremism at Burntwood:

At Codsall High Federation of Schools, 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 via the internet, and at times learners 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 learners or staff will always be challenged and dealt with in line with the relevant policies on student behaviour or staff conduct.

As part of wider safeguarding responsibilities staff will be alert to and report using the Federation Safeguarding protocol. Examples are detailed below:

- Graffiti symbols, writing or art work promoting extremist messages or images
- Students accessing extremist material online, including through social networking sites. Disclosures by students of their exposure to the extremist actions, views or materials of others outside of school, such as in their homes or community groups
- Parental reports of changes in behaviour, friendship or actions and requests for assistance
- Other local schools, local authority services, and police reports of issues affecting their students
- Learners 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, disability, sexuality, race, colour or culture
- Attempts to impose extremist views or practices on others
- Anti-Western or Anti-British views

We will strive to eradicate the myths and assumptions that can lead to some young people becoming alienated and disempowered, especially where the narrow approaches young people may experience elsewhere may make it harder for them to challenge or question these radical influences.

We will strive to ensure that our support and approaches will help our students build resilience to extremism and give them a positive sense of identity through the development of critical thinking skills.

We will provide staff training to ensure that all of our staff are equipped to recognise extremism and are skilled and confident enough to challenge it. 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 also work with local partners, families and communities in our efforts to ensure that

students from across the Federation; understand and embrace our local context and values in challenging extremist views, and to assist in the broadening of young people's experiences and horizons.

We will help support learners 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 refer the student through the Channel reporting process for help and support.

Use of External Agencies and Speakers

External agencies or speakers can enrich the experiences of our students, however we will endeavour to ensure that we do not unwittingly use agencies that are inconsistent with, or are in complete opposition to the Federation's values and ethos.

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 PSHCE (Personal, Social, Health, Citizenship Education) is embedded across the curriculum and through the wider school life, and it underpins the inclusive ethos of the schools.

It is recognised that students with low aspirations are more vulnerable to radicalisation and therefore we strive to equip our students with confidence, self-belief, resilience, respect and tolerance as well as setting high standards and expectation for themselves.

Students are regularly taught how to stay safe when using the Internet and are encouraged to recognise that people are not always who they say they are online. They are taught to seek adult help if they are upset or concerned about anything they read or see on the Internet.

Staff Training

Through INSET opportunities in schools, we will ensure that our governors and staff are fully 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 on. Training from the Staffordshire County Council Prevent team will be facilitated and updated as this becomes available.

Policy Review

This policy statement will be reviewed regularly to reflect Government initiatives and developments in this field as applicable to schools.

Definitions for clarification:

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 which may deny rights to any group or individual. It can be expressed in vocal or active opposition to fundamental British values including democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and respectful tolerance of different faiths or beliefs.