



THE REACH FREE SCHOOL

Preventing Extremism and Radicalisation Policy

1. Monitoring and Review

1.1 This policy will be monitored by the Governing Body and reviewed annually or in light of changes to legislation.

Created: June 2015

Revised: September 2023

Ratified by the Governing Body: September 2015

Date of Last Review: September 2023

Date of Next Review: September 2024

Change History	Date	Change(s) Made	Change Author	EDI ¹
V1.8	Sept 2023	Policy reviewed - monitor changes to the latest DfE guidance and staffing.	ASM	Yes
V1.7	Sept 2022	Updated to include the most recent guidance including KCSiE 2022.	ASM	Yes
V1.6	Sept 2021	Update of Safeguarding Deputies and reference to latest changes in KCSiE 2021. Policy used to be in two parts, but has been collated into one document now.	SHO	
V1.5		Updated Safeguarding Lead and Deputies	SHO	
V1.4		Updated Deputy DSLs and other minor changes	RBO	
V1.3		Updated Deputy DSLs and other minor changes	RBO	
V1.2		Made changes to policy to reflect the change from House Time to REACH Time and updated the Designated Safeguarding Lead. Added numbered paragraphs.	RBO	
V1.1		Updated Deputy Designated Officer and reference to latest DfE guidance	RBO	
V1.0		Policy created	RBO	

2. Introduction

2.1 The Reach Free School is committed to providing a secure environment for pupils, where children feel safe and are kept safe. All adults at the school 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.

2.2 In adhering to this policy, and the procedures therein, staff and visitors will contribute to The Reach Free School's delivery of the outcomes to all children, as set out in s10 (2) of the Children Act 2004². This Preventing Extremism and Radicalisation Policy is one element within our overall school arrangements to Safeguard and Promote the Welfare of all Children in line with our statutory duties set out in s175 of the Education Act 2002.

2.3 Our school's Preventing Extremism and Radicalisation Policy also draws upon the guidance contained in DfE Guidance "Keeping Children Safe in Education, 2023"; Prevent Duty Guidance (Last updated September 2023), DCSF Resources "Learning Together to be Safe", "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 and "educate.against.hate" resources from

¹ Any changes or revisions to the policy have considered equality, diversity and inclusion.

² *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*

3. School Ethos and Practice

3.1 When operating this policy The Reach Free School 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'.

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

3.3 As a school 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 pupils.

3.4 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.

3.5 At The Reach Free School we provide a broad and balanced curriculum, delivered by skilled professionals, so that our pupils are enriched, understand and become tolerant of difference and diversity and also to ensure that they thrive, feel valued and not marginalised.

3.6 Furthermore, at The Reach Free School 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 pupils may themselves reflect or display views that may be discriminatory, prejudiced or extremist, including using derogatory language.

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

3.8 As part of wider safeguarding responsibilities school staff will be alert to and professionally curious regarding:

- Disclosures by pupils of their exposure to the extremist actions, views or materials of others outside school, such as in their homes or community groups, especially where pupils have not actively sought these out
- Graffiti symbols, writing or art work promoting extremist messages or images
- Pupils 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 pupils in other schools or settings
- Pupils 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, homophobia, race, colour or culture
- Attempts to impose extremist views or practices on others
- Anti-western or Anti-British views

3.9 Our school will closely follow any locally or nationally agreed procedure as set out by Hertfordshire County Council and/or the local Safeguarding Children Partnership's agreed processes and criteria for safeguarding individuals susceptible to extremism and radicalisation.

3.10 At The Reach Free School, we have determined "British Values" to be:

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

3.11 As a school we aim to develop and nurture these by:

- Planning a vibrant, engaging assembly programme with core ethical values and beliefs at its heart
- A well-structured Personal, Social, Health and Citizenship education programme, delivered through REACH Time, Community Common Room and Humanities, which addresses all of the requirements of the programmes of study (looking at Democracy, Freedom, the rule of law, Human Rights and responsibilities)
- A Religious Studies and Ethics programme delivered through Humanities, REACH Time and assemblies
- Effective and well-managed School Council and Equality and Diversity Group enable pupils to actively participate in the democratic process and life at the school
- A broad and balanced curriculum which addresses many of these core values across a range of subject areas
- Having a clearly communicated and consistently applied Behaviour Policy so that pupils understand what is expected of them and the consequences of both meeting and failing to meet these expectations
- A Home School Agreement which is regularly referred to and communicated with pupils, reiterating that we are a school community built on mutual respect and understanding
- Adopting restorative approaches, where possible, to resolve any difficulties between members of our school community
- Having a rigorous commitment to pupil safety (for example: Education Visits policy and procedures, Safeguarding procedures, Code of Conduct and Health and Safety procedures)

4. Teaching Approaches

4.1 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 our school this will be achieved by good teaching, primarily via REACH Time, Community Common Room, assemblies and in Humanities; 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 and "educate.against.hate" resources from HM Government.

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

4.3 We will be flexible enough to adapt our teaching approaches, as appropriate, so as to address specific issues so as to 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 of this policy taken from the DfE document 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 pupil-centred approach;
- Facilitating a 'safe space' for dialogue, and
- Equipping our pupils with the appropriate skills, knowledge, understanding and awareness for resilience.

4.4 Therefore this approach will be embedded within the ethos of our school so that pupils know and understand what safe and acceptable behaviour is in the context of extremism and radicalisation. This will work in conjunction with our school's approach to the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils as defined in Ofsted's School Inspection Handbook and will include the sound use of assemblies and REACH Time to help further promote this rounded development of our pupils.

4.5 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:

- Assemblies
- Community Common Room and Reach Beyond activities
- Open discussion and debate
- Work on anti-violence and a restorative approach addressed throughout curriculum and the behaviour policy
- Focused educational programmes

4.6 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 pupils' experiences and horizons.

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

4.8 At The Reach Free School we 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 pupils to respect one another and to respect and tolerate differences, especially those of a different faith or no faith. It is indeed our most fundamental responsibility to keep our pupils safe and prepare them for life in modern multicultural Britain and globally.

5. Use of External Agencies and Speakers

5.1 At The Reach Free School we encourage the use of external agencies or speakers to enrich the experiences of our pupils, however, we will positively vet those external agencies, individuals or speakers whom we engage to provide such learning opportunities or experiences for our pupils.

5.2 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 opposition to the school'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 school curriculum so we need to ensure that this work is of benefit to pupils.

5.3 Our school will assess the suitability and effectiveness of input from external agencies or individuals to ensure that:

- Any messages communicated to pupils 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 pupils 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 learning to avoid contradictory messages or duplication
- Activities are matched to the needs of pupils
- Activities are carefully evaluated by the school to ensure that they are effective

5.4 We recognise, however, that the ethos of our school is to encourage pupils to understand and be involved in their community and that people from the same community, may have differing views and ideologies, but that as a community we should be able to actively engage with them in informed debate, and we may use external agencies or speakers to facilitate and support this.

5.5 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 pupils recognise risk and build resilience to manage any such risk themselves where appropriate to their age and ability, but also to help pupils develop the critical thinking skills needed to engage in informed debate.

6. Whistle Blowing

6.1 Where there are concerns of extremism and/or radicalisation pupils, staff and governors will be encouraged to make use of our internal systems to whistleblow or raise any issue in confidence. They must inform the Headteacher straight away (or if it relates to the Headteacher inform the Chair of Governors).

7. Safeguarding

7.1 Please refer to our safeguarding suite of policies for the full procedural framework on our safeguarding and child protection duties.

7.2 Staff at The Reach Free School 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.)

7.3 Therefore, all adults working in The Reach Free School (including visiting staff, volunteers, contractors, and pupils on placement) are required to report instances where they believe a child may be at risk of harm or neglect to the Designated Safeguarding Lead for Child Protection or Headteacher.

7.4 At The Reach Free School our safeguarding reporting arrangements are set out fully in our safeguarding policies.

7.5 The Designated Safeguarding Lead is: Mr Anthony Smith
The Deputy Designated Leads are: Miss Joanne Kelly, Mrs Joanne Beech, Mrs Kim West, Miss Kaliegh Mottram, Mrs Julie Delicata, Mrs Charlene Redmond and Mr Luke Dunn.

7.6 The Designated Safeguarding Lead works in line with the responsibilities as set out in Annex B of the DfE Guidance 'Keeping Children Safe in Education'.

8. Role of Governing Body

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

8.2 The Governing Body of our school will support the ethos and values of our school and will support the school in tackling extremism and radicalisation.

8.3 In line with the provisions set out in the DfE guidance 'Keeping Children Safe in Education' the governing body will challenge the school's senior leadership team on the delivery of this policy and monitor its effectiveness.

9. Links with other policies

Safer Recruitment Policy
Confidential Reporting (Whistleblowing) Policy
Managing Allegations Against Staff Policy
Staff Disciplinary Code
Staff Disciplinary Procedures
Behaviour Policy
Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy
E-Safety Policy

Appendix 1: 'Key Ingredients' for successful teaching in the context of 'push' and 'pull' factors

<p>Push Factors – factors that push an individual/make an individual vulnerable to extremist messages</p> <p>Lack of excitement, frustration</p> <p>Lack of sense of achievement – seen as significant 'lack of purpose'/confidence in the future, life goals</p> <p>Lack of an outlet for views</p> <p>Gaps in knowledge or understanding of Islam – both young people and their parents</p> <p>Sense of injustice</p> <p>Actual or perceived humiliating experiences (including bullying, racial discrimination as well as perceived humiliating experiences. Perhaps linked closely to sense of injustice)</p> <p>Exclusion – lack of belonging to peer or community networks, associations etc</p> <p>Below the line: factors that are out of scope of this study</p>	<p>Key Ingredients</p> <p>Teacher confidence in many cases it will be the use of existing teaching skills and methods which may well be the most effective approach. From prison settings, staff who are more confident in their abilities tend to perform much better even though they have not received specialist training</p> <p>Teacher attitudes and behaviours</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Willingness to admit you don't know - Acknowledging controversial issues exist - Awareness that I have a role to play - Willingness to turn to others for help when you don't know about something <p>Specific knowledge:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Understanding other cultures and religions as well as alternative values and beliefs (whilst being careful to avoid 'othering') - Knowledge of an alternative values framework <p>Teaching practice/pedagogy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Boosting critical thinking (seeing through propaganda, singular messages etc) - Helping to see multiple perspectives - Using multiple resources/methods - Embedding or sustaining dialogue following specialist interventions - Enabling pupils to tackle difficult issues - Linking school work to the wider community 	<p>Pull Factors – factors that draw young people into extremist messages</p> <p>Charismatic/confident individuals (recruiters)</p> <p>Network/sense of belonging</p> <p>Broader community views which enable or do not oppose extremism.</p> <p>Persuasive, clear messages. Exploiting knowledge gaps.</p>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Drawing evidence from across the curriculum - Developing in young people a sense of multiple identities. Help young people become aware of, and comfortable with, multiple personal identity 	
Disaffection with wider societal issues Disruptive home life	Other factors Support from senior leaders Pupil support processes	Sense of dignity and importance and loyalty Exciting (non-teaching) activities Sense of purpose in life