



KING EDWARD VI HANDSWORTH SCHOOL FOR GIRLS

2021 No Platform for Extremism Policy

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Related Documents/Policies

Reference	Title
	Behaviour for Learning Policy (2021)
	Safeguarding Policy (2021)
	Academy Trust Online Safety Policy (2021)
	PSHCE and RSE policy (2021)

Jane Glendenning (DSL) is responsible for reviewing and updating this procedure.

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STATUTORY DUTIES

The duty to prevent children and young people being radicalised is set out in the following documents.

[Counter Terrorism and Security Act \(2015\)](#)

[Statutory guidance Revised Prevent duty guidance: for England and Wales Updated 1 April 2021](#)

[Keeping Children Safe in Education \(2021\)](#)

[Working Together to Safeguard Children \(2018\)](#)

Non-Statutory Guidance

[Promoting fundamental British values as part of SMSC in schools: Departmental advice for maintained schools \(DfE 2014\)](#)

[Advice on hosting external speakers](#)

INTRODUCTION

This 'No Platform for Extremism Policy' is part of the King Edward VI Handsworth School for Girls' commitment to keeping children safe. Since the 'Education and Inspections Act 2006', schools have a duty to promote community cohesion.

Over the last few years, global events have led to a growth of extremist viewpoints, including advocacy of violent extremism. Schools have an important part to play in both educating children and young people about extremism and recognising when pupils start to become radicalised. In March 2015, new statutory duties were placed on schools by the Counter Terrorism and Security Act (2015) which means they must work to prevent children being drawn into extremism. Safeguarding children from all risks of harm is an important part of a school's work and protecting them from extremism is one aspect of that.

OVERALL AIMS

King Edward VI Handsworth School for Girls values freedom of speech and the expression of beliefs and ideology as fundamental rights underpinning our society's values. Students and teachers have the right to speak freely and voice their opinions in a safe space. However, freedom comes with responsibility and free speech that is designed to manipulate the vulnerable or that leads to violence and harm of others goes against the moral principles in which freedom of speech is valued. Free speech is not an unqualified privilege; it is subject to laws and policies governing equality, human rights, community safety and community cohesion.

The aim of this policy is to balance the right of freedom of speech against the potential use of its facilities for the promotion of extremist ideological, religious or political beliefs. In this context beliefs are considered to be extremist if they include the expression of racist or fascist views; if they incite hatred based on religious interpretation, ideology or belief; or if they promote discrimination on the grounds of [Protected Characteristics](#).

King Edward VI Handsworth School for Girls agrees with the Home Office statement that "safeguarding vulnerable people from radicalisation is no different from safeguarding them from other forms of harm".

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

These are the 7 guiding principles of safeguarding, as stated by Birmingham Safeguarding Children Board (found in [Right Help Right Time](#)) all of which are applicable to this policy;

- Have conversations and listen to children and their families as **early** as possible.
- Understand the child's lived experience.
- Work **collaboratively** to improve children's life experience.
- Be **open**, honest and transparent with families in our approach.
- **Empower** families by working with them.
- Work in a way that builds on the families' **strengths**.
- Build **resilience** in families to overcome difficulties.

The Principles on which this policy is based are:

- No person may use the facilities of King Edward VI Handsworth School for Girls to express or promote extremist ideological, religious or political views;
- No person may use the facilities of King Edward VI Handsworth School for Girls to express or promote discriminatory views in relation to the protected characteristics listed in the Equality Act 2010;
- King Edward VI Handsworth School for Girls will not allow the use of its facilities by any group or organisation that is proscribed by HM Government.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

Support and Services for Extremism Concerns – Community Safeguarding Panel, Birmingham

There is a [Community Safeguarding Panel](#) in Birmingham made up of community organisations that the Council and Children's Trust have experience of working with and who can provide support in cases where there are extremist concerns.

Birmingham Children's Trust

The Trust supports and trains relevant school staff and develops curriculum activities to address Prevent and extremism concerns.

The Governing Body

- It is the role of the governing body to ensure that the school meets its statutory duties with regard to preventing radicalisation.
- The governing body has a nominated person who will liaise with the Headmistress and other staff about issues to do with protecting children from radicalisation.
- The governing body reports to the Trustee Board regularly.

Headmistress

It is the role of the Headmistress to:

- ensure that the school and its staff respond to preventing radicalisation on a day-to-day basis.
- ensure that the school's curriculum addresses the issues involved in radicalisation.
- ensure that staff conduct is consistent with preventing radicalisation.

The Headmistress will endeavour to ensure that the staff we appoint to the school are suitable, our recruitment procedures are rigorous, and we follow the statutory guidance published in part 3 of [Keeping Children Safe in Education \(2021\)](#). Vetting and barring checks are undertaken on relevant people, including governors and volunteers.

The Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)

It is the role of the Designated Safeguarding Lead to:

- ensure that staff understand the issues of radicalisation, are able to recognise the signs of vulnerability or radicalisation and know how to refer their concerns by training front line staff on Prevent;
- attend training when available to enhance knowledge of extremist groups and in particular localised threats;
- receive safeguarding concerns about children and young people who may be vulnerable to the risk of radicalisation or are showing signs of radicalisation;
- make referrals if and when necessary to appropriate agencies with regard to concerns about radicalisation;
- audit the Spiritual, Moral, Social, Cultural (SMSC) and shared British Values (BV) offer to pupils across the curriculum and through the assembly and form time provision;
- liaise with partners, including the local authority and the police;
- report to the governing body on these matters.

Our school, like all others, is required to identify a Prevent Single Point of Contact (SPOC) who will be the lead within the organisation for safeguarding in relation to protecting individuals from radicalisation and involvement in terrorism: this will normally be the DSL. Therefore the SPOC for our school is Miss Glendenning who is responsible for:

- Ensuring that staff of the school are aware that she is the SPOC in relation to protecting students from radicalisation and involvement in terrorism;
 - Maintaining and applying a good understanding of the relevant guidance in relation to preventing students from becoming involved in terrorism, and protecting them from radicalisation by those who support terrorism or forms of extremism which lead to terrorism;
- Raising awareness about the role and responsibilities of King Edward VI Handsworth School for Girls in relation to protecting students from radicalisation and involvement in terrorism;

- Monitoring the effect in practice of the school's RS curriculum and Assembly programme to ensure that they are used to promote community cohesion and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs;
- Raising awareness within the school about the safeguarding processes relating to protecting students from radicalisation and involvement in terrorism;
- Acting as the first point of contact within the school for case discussions relating to students who may be at risk of radicalisation or involved in terrorism;
- Collating relevant information in relation to referrals of vulnerable students into the Channel process;
- Attending Channel meetings as necessary and carrying out any actions as agreed;
- Reporting progress on actions to the Channel Co-ordinator; and sharing any relevant additional information in a timely manner.
- Carrying out and actioning the Prevent Risk Assessment for the school on an annual basis.

Staff and visitor information

Parent/carer information

Pupil information

THE CURRICULUM

The strength of education is the ability to see the promise in people rather than the risk. That means viewing vulnerable children, young people and adults as filled with capacity, realised or unrealised, for healthy transformation and change.

We are committed to ensuring that our pupils are offered a broad and balanced curriculum that aims to prepare them for life in modern Britain. We encourage our pupils to be inquisitive learners who are open to new experiences and are tolerant of others. These values support the development of the whole child as a reflective learner within a calm, caring, happy and purposeful atmosphere. Teaching the school's core values alongside the shared British Values supports quality teaching and learning, whilst making a positive contribution to the development of a fair, just and civil society.

We have a range of initiatives and activities that promote the spiritual, moral, social and emotional needs of young people aimed at protecting them from radicalisation and extremist influences. We deliver lessons across the curriculum, including PSHCE (see our PSHCE and RSE policy on our website) whereby we aim to develop critical thinking skills around the power of influence, particularly on-line and through social media. This teaching starts in PSHCE at KS3 as there is a statutory requirement to teach the prevention of radicalisation to Year 7 students. Students are also encouraged through assemblies, form time activities, extra-curricular activities and the broad and balanced curriculum to see the benefits of community cohesion and the damaging effects of extremism on community relations. Some extremist organisations are known for effective and extensive propaganda so it is vital that we teach our young people about fake news and propaganda as part of our assembly programme.

INTERNET SAFETY

The internet provides children and young people with access to a wide-range of content, some of which is harmful. Extremists use the internet, including social media, to share their messages. The filtering systems, Impero and Smoothwall, used in our school blocks inappropriate content, including extremist content. We also filter out social media, such as Facebook to ensure that inappropriate sites are not accessed by students or staff. All IT activity is monitored in school by Smoothwall and members of the Pastoral and Senior Leadership Team are alerted by Smoothwall when there are concerns. These are immediately followed up.

Where staff, students or visitors find unblocked extremist content they must report it to a senior member of staff.

We are aware that young people have access to unfiltered internet when using their mobile phones and this is another reason why mobile phones have to be turned off and put away as soon as students enter the school gates.

The School Digital Safety and Acceptable Use Policy refers to preventing radicalisation and related extremist content. Pupils and staff are asked to sign annually to confirm they have understood what is acceptable.

WRITTEN AND PRINTED COMMUNICATION

King Edward VI Handsworth School for Girls has the right to exercise control over the content of any written or printed material that identifies itself as associated with the school. It will not allow the use of its facilities in the production of such material, or permit the use of its name, or of any identifying marks relating to the school, in such material, if that material appears to

- Promote discriminatory views in relation to the protected characteristics listed in the Equality Act 2010;
- Promote or glorify terrorism; or
- Promote extreme ideological, religious or political beliefs.

USE OF BUILDINGS, FACILITIES AND PROPERTY

In deciding whether to allow any group or organisation to make use of its buildings, facilities and property King Edward VI Handsworth School for Girls will take into account the views, policies and objectives of that group or organisation and may refuse on the grounds that these are incompatible with the policies and objectives of the school. In particular, access will be refused if it appears likely that the proposed activity would promote extremist ideological, political or religious beliefs. Where applicable due diligence checks will be undertaken.

[SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN WHO ARE VULNERABLE TO RADICALISATION, INCLUDING RISK REDUCTION, PREVENTION, RESPONSE AND REFERRAL](#)

[INDICATORS OF VULNERABILITY TO RADICALISATION](#)

[FURTHER INFORMATION AND SUPPORT LINKS](#)

MONITORING, EVALUATION AND REVIEW

This policy will be promoted and implemented throughout the school.

The DSL will ensure that accurate records of all incidents are logged on SIMS and CPOMS and reported to the Governors termly. Data will be analysed by the DSL who will review this policy to assess its implementation and effectiveness and re-design further strategies to improve procedures if necessary.

It is the responsibility of the Headmistress to implement the school's No Platform for Extremism strategy, to ensure that all stakeholders are aware of the school policy, and that they know how to identify and deal with incidents of extremism/radicalisation. The Headmistress can also report to the Governing Body about the effectiveness of this policy on request.

The Governing Body will monitor incidents that do occur, and review the effectiveness of this policy and the school's strategies annually. The Governing Body supports the Headmistress in all attempts to eliminate extremist views/risk of radicalisation from the school. The Governing Body will not condone any incidents of extremist views at all, and any incidents that do occur will be taken very seriously, and dealt with appropriately.

A parent/carer who is dissatisfied with the way the school has dealt with an incident can make a complaint to the Chair of Governors. The complaint will be dealt with in accordance with the complaints policy which can be accessed from the school's website.