

The Lotus Academy Trust



Supporting children to find opportunities in every difficulty

The Damara School



Specialist SEMH Independent School

Preventing Extremism and Radicalisation Policy

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1. Introduction

The Damara School is committed to providing a secure environment for pupils, where they feel safe and are kept safe. All adults at the school recognise that safeguarding is everyone's responsibility, irrespective of the role they undertake and whether or not their role has direct contact or responsibility for children and young people.

2. Definitions

- Ideology - a set of beliefs.
- Extremism - a 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.
- Radicalisation - the process by which a person comes to support terrorism and forms of extremism leading to terrorism.
- Terrorism - an action that endangers or causes serious violence damage or disruption and is intended to influence the Government or to intimidate the public and is made with the intention of advancing a political, religious or ideological cause.

3. Guidance and Legislation

The Preventing Extremism and Radicalisation Safeguarding Policy draws upon the guidance contained in:-

- Norfolk Safeguarding Children Board procedures
- Keeping Children Safe in Education; DfE: 2024
- Tackling Extremism in the UK; Prime Ministers Taskforce: December 2013
- Teaching Approaches that help Build Resilience to Extremism among Young People; DfE 2011
- Report into Allegations Concerning Birmingham Schools Arising from Trojan Horse Letter; Peter Clarke: July 2014.
- Promoting Fundamental British Values as part of SMSC in Schools; Nov 2014
- OFSTED School Inspection Handbook
- Prevent duty: Guidance for Specified Authorities in England and Wales 2023

In adhering to this policy and the procedures therein, staff and visitors will comply with our statutory duties to:

- Safeguard and promote the welfare of all children as set out in s175 and s157 of the Education Act 2002.
- Contribute to the delivery of the outcomes for all children, as set out in s10 (2) of the Children Act 2004.
- Have due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism, as set out in s26 of the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015.

4. School Ethos and Practice

The Damara School recognises the Government's concern that the UK continues to face a threat from terrorism. One security concern is the potential for British citizens and residents to become radicalised and commit acts of violence or terrorism.

Violent Extremism is defined by the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) as:

"The demonstration of unacceptable behaviour by using any means or medium to express views, which:

- Encourage, justify or glorify terrorist violence in furtherance of particular beliefs;
- Seek to provoke others to terrorist acts;
- Encourage other serious criminal activity or seek to provoke others to serious criminal acts;
- Foster hatred which might lead to inter-community violence in the UK."

Our school is a safe place where pupils can explore controversial issues safely and where our staff encourage and facilitate this – we have a duty to ensure this happens. However 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.

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.

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.

Therefore, we will provide a broad and balanced curriculum, delivered by skilled professionals, so that our pupils are enriched, understand and accept difference and diversity and also to ensure that they thrive, feel valued and not marginalised. Furthermore 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, including the internet, and at times pupils 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 pupils or staff will always be challenged and where appropriate dealt with in line with our Behaviour Policy and the Code of Conduct for staff.

Where misconduct by staff is proven, the matter will be dealt with in accordance with the staff disciplinary policy.

As part of wider safeguarding responsibilities school staff will be alert to:

- Disclosures by pupils of their exposure to the extremist actions, views or materials of others outside of 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, and 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, sexuality, ethnicity or culture.
- Attempts to impose extremist views or practices on others.

Our school will closely follow any locally agreed procedure as set out by the Local Authority and the Local Safeguarding Children Board's agreed processes and criteria for safeguarding individuals vulnerable to extremism and radicalisation.

5. Teaching Approaches

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 PSHE; 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.

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 are equipped to recognise extremism and are skilled and confident enough to challenge it.

We will be flexible enough to adapt our teaching approaches as appropriate, so as to address specific issues to become even more relevant to the current issues of extremism and radicalisation. In doing so we will apply the 'key ingredients' for success following the three broad categories of:

- Making a connection with young people through good [teaching] design 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.

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 schools 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 to help further promote this rounded development of our pupils.

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:-

- Citizenship programmes

- Open discussion and debate
- Work on anti-violence and a restorative approach addressed throughout curriculum
- Focused educational programmes

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 pupil's experiences and horizons.

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 promote the values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, and mutual respect and tolerance for those with different faiths and beliefs. We will teach and encourage pupils to respect one another and to respect difference, especially those of different faith or no faith. It is indeed our most fundamental responsibility to keep our pupils safe and prepare them for life in modern multi-cultural Britain and globally.

6. Use of External Agencies and Speakers

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 who we engage to provide such learning opportunities or experiences for our pupils.

Such vetting is 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.

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 work 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.

We recognise, however, that the ethos of our school is to encourage pupils to understand opposing views and ideologies, appropriate to their age, understanding and abilities, and to be able to actively engage with them in informed debate, and we may use external agencies or speakers to facilitate and support this.

Therefore by delivering a broad and balanced curriculum, 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

7. Whistle Blowing

Where there are concerns of extremism or radicalisation, pupils and staff are able to discuss this with the Designated Safeguarding Lead. If, for any reason they feel unable to do this, then they are able to make use of our internal systems to Whistle Blow or raise any issue in confidence. Please refer to School Whistle Blowing Policy.

8. Child Protection

Please refer to our Child Protection Policy for the full procedural framework on our Child Protection duties.

Staff 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.) Therefore all adults working at the school (including visiting staff, volunteers' contractors, and students 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.

9. Role of the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)

The DSL is Miss K Haley

The Alternate DSLs are Mrs J Cox and Mrs S Govender

The role of the DSL is set out in our Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy. The DSL is the focus person who school staff, and others, may come to if they have concerns about an individual child's safety or well-being, and they are the first point of contact for external agencies. The DSL is also the person who leads on concerns regarding extremism or radicalisation.

Where there are concerns regarding extremism and radicalisation, the DSL will liaise with Norfolk Channel Coordinator and make referrals where appropriate – see section 13.

10. Training

Whole school training on Safeguarding and Child Protection will be organised for staff and governors annually. This training should be approved by the Local Safeguarding Children Board and will, in part, include training on extremism and radicalisation and its safeguarding implications.

The DSLs will attend training courses as necessary and the appropriate inter-agency training organised by the Local Safeguarding Children Board at least every two years. Again this will include training on extremism and radicalisation and its safeguarding implications.

11. Recruitment

The arrangements for recruiting all staff, (permanent, temporary and volunteers), to our school will follow statutory guidance in Keeping Children Safe in Education 2024. We will apply safer recruitment best practice principles and sound employment practice in general, which include, but are not limited to, ensuring that DBS checks are made at the appropriate level, that references are always received and checked and that we complete and maintain a single central record of such vetting checks.

We will be alert to the possibility that persons may seek to gain positions within our school so as to unduly influence our schools character and ethos. We are aware that such persons seek to limit the opportunities for our pupils thereby rendering them vulnerable to extremist views and radicalisation as a consequence.

Therefore, by operating safer recruitment best practice and by ensuring an ongoing culture of vigilance within our school, we will minimise the opportunities for extremist views to prevail.

12. Role of Trust Body

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

The trust body of our school will support the ethos and values of our school and will support the school in tackling extremism and radicalisation.

Governors will review this policy annually and may amend and adopt it outside of this timeframe in accordance with any new legislation or guidance or in response to any quality assurance recommendations pertaining to the delivery of this policy and the overall safeguarding arrangements made.

The objectives of the Norfolk Channel Panel are to:-

- identify individuals at risk of being drawn into violent extremism

- assess the nature and extent of that risk
- develop the most appropriate support for the individuals concerned.

It is important to trust your professional judgement - if you are concerned that someone is at risk of getting involved in extremism, you should discuss this with your DSL without delay.

The DSL will liaise with the Channel Co-ordinator to discuss and make a referral if necessary. When a referral is received, the Channel Co-ordinator will, in partnership with other safeguarding professionals, investigate further to assess the nature and extent of the risk and develop the most appropriate support package for the individual concerned.

- Norfolk Police Prevent Team can be contacted on prevent@norfolk.police.uk

Appendix 1

Education Check List - Preventing Extremism and Radicalisation

This check list can help you to identify that you have appropriate arrangements in place to prevent young people being drawn into extremism and radicalisation. Please “RAG” rate your establishment as follows:

- Red - processes are lacking and need to be developed as a matter of urgency
- Amber - processes are in place but they need to be reviewed or further improved
- Green - processes in place and up to date, at least to the required minimum.

Objective	RAG rating	Action (enter details of actions to be taken to address objectives rated red or amber)
1. You know and understand prevailing safeguarding issues within your school		
2. You know and understand the safeguarding issues within your local community/catchment area and have developed appropriate responses		
3. You are aware of tensions in your school community, deal with these tensions, and ensure that these tensions are not exploited by any group		
4. You can demonstrate that you are protecting children and young people from being drawn into terrorism by having robust safeguarding policies in place to identify children at risk and intervening as appropriate		
5. You can demonstrate that preventing people from being drawn into terrorism, equality, cohesion and British Values run through the curriculum and ethos of the school		

6. You challenge discrimination, tensions, talk about faith, race etc, organise faith visits, dispel myths and misconceptions about others		
7. You can demonstrate that you are alert to local, national and international incidents which may affect your school community and local community, and are prepared to discuss them with your pupils where appropriate		
8. You have assessed the risk of pupils being drawn into terrorism, or supporting extremist ideas that are part of terrorist ideology		
9. You have a good working relationship with safeguarding partnerships in your area		
10. You have a clear protocol for ensuring visiting speakers are appropriately supervised within school. Due diligence checks are undertaken.		
11. You have appropriate levels of filtering in place to ensure children are safe from terrorist and extremist material when accessing the internet in school.		
12. You have reviewed all your policies to incorporate extremism and radicalisation concerns (safeguarding, security & estate management, disciplinary, behaviour, room booking, external speakers)		
13. You can demonstrate that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You do not fund extremist activities • You do not allow people/ groups to book your rooms without carrying out due diligence checks • You check to ensure that extremist activities are not taking place • You check to ensure that extremist literature is not being distributed 		
14. You can demonstrate that:-		

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff are trained to facilitate discussions on terrorism and extremism • You provide (age appropriate) opportunities for pupils to discuss local, national and international tensions • You invite external speakers (if appropriate) to discuss extremism, cohesion, British Values? • Pupils are given the skills to challenge extremist narratives 		
15. You can demonstrate that Head teacher / Principles/Safeguarding Leads are aware of national, local Prevent, British Values, OFSTED reports and publications that are relevant		
16. All staff, including volunteers and governors have training that gives them the knowledge and confidence to identify children at risk of being drawn into terrorism and challenge extremist ideas		
17. All staff know who to contact in school if they have any concerns regarding extremism or radicalisation.		
18. Your Designated Safeguarding Lead / PREVENT lead in school knows who to contact regarding concerns, and how to refer into CHANNEL Panel		
19. You have a communication system in place that promotes awareness of extremism and radicalisation i.e. posters, newsletters, intranet, student and staff handbooks, staff induction, internal literature		
20. You engage with your school council about extremism and radicalisation and seek their views		
21. You are vigilant to staff members and volunteers potentially radicalising students and you have policies and procedures that can address this		

22. You comply with all relevant legislation in the storage and handling of dangerous substances		
23. You have a critical management plan to deal with violence related issues that will communicate with and reassure local communities, staff, the press and pupils		