



Mayesbrook Park School

Alternative Provision for young people in Barking and Dagenham

Safeguarding Children in Education Preventing Extremism & Radicalisation Policy

July 2017

Mayesbrook Park School (MPS)

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July 2017

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Name of school: Mayesbrook Park School (MPS)

Preventing Extremism & Radicalisation

(Safeguarding & Child Protection Policy; MPS)

Annual Review date: July 2018

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The Designated Safeguarding Lead for safeguarding children at the MPC is:

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In his/her absence the Designated Safeguarding Leads are:

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ERKENWALD CAMPUS:

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In his/her absence the Designated Safeguarding Lead is:

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Children's Schools – childrenss@lbbd.gov.uk

Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) and Safeguarding Lead for Education

Name: **Mike Cullen**: mike.cullen@lbbd.gov.uk Telephone; 02082273934 **Child**

Protection & Child in Need Referrals:

Duty School: Telephone 02082273811 – childrenss@lbbd.gov.uk **Prevent**

Team – peter.k.green@met.pnn.police.uk

The nominated Governor for Safeguarding children for MPS is:

Name: **Ms G. Kaur**

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PREVENTING EXTREMISM AND RADICALISATION SAFEGUARDING POLICY

Introduction

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

Framework- Key documents, which inform this policy, are:

Keeping children safe in education, DFE-July 2015

This document contains information on what school and colleges **should** do and sets out legal duties with which school and colleges **must** comply.

Working Together to safeguard Children, HM Government-March 2015

Sets out how individuals and organisations should work together to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.

The Prevent duty, DFE- June 2015

Departmental advice for schools and childcare providers. This sets out to help recipients understand the implications of the Prevent duty. The Prevent duty is the duty in the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015.

Links to other policies

The Preventing Extremism and Radicalisation Policy links to the following MPS policies;

- Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy
- Equal Opportunity Policy
- Anti-bullying Policy
- E-Safety Policy

Objectives

The Preventing Extremism and Radicalisation Policy is intended to provide a framework for dealing with issues relating to vulnerability, radicalisation and exposure to extreme views. We recognise that we are well placed to be able to identify safeguarding issues and this policy clearly sets out how the school will deal with such incidents and identifies how the curriculum and ethos underpins our actions.

The objectives are that: All governors, teachers, teaching assistants and non-teaching staff will have an understanding of what radicalisation and extremism are and why we need to be vigilant in school.

- All governors, teachers, teaching assistants and non-teaching staff will know what the school policy is on tackling extremism and radicalisation and will follow the policy guidance swiftly when issues arise.
- All pupils will understand the dangers of radicalisation and exposure to extremist views; building resilience against these and knowing what to do if they experience them.
- All parents/carers and pupils will know that the school has policies in place to keep pupils safe from harm and that the school regularly reviews its systems to ensure they are appropriate and effective.

When operating this policy MPS 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 in our armed forces, whether in this country or overseas'. (Reference: The Prevent duty DFE-June 2015 page5)

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.

As a school we recognise that extremism and exposure to extremist materials and influences can lead to poor outcomes for pupils 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 at MPS we will provide a broad and balanced curriculum 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.

Furthermore at MPS 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. As part of our whole school e-safety programme we highlight the potential risks pupils may face in relation to on-line radicalisation and encourage students to report any concerns they may have for themselves or other students.

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 behavioural policy. As part of wider safeguarding responsibilities 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
- Distributing extremist literature and documentation
- 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 within our community cohesion and equal opportunity 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

We recognise that pupils in vulnerable social and domestic situations (mental health issues, single parent families, involvement in gangs) may be at greater risk of radicalisation than other pupils. Through weekly safeguarding meetings information is shared on targeted pupils and appropriate external support accessed as necessary.

Ethos and Approach

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 learners may experience elsewhere may make it harder for them to challenge or question these radical influences. This guidance and support will be delivered through the whole school curriculum, assemblies and tutor time.

We will ensure that all of our support and approaches will help our pupils build resilience to extremism and give them a positive sense of identity through the development of critical thinking skills. We will develop strategies and staff training to ensure that all 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 and address specific issues so as to become even more relevant to the current issues of extremism and radicalisation. We will facilitate the following principles:

- Making a connection with young people through positive engagement and a pupil centred approach.
- Facilitating a 'safe space' for dialogue to ensure pupils feel safe and comfortable talking about their feelings and views on a wide range of social, political, religious and cultural issues.
- 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. We recognise the importance of guiding students to be intolerant of all forms of extremism, ie – violent animal rights extremism, political extremism.

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 an approach that includes:

- SMSC/PSHE Programmes
- Open discussion and debate
- Continue our peer mediation work
- Continue with our restorative justice work to resolve conflicts

- Targeted programmes led by external providers
- Annual audits of curriculum and SMSC provision to ensure the values of democracy and individual liberty are promoted throughout the wider curriculum

We will also work with local partners, families and communities in our effort 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. We will help support pupils who may be vulnerable to such influences as part of our wider safeguarding responsibilities and where we believe a learner 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.

At MPS 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 difference, 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 multi-cultural Britain and globally.

Therefore by delivering a broad and balanced curriculum, PSHE and tutorial 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 help pupils develop the critical thinking skills needed to engage in informed debate.

Use of External Agencies and Speakers

At MPS we encourage the use of external agencies or speaker to enrich the experiences of our learners. Workshops have been delivered by the PREVENT team to all targeted year groups in the school.

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 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 learners 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.

Safeguarding

Please refer to our Safeguarding Policy for the full procedural framework on our Safeguarding duties. It is important for us to be constantly vigilant and remain fully informed about this issue. Staff are reminded to suspend any 'professional disbelief' that instances of radicalisation 'could not happen here' and to be 'professionally inquisitive' where concerns arise, referring any concerns through the appropriate channels.

Staff at MPS 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 pupils may be at direct risk of harm or neglect. For example; this could be due to a pupil displaying risky behaviours in terms of the activities they are involved in or the groups they are associated with or staff be aware of information about a pupil's family that may be equally place a young person at risk of harm. (These examples are for illustration and are not definitive or exhaustive).

Therefore all adults working within MPS (including visiting staff, volunteers' contractors, and students on placement) are required to report instances where they believe a young person may be at risk of harm, linked to radicalisation, to the Designated Safeguarding Lead.

The Designated Safeguarding Lead will contact the PREVENT Team and the MASH team to seek further advice and guidance. The school will only notify parents of these concerns if this course of action is approved by the external agencies listed above. The school will only speak with the young person about the concern based on the advice given by MASH or the CTU.

As with any child protection referral, staff are made aware of their right to refer a concern to the appropriate external agency if they are concerned the Designated Safeguarding Lead has decided not to refer a concern to PREVENT or MASH.

We will actively support PREVENT and the MASH Team or any multi-agency interventions in any support deemed necessary. We are also committed to working with relevant external agencies to provide support for pupils who may have had family members arrested for suspected terrorist activities.

Training

Whole school in-service training on Safeguarding will be organised for staff and governors on an annual basis. The annual training will provide specific guidance on extremism and radicalisation and its safeguarding implications. The Designated Safeguarding Lead will attend training courses as necessary.

Information is provided to staff as part of our safeguarding training programme (PREVENT) to allow staff to identify possible changes in student behaviour that may suggest the student has become influenced by extremist ideology. This may include changing their style of dress, loss of contact with traditional groups of friends, using insulting or derogatory language to describe groups opposed by extremists or evidence the student may have recently joined a gang in the local community.

Annual staff training is delivered by the PREVENT (Counter Terrorism Team).

Staff training will also provide staff with information on factors that may make young people want to be radicalised, i.e. – status, identity, sense of belonging, neglect in the family, re-dress some form of injustice, excitement, adventure, political motivation, moral motivation, family / other friends involved in extremist activities. Training will also focus significantly on the possible impact of extremist views on the young person once they have been radicalised, ie – over-identification so that extremist views become the norm, development of an 'us and them' thinking and dehumanising the perceived enemy.

Annual safeguarding training reinforces the message that staff should never attempt impose their political or religious views and beliefs on students under any circumstances. The school will use appropriate systems to deal with any member of staff trying to use their position of trust to influence the views of young people.

Recruitment

The arrangements for recruiting all staff, permanent and volunteers, to our school will follow national guidance for safer recruitment best practice in education settings, including, but not limited to, ensuring that DBS checks are always made at the appropriate level that references are always received and checks made.

We complete and maintain a single central record of such vetting checks. We will apply safer recruitment best practice principles and sound employment practice in general in doing so will deny opportunities for inappropriate recruitment or advancement.

We will be alert to the possibility that persons may seek to gain positions within our school so as to unduly influence our school's 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 adhering to safer recruitment best practice techniques and by ensuring that there is an ongoing culture of vigilance within our school, we will minimise the opportunities for extremist views to prevail.

Role of Governing Body

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.

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.

In line with the provisions set out in the DFE guidance Keeping children safe in education, July 2015 the governing body will challenge the school's senior management team on the delivery of this policy and monitor its effectiveness.

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.

Policy, Adoption, Monitoring and Review

This policy was considered and adopted by the Governing body in line with their overall duty to safeguard and promote the welfare of pupils as set out in the DFE guidance Keeping children safe in education, July 2015.

Parents will be issued with a hard copy of this policy on request.

At MPS the Designated Safeguarding Lead will actively evaluate the effectiveness of this policy by monitoring the staff group's understanding and application of the procedures within this policy as their overall duty to safeguard pupils.

The policy, will be kept in line with updated DFE and Local Authority guidance.