

GRAVENEY TRUST
Statement on preventing radicalisation: June 2015

The Home Office has produced draft statutory guidance on preventing radicalisation. This guidance is currently under consultation. However, as Wandsworth has been identified by the Home Office as a priority area and in the light of the heavily publicized events in some Birmingham schools, we must be sure that school policies, procedures and practices are all reviewed and updated to take account of the need to safeguard children and young people from extremism. To this end, our policies on Safeguarding, Equality and Citizenship are all currently under review and they will be updated to incorporate and expand on the principles described further in this statement which addresses:

- The level of perceived risk at Graveney and Tooting Primary School
- What we have already done to address that risk
- What we plan to do in the future to maintain appropriate levels of awareness amongst staff and pupils

Risk

The current threat from extremism and radicalisation in the UK can include the exploitation of vulnerable people, to involve them in terrorism or in activity in support of terrorism. The normalization of extreme views may also make children and young people vulnerable to future manipulation and exploitation. Graveney Trust is clear that this exploitation and radicalisation should be viewed as a safeguarding concern and that both Directors and Governors, under their duty of care for students, have explicit responsibilities to safeguard pupils from the risk of falling under the influence of extremist groups and individuals and potentially even being drawn into terrorism. The Trust is alert to the potential dangers of institutional complacency and/or suspended professional disbelief – ‘it could not happen here’ – and will put in place strategies to ensure that governors, staff, parents and pupils understand the potential threat and are aware of the indicators of vulnerability.

In discharging this duty of care, the Trust seeks to protect children and young people against the messages of all violent extremism delivered using any means or medium to express views which:

- Encourage, justify or glorify political, religious, sexist or racist violence
- Belong to rigid and narrow ideologies that are intolerant of diversity and so leave those who hold them vulnerable to future radicalisation
- 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.

The Home Office has identified Wandsworth as a priority area, and a Prevent Officer has been appointed to build resilience in communities and schools in the borough. A risk assessment of the potential threat at both Graveney and Tooting Primary School is currently being undertaken and, once complete, will inform the development of safeguarding and associated policies at both schools. The risk assessment will include consideration of the student led activities that currently take place in school, arrangements for the use of premises by external agencies and bodies, school policies on Acceptable Use of ICTs, Anti-

bullying, SEND, Assemblies, Citizenship and Safeguarding, the religious studies curriculum and a review of other issues specific to the school's profile and community.

What has already been done to address this risk?

At both Graveney and Tooting, a range of activities/initiatives are already in place to raise awareness of the issues with both staff and students and to ensure that the school community understands what to do and who to go to if they have any concerns around the potential radicalisation of a member of the school community. These include:

- A whole staff session on Prevent Training, designed to increase confidence in identifying pupils at risk of being drawn into terrorism
- Attendance of some governors at similar training
- IT filtering systems are used both passively to block users from accessing inappropriate websites/fora and proactively to identify the use of a library of key words by users of school equipment which can then be acted on quickly and effectively
- A Prevent Single Point of Contact (SPOC) has been identified to take the lead within the organization for safeguarding in relation to protecting individuals from radicalisation and involvement in terrorism. At Graveney School this is Ms Marie Robertson and at Tooting Primary School this is Mr David Milligan.
- An updated Citizenship Policy has been agreed by governors at Graveney to ensure that fundamental British values are promoted in the delivery of the curriculum and extra-curricular activities and reflected in the general conduct of the school. A pupil well-being and SMSC policy is in place at Tooting Primary School.
- A review of school Safeguarding Policies is on-going to ensure that the radicalisation risk is identified and appropriate mitigation and reporting strategies are in place
- Regular liaison with local organizations and religious leaders to ensure that good partnership links exist and that information is regularly shared
- A wide range of activities that support the development of young people as thoughtful citizens including the delivery of RS GCSE to all Year 10 and 11 students, the Duke of Edinburgh Award programme, the debating society etc. At Tooting Primary School, the children follow the SEAL scheme through whole school assemblies and class activities. We have also designed a curriculum that includes trips in and around London as well as broad ranging learning opportunities in school that shape and develop our youngsters appropriately. Our 'Tooting Jigsaw' ensures that all children get to experience a range of activities to broaden their life opportunities.

What we plan to do in the future?

- Put in place any strategies that are indicated in the light of the risk assessment referred to above
- Provide Prevent training for new staff/governors as part of their induction
- Ensure that all staff, governors, pupils and parents are aware of the indicators of vulnerability
- To work with parents' associations to provide training and awareness raising to parents and families
- Foster a climate that ensures that the whole school community takes the threat of radicalisation seriously