

## PREVENT POLICY

### INTRODUCTION

Bassingbourn Community Primary is fully aware of its responsibility under the Prevent Duty 2015 and recognises that its responsibilities to prevent and protect children from extremism, fits within its duty of child protection and safeguarding (Keeping Children Safe In Education 2019).

### DEFINITION

Extremism can be defined as “holding of extreme opinions: the holding of extreme political or religious views or the taking of extreme actions on the basis of those views”.

### STRATEGIES FOR PREVENTING EXTREMISM

Through BCPS’ written and unwritten curriculum, the school promotes community cohesion as well as British Values.

According to Ofsted, 'fundamental British values' are:

- democracy
- the rule of law
- individual liberty and mutual respect
- tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs.

The Government promoting fundamental British Values as part of SMSC in schools

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/promoting-fundamental-british-values-through-smsc>

The Office for Security & Counter Terrorism works to counter the threat from terrorism and their work is detailed in the counter terrorism strategy CONTEST

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/97995/strategy-contest.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/97995/strategy-contest.pdf)

This strategy is based on four areas of work:

- **Pursue**  
To stop terrorist attacks
- **Prevent**  
To stop people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism
- **Protect**  
To strengthen our protection against a terrorist attack
- **Prepare**  
To mitigate the impact of a terrorist attack

### AIMS

At BCPS we follow the principles outlined in the DCSF toolkit

<http://www.communitycohesionncc.org.uk/docs/280.pdf> which seeks to:

- **Raise awareness** within school of the threat from violent extremist groups and the risks for young people.
- Provide **information** about what can cause violent extremism, about preventative actions taking place locally and nationally and where we can get additional information and advice.

- Help schools understand the **positive contribution** they can make to empower young people to create communities that are more resilient to extremism and **protecting the wellbeing** of particular pupils or groups who may be vulnerable to being drawn into violent extremist activity.
- Provide advice on **managing risks** and responding to incidents locally, nationally or internationally that might have an impact on the school community.

BCPS will use these principles to guide our work in all areas including building on our work in:

1. Promoting good outcomes for all pupils including their spiritual, moral, social and cultural development
2. Promoting pupil happiness, wellbeing, sense of security, equalities and community cohesion
3. Building the resilience of the school, working with partners, to prevent pupils becoming the victims or causes of harm
4. Working with other agencies including the education child protection service, social care, the police, parents, and community and religious leaders to build community links and enhance positive networks

## **TRAINING**

Matthew Sweeney is the designated person for PREVENT and undertook training on 23/06/2021. School staff/ inducted parents have been briefed on the PREVENT Duty as have the Governing Body and a copy of this policy is displayed on the school website. Staff receive an annual update.

## **RISK ASSESSING**

BCPS is committed to safeguarding, is compliant with its duties including prevent, positively promotes the well-being of all its pupils and expects all staff and volunteers to share in this commitment.

BCPS is a happy school with an open-door policy and excellent methods of communication. The School has good relations with parents and the community. The school risk assesses for a number of purposes including staff recruitment and would be as vigilant as possible to any pupil at risk to grooming or extremism.

## **USE OF ONLINE TECHNOLOGY AND SOCIAL MEDIA**

BCPS is aware of the risk of use of social media for online radicalisation. This features in the E-Safety Policy.

BCPS promotes a positive and protective school ethos. Chloe Coles, Matthew Sweeney, Anna Remington Davidson and Hannah Paradis are designated personnel for Child Protection and Safeguarding. All staff receive Child Protection training at least annually.

All ICT users sign an Acceptable Use Policy and have restricted access to external sites that may be unsafe or unsuitable. The school uses an internal blog / email system to enable pupils to interact with each other using a safe moderated platform. Twice a year pupils receive an update on how to keep themselves safe on line (once during Friendship Week/Anti-Bullying Week in November and in Internet Safety Week in February) whilst assemblies / visitors / school events/ curriculum teaching through the year ensures the messages are frequently reinforced. Pupils are reminded of the importance of speaking to a trusted adult either in school or at home if they feel vulnerable or unsafe. This would include any concerns they have about images, messages or contacts online. Pupils are also taught to speak to the school's ICT co-ordinator or to use the 'Report Abuse' button ( accessible via the 'Think You Know' link on the school website) if they feel they are at risk.

## **PARTNERSHIPS**

BCPS recognises that any attempt to counter extremism and prevent radicalisation cannot be achieved by one organization alone but relies on the sharing of information and productive partnership working. In upholding the Prevent duty BCPS works with a number of partners, including:

- The Education Child Protection Service
- The Police and PCSOs
- The Locality Team
- Social Care
- Community and religious leaders

- Parents and the wider community
- Other Educational Organizations

## **BUILDING RESILIENCE**

“Schools can build pupils’ resilience to radicalisation by providing a safe environment for debating controversial issues and helping them to understand how they can influence and participate in decision-making.”

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/439598/prevent-duty-departmental-advice-v6.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/439598/prevent-duty-departmental-advice-v6.pdf)

BCPS develops pupils’ resilience in a number of different ways across the curriculum including through the PHSE programme of study, whole School and class assemblies, educational visits, drama workshops, debating, philosophy, and citizenship activities such as school council.

## **RAISING A CONCERN**

If a member of the school community, a child, a member of staff or a member of the school community raises a concern that relates to the Prevent Duty e.g. a child at risk of radicalisation, or exhibiting extremist the school will take this matter seriously and will follow Child Protection procedures.

<http://www.cambridgeshireandpeterboroughccg.nhs.uk/downloads/CCG/Safeguarding%20Children/What%20to%20do%20when%20you%20have%20a%20concern%20about%20a%20child.pdf>

1. Speak to the Designated Personnel for Child Protection and Safeguarding
2. Take advice as to whether a Referral Form needs to be completed or whether an urgent phone call needs to be made
3. Access <https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/children-and-families/children-s-social-care/safeguarding-children-and-child-protection/> for more information.

Cambridgeshire Schools refer Prevent concerns in the same manner as Child Protection concerns.

## **Escalation to Channel (if required)**

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/425189/Channel\\_Duty\\_Guidance\\_April\\_2015.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/425189/Channel_Duty_Guidance_April_2015.pdf)

Whilst BCPS is fully compliant in the Prevent duty, and recognises the important role it has to play in this respect, the school will be thoughtful and proportionate in its response to ensure that no individual or group feels needlessly disenfranchised or unfairly discriminated.

Paramount to BCPS’ vision is to promote a positive, warm, inclusive, compassionate, optimistic and harmonious school culture, where every child and adult feels safe, happy, valued as a unique and precious individual, and realises personal achievement and experiences rewarding success.

## **GDPR**

BCPS ensures that data relating to prevent concerns will be used in line with GDPR regulations and stored / deleted in line with our Data Protection policy, Data Retention policy and Privacy Notices.

## **Teaching British Values**

The DfE have recently reinforced the need ‘to create and enforce a clear and rigorous expectation on all schools to promote the fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs.’ The Government set out its definition of British values

in the 2011 Prevent strategy, and these values have been reiterated in 2014. At Bassingbourn Community Primary School (BCPS) these values are reinforced regularly and in the following ways.

### **Democracy**

Children are listened to and are taught to listen carefully to others. Children are taught to respect the right of individuals to have their voices and opinions heard. They are taught to discuss issues in a balanced and calm way. Each year the children review their class rules and our citizenship expectations to ensure that they are still relevant. The school council meets regularly and discusses issues raised in class or as a whole school. Each council member is voted for by their own class.

### **The rule of law**

The importance of laws, whether they be those that govern the class, the school or the country are consistently reinforced at BCPS. Pupils are taught from an early age the value of our rules. Children are taught the value and the reason behind the rules and the laws, that they govern and protect us, the responsibility this involves and the consequences when laws are broken. Visits from authorities such as local councillors, Police and the fire service help to reinforce this message.

### **Individual liberty**

At BCPS, children are actively encouraged to make the right choices, knowing they are in a safe and supportive environment. Children are expected to take responsibility for their own actions and to understand the consequence their actions might have. We educate and provide boundaries for children to enable them to make informed choices, through a safe and supportive environment. The understanding of rights and responsibilities are promoted through acts of collective worship, e-safety, PSHE.

### **Mutual respect**

Mutual respect is a core value at BCPS. Children learn that their behaviours have an effect on their own rights and those of others. All members of the school community treat each other with respect.

### **Tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs**

BCPS school is situated in an area that is not greatly, culturally diverse. The school recognises its role in preparing children for life in modern Britain. We actively promote celebrations of different faiths and cultures. The religious education syllabus is the agreed Cambridgeshire syllabus. Through RE and personal and social education we reinforce messages of tolerance and respect.

### **The curriculum**

Staff regularly review the curriculum to ensure that it promotes the areas above. It also ensures that pupils are taught about key events and figures in history. Events during the year celebrate culturally diverse occasions and memorable events taking place in the country.

At BCPS we will actively challenge children, staff or parents who express opinions that are contrary to fundamental British values including extremist views.