



Policy: Prevent Policy

Independent School Standards:

Next review by governors

Latest update

February 2020

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1. Introduction

In order to fulfil the Prevent duty, it is essential that staff at Ocean Lodge Independent School identify Pupils who may be vulnerable to radicalisation, and know what to do when they are identified.

Protecting Pupils from the risk of radicalisation is part of all of our wider safeguarding duties, and is similar in nature to protecting Pupils from other harmful behaviours (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 pupils' resilience to radicalisation by promoting fundamental British Values (see British Values Policy) and enabling them to challenge extremist views. We do not intend to stop pupils talking about or debating controversial issues.

On the contrary, in school, we want to provide a safe space in which pupil's and staff can understand the risks associated with terrorism and develop the knowledge and skills to be able to challenge extremist arguments.

All staff undertake a course on commencing employment which enables them to recognise radicalisation, extremism, grooming to support and have early recognition of potential signs or changes in the pupils. This course is carried out annually, so ensure knowledge and skills are always current, it is the 'Educare Prevent Duty'

2. 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. Included in the definition of extremism are calls for the death of members of the armed forces, whether in this country or overseas.

Terrorist groups very often draw on extremist ideas developed by extremist organisations.

3. Risk Assessment

- We should be aware of the increased risk of online radicalisation, as terrorist organisations such as ISIS seek to radicalise young people through the use of social media and the internet.
- There is no single way of identifying an individual who is likely to be susceptible to a terrorist ideology. As with managing other safeguarding risks, we should be alert to changes in pupils' behaviour which could indicate that they may be in need of help or protection. Pupils at risk of radicalisation may display different signs or seek to hide their views.
- School staff should use their professional judgment in identifying pupils who might be at risk of radicalisation and act proportionately.
- Even very young pupils may be vulnerable to radicalisation by others, whether in the family or outside, and display concerning behaviour.

The Prevent Duty does not require teachers or childcare providers to carry out unnecessary intrusion into family life but as with any other safeguarding risk, they must take action when they observe behaviour of concern.

- Procedures are in place for protecting pupils at risk of radicalisation.

These procedures are set out in existing safeguarding policies.

- We/you may follow the school's normal safeguarding and child protection procedures, including discussing with the school's Designated Safeguarding Lead: Mrs Michelle Booth.

In their absence please contact Susan Potton (Proprietor).

- Possible Channel referrals will be discussed by the school Safeguarding Team if appropriate and in accordance with government guidelines.
- We/you may contact our local police force or dial 101 (the non-emergency number).
- They can talk to you in confidence about your concerns and help you gain access to support and advice.
- The Department for Education has dedicated a telephone helpline (020 7340 7264) to enable you to raise concerns relating to extremism directly.

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

Please note that the helpline is not intended for use in emergency situations, such as a child being at immediate risk of harm or a security incident, in which case the normal emergency procedures should be followed.

4. Equality and Diversity

All developments are intended to ensure that no-one is treated in any way less favourably on the grounds of race, colour, national or ethnic or social origin, race, disability, gender, sexual orientation, gender reassignment, marriage & civil partnership, pregnancy & maternity, age, religion/ belief or political/ other personal beliefs.

POLICY REVIEW CYCLE

This policy and all policies at Ocean Lodge Independent School will be reviewed and updated by the headteacher and governing body as per our policy review cycle.