



Townsend Church of England School Anti-Radicalisation Policy

This policy should be read in conjunction with the school's safeguarding policy

Context

The Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015 was published on 12th March 2015. Section 26 of the Act places a duty on schools in England (and Wales) to prevent people being drawn into terrorism. This duty applies to all schools, whether publicly-funded or independent, and organisations covered by the Early Years Foundation Stage framework. Statutory guidance has been published. See

www.legislation.gov.uk/ukdsi/2015/9780111133309/pdfs/ukdsiod_9780111133309_en.pdf (PDF)

Aims and objectives

The main aims of this policy statement are to ensure that all staff and governors at the school are fully engaged in being vigilant about radicalisation and extremism. Townsend Church of England School seeks to protect children and young people against the messages of **all** violent and non-violent extremism.

The principle objectives are that:

- Governors and all staff are fully engaged in being vigilant about radicalisation and extremism.
- Governors and all staff will know what the school policy is on anti-radicalisation and extremism and will follow the school's policy when issues arise.
- All parents /carers and pupils will know that the school has robust policies in place to safeguard pupils and that these policies are regularly reviewed by the school.

We will strive to eradicate the myths and assumptions that can lead to some young people becoming alienated and disempowered, especially where the narrow approaches young people may experience elsewhere may make it harder for them to challenge or question these radical influences.

We will strive to ensure that 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 provide staff training to ensure that all of our staff are equipped to recognise extremism and are skilled and confident enough to challenge it. 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 also work with local partners, families and communities in our efforts to ensure Townsend pupils understand and embrace our local context and values in challenging extremist views, and to assist in the broadening of young people's experiences and horizons.

We will help support learners who may be vulnerable to such influences as part of our wider safeguarding responsibilities and where we believe a student is being directly affected by extremist materials or influences we will refer the student through the Channel* reporting process for help and support.

Definitions

Radicalisation is a process by which an individual or group comes to support terrorism or forms of extremism leading to terrorism or adopts increasingly extreme political, social, or religious ideals and aspirations that reject or undermine the status quo or reject and/or undermine contemporary ideas and expressions of freedom of choice.

Extremism is 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. We also include in

our definition of extremism calls for the death of members of our armed forces, whether in this country or overseas. It is the holding of extreme political or religious views; fanaticism.

Introduction

Since 2011 when the Government updated the Prevent Strategy, there has been an awareness of the specific need to safeguard children, young people and families from radicalisation and extremism. Townsend Church of England School is fully committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare and well-being of all of pupils and staff. All staff recognise that creating a safeguarding culture is the responsibility of everyone who works at Townsend. As a school we recognise that safeguarding against radicalisation and extremism is no different from safeguarding against any other form of vulnerability. At Townsend Church of England School all students, staff and governors and anyone else connected to the school are expected by the government and Ofsted to uphold and promote the fundamental principles of British values, including democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect, and tolerance of those with different faiths, and belief or those of no faith. Tolerance and understanding of all groups in society is also promoted through the Schools "Respect for All" policy.

The Government's Prevent strategy states that "Schools can help to protect children from extremist and violent views in the same ways that they help to safeguard children from drugs, gang violence or alcohol... The purpose must be to protect children from harm and to ensure that they are taught in a way that is consistent with the law and our values"

Townsend Church of England School values freedom of speech and the expression of beliefs/ideology as fundamental rights underpinning our society's values. Both students and teachers have the right to speak freely and voice their opinions. The School can help students develop the skills to critically analyse and evaluate controversial issues. The Prevent duty is not intended to limit discussion of these issues. However, freedom comes with responsibility and free speech that is designed to manipulate the vulnerable or that leads to violence and the 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.

There is no place for extremist views of any kind at Townsend Church of England School, whether from internal sources such as students, staff or governors, or external sources such as the community, external agencies or individuals.

Indicators of vulnerability to radicalisation

The current threat from terrorism in the United Kingdom may include the exploitation of vulnerable people, to involve them in terrorism or in activity in support of terrorism. The normalisation of extreme views may also make children and young people vulnerable to future manipulation and exploitation. Townsend Church of England School is clear that this exploitation and radicalisation should be viewed as a safeguarding concern.

Indicators of vulnerability include:

- Identity crisis- the student is distanced from their cultural/religious heritage and experiences discomfort about their place in society.
- Personal crisis- the student may be experiencing family tensions, a sense of isolation and low self-esteem. They may have dissociated from their existing friendship group and become involved with a new and different group of friends. They may be searching for answers to questions about identity, faith and belonging.
- Personal circumstances- migration, local community tensions and events affecting the student's country or region of origin may contribute to a sense of grievance or change of behaviour that is triggered by personal experience of racism or discrimination or aspects of Government policy.

- Unmet aspirations-the student may have perceptions of injustice, a feeling of failure and rejection of civic life.
- Experiences of criminality-these may include involvement with criminal groups, imprisonment and poor resettlement/reintegration.
- Special Educational Need- Students may experience difficulties with social interaction, empathy with others, understanding the consequences of their actions and an awareness of the motivations of others.

More critical risk factors could include:

- Being in contact with extremist recruiters
- Accessing violent extremist websites, especially those with a social networking element
- Possessing or accessing violent extremist literature
- Using extremist narratives or 'hate' terms and a global ideology to explain a personal disadvantage
- Justifying the use of violence to solve societal issues
- Joining or seeking to join extremist organisations
- Significant changes to appearance and/or behaviour
- Experiencing a high level of social isolation resulting in issues of identity crisis and/or personal crisis.

Townsend Church of England's statement on promoting British values

Townsend Church of England School actively encourages pupils and staff to respect British values as defined in the Ofsted Inspection Handbook:

"acceptance and engagement with the fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, mutual respect and tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs; the pupils develop and demonstrate skills and attributes that will allow them to participate fully in and contribute positively to life in modern Britain".

Townsend Church of England School understands that extremism of all kinds undermines British values and a proactive approach throughout the curriculum and extra-curricular is necessary to ensure that pupils are made aware of the danger posed by extremism.

Townsend Church of England School welcomes students of all faiths and none, equally. Pupil faith based clubs are permitted but only when supervised by an appointed member of staff.

At Townsend C of E School the Government's Prevent strategy is furthered by:

1. Raising Awareness of the issue of radicalisation with staff so that those who work with young people at Townsend appreciate that they are a front line strategy, and act accordingly. Townsend staff appreciate how positive relationships created within school can remedy the factors that create the environment for dangers of radicalisation. Form Tutors and Directors of Learning for Year groups will specifically monitor students under their care and curriculum leaders will ensure that opportunities for combatting radicalisation should be taken when they arise directly in lessons, and indirectly all the time in making sure no pupil is marginalised or excluded from activities or learning.

2. Raising pupil awareness through the curriculum, where a clear understanding of history/religion/tradition promotes an appropriate understanding of the origins of movements such as Nazism and promoting an understanding of Islam and other world religions based on peaceful messages and intent. Students will also need to be taught how to recognise grooming activity particularly on the Internet and via social networking sites. The well-being curriculum and ethos of Townsend is designed to encourage pupils to want to be part of an inclusive society, and the importance of Citizenship is stressed as students are encouraged through learning to strengthen their sense of belonging. Subjects will when

applicable, foster an understanding of what terrorism is and how it occurs. This may be taught explicitly through Learning for Life, tutor time and/or Study Support and enrichment activities.

3. Creating an inclusive school, which appreciates the importance of SMSC (Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural) and delivers it through a shared curriculum for all, encouraging full participation in a broad and balanced curriculum, including the well-being curriculum, which celebrates the diversity of the school community and aims to make pupils feel valued and included.

4. Celebrating achievement and respect for all. The Townsend reward system celebrates and rewards achievement and effort, is open to all pupils and monitored by form tutors and Directors of Learning for year groups to ensure that all pupils are included.

5. Responding to concerns. All concerns raised by staff or other pupils are investigated as Safeguarding issues according to the school safeguarding protocol and policy. Pupils can access the pastoral support networks in school through their form tutor or Director of Learning to report any concerns they may have. Feedback is given to reporting staff/pupils and evidence that a student may be at risk of harm is reported to the Hertfordshire Prevent team for discussion and further action as appropriate.

6. Robust Safeguarding protocols and procedures. These are audited annually through the Safeguarding policy which aims to create a culture where all staff and pupils feel empowered and enabled to raise concerns no matter how small in an atmosphere of support and openness. Townsend Church of England School is fully committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare and well-being of all its pupils. At Townsend all staff are expected to uphold and promote the fundamental principles of British values, as defined in the 2011 Prevent strategy.

7. Clear channels of communication for passing on concerns. Hertfordshire Prevent have a clear procedure which Townsend supports and recognises that concerns passed on to them will be dealt with appropriately. Should concerns about the referral process arise the Whistleblowing Policy will be enacted and concerns reported.

8. Internet monitoring. The school uses the HICS (Hertfordshire internet and connectivity service) support service which applies high level screening to all internet traffic coming through the school server. If anyone within HICS tries to search for inappropriate material it will be blocked. Websites with radicalised content are screened through this system. Pupils found wanting to access sites with radicalised content will be interviewed and if appropriate referred through the Hertfordshire Prevent referral process. Our network staff, IT consultants, IT teachers and teachers who use IT in their lessons, will appropriately monitor and promote e safety throughout their activities and will challenge pupils if acting inappropriately and contrary to this policy as well as reporting any concerns at the earliest opportunity.

The role of the curriculum and Townsend Church of England School's Curriculum Provision

Our curriculum promotes respect, tolerance and diversity. Pupils are encouraged to share their views and recognise that they are entitled to have their own different beliefs which should not be used to influence others.

Our Learning for Life (the year 7 Townsend Learning Community programme) and SMSC (Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural) provision is embedded across the curriculum and through the wider school life, and it underpins the inclusive ethos of the school.

It is recognised that pupils with low aspirations, or who do not have a strong sense of identity, are more vulnerable to radicalisation and therefore we strive to equip our students with confidence, self-belief, resilience, respect and tolerance as well as setting high standards and expectation for themselves. Pupils are regularly taught how to stay safe when using the Internet and are encouraged to recognise that people

are not always who they say they are online. They are taught to seek adult help if they are upset or concerned about anything they read or see on the Internet.

Townsend Church of England School actively promotes a school ethos and curriculum which mitigates against extremism and radicalisation.

Townsend's efforts to enable positive participation in school life through Pupil Voice and the School Council and participation in many and varied interest groups and clubs, demonstrates the commitment to respecting the view of the child. This respect enables all pupils to feel included and involved in the school community.

Townsend embraces the freedom of thought, belief and religion for all of our pupils with opportunities for discussions on religion within lessons such as Religious Education, Learning for Life, and in extra-curricular groups/activities. The school also creates an inclusive school through its uniform which is easily adaptable to accommodate religions which prescribe modest dress. In making all of its pupils and their beliefs welcome, Townsend seeks to combat radicalisation by exploring myths around religion and allowing space for different views to be aired.

Townsend seeks to educate its pupils about and through the media. This is done safely through the monitoring of the Internet traffic coming through the school filters to ensure that pupils are not able to access inappropriate material that is contrary to the British values that the school is committed to promoting. The teaching of the safe use of the Internet to students and information given to parents/carers enables freedom for pupils to access appropriate and unbiased information on a variety of subjects.

Tackling extremism at Townsend Church of England School

At Townsend, 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 learners 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 or 'hate' language, displayed by learners or staff will always be challenged and dealt with in line with the relevant policies on pupil behaviour or staff conduct.

As part of wider safeguarding responsibilities staff will be alert to and report using the Townsend Safeguarding protocol:

- 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
- Graffiti symbols, writing or art work promoting extremist messages or images
- Pupils accessing extremist material online, including through social networking sites
- Parental/carers reports of changes in behaviour, friendship or actions and requests for assistance
- Other local schools, local authority services, and police reports of issues affecting their pupils
- Learners 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 equality policies, views based on, but not exclusive to, gender, disability, sexuality, race, colour or culture
- Attempts to impose extremist views or practices on others
- Anti-Western or Anti-British views outside of normal patriotic views that would be acceptable under freedom of Speech in the UK. This would include right wing or left wing extremism.

Use of External Agencies and Speakers

External agencies or speakers can enrich the experiences of our pupils, however we will endeavour to ensure that we do not unwittingly use agencies that are inconsistent with, or are in complete opposition to Townsend's values and ethos.

Our school will assess the suitability and effectiveness of input from external agencies or individuals to ensure that:

- Any messages communicated to students support fundamental British values
- Any messages communicated to students are consistent with the ethos of the school and do not marginalise any communities, groups or individuals
- Any messages communicated to students 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.

Staff Training

Through CPD opportunities in school, we will ensure that our governors and staff are fully aware of the threats, risks and vulnerabilities that are linked to radicalisation; are aware of the process of radicalisation and how this might be identified early on. Training from the Hertfordshire Prevent team will be facilitated and updated as this becomes available. All governors and staff will have an understanding of what radicalisation and extremism are and why we need to be vigilant in school through training. Right wing and left wing extremism should be included in training.

Policy Review

This policy statement will be reviewed regularly to reflect Government initiatives and developments in this field.

Other Townsend Policies linked to promoting British values as defined in the 2011 Prevent Strategy

- Anti-Bullying
- Child Protection
- Safeguarding
- Inclusion Policy
- Respect for All statement
- Equal Opportunity related policies
- Any Local Authority Prevent action plan if and when available

The Hertfordshire Prevent Team is seen as a key partner, resource and provider of information

* The PREVENT policy introduced the Channel programme in 2007. To identify those considered 'vulnerable' or 'at risk' of radicalisation *Channel was first piloted in 2007 and rolled out across England and Wales in April 2012. Channel is a programme which focuses on providing support at an early stage to people who are identified as being vulnerable to being drawn into terrorism. The programme uses a multi-agency (The Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) guidance, [Prevent, Police and Schools](#), describes Channel as "a multi-agency approach to identify and provide support to individuals who are at risk of being drawn into terrorist-related activity) approach to protect vulnerable people by:*

a. identifying individuals at risk;

b. assessing the nature and extent of that risk; and

c. developing the most appropriate support plan for the individuals concerned.

Taken from "Channel Duty Guidance" produced by HM Government. (with added explanation for clarity)

This policy was originally informed by and adapted from existing policies. We acknowledging the model policies made available from Burntwood Girls Academy Wandsworth, and the Anti-Radicalisation policy from St Mary's CE High School, Cheshunt which informed aspects of the formation of this policy.