



St Monica's R.C. High School

Tackling Extremism & Radicalisation Policy

September 2017

St. Monica's is a Catholic community working in partnership with families, schools and parishes to teach the Catholic faith as a way of life. We provide a caring, supportive environment where everyone is of equal worth. Jesus Christ is central to our school and our main aim is that everyone can develop their God given talents and gifts to the full, while growing in faith through prayer and service.

1. POLICY STATEMENT

St Monica's R.C. High School is fully committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all its pupils, in line with our mission statement to provide a *"caring and supportive environment where everyone is of equal worth."*

Every member of staff recognises that safeguarding against radicalisation and extremism is no different to safeguarding against any other vulnerability in today's society. The Tackling Extremism and Radicalisation Policy sets out our beliefs, strategies and procedures to protect vulnerable individuals from being radicalised or exposed to extremist views, by identifying who they are and promptly providing them with support.

2. LINKS TO OTHER POLICIES

St Monica's Tackling Extremism and Radicalisation Policy links to the following school policies:

- Child Protection and Safeguarding
- Equality Policy
- Anti-bullying Policy
- Positive Behaviour for Learning Policy
- E-Safety Policy

The following national guidelines should also be read when working with this policy:

- PREVENT Strategy HM Government
- Greater Manchester Safeguarding Partnership CHANNEL Single Point of Contact (SPOC) Pack
- Keeping Children Safe in Education DfE 2016
- Working Together to Safeguard Children HM Government 2015.

3. AIMS AND PRINCIPLES

St Monica's Tackling 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 identify 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.

The main aims of this policy are to ensure that staff are fully engaged in being vigilant about radicalisation; that they overcome professional disbelief that such issues will not happen here and ensure that we work alongside other professional bodies and agencies to ensure that our pupils are safe from harm.

3. DEFINITIONS AND INDICATORS

The UK Government (since the [2011 Prevent review](#)) has defined extremism as:

"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."

Radicalisation is defined by the UK Government within this context as *“the process by which a person comes to support terrorism and extremist ideologies associated with terrorist groups.”*

There are a number of behaviours which may indicate a child is at risk of being radicalised or exposed to extreme views. These include:

- Spending increasing time in the company of other suspected extremists.
- Changing their style of dress or personal appearance to accord with the group.
- Day-to-day behaviour becoming increasingly centred on an extremist ideology, group or cause.
- Loss of interest in other friends and activities not associated with the extremist ideology, group or cause.
- Possession of materials or symbols associated with an extremist cause.
- Attempts to recruit others to the group/cause.
- Communications with others that suggests identification with a group, cause or ideology.
- Using insulting or derogatory names for another group.
- Increase in prejudice-related incidents committed by that person –these may include:
 - o physical or verbal assault
 - o provocative behaviour
 - o damage to property
 - o derogatory name calling
 - o possession of prejudice-related materials
 - o prejudice related ridicule or name calling
 - o inappropriate forms of address
 - o refusal to co-operate
 - o attempts to recruit to prejudice-related organisations
 - o condoning or supporting violence towards others.

4. PROCEDURES FOR REFERRALS

Although serious incidents involving radicalisation have not occurred at St Monica’s R.C High School to date, it is important for us to be constantly vigilant and remain fully informed about the issues which affect the local area, city and society in which we teach. 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 – reporting to the designated Safeguarding lead who will liaise with the Greater Manchester Police Anti-Terrorism Unit and the MASH team.

(See appendix 1 – Pathway for referrals in Bury)

We believe that it is possible to intervene to protect people who are vulnerable. Early intervention is vital and staff must be aware of the established processes for front line professionals to refer concerns about individuals and/or groups. We must have the confidence to challenge, the confidence to intervene and ensure that we have strong safeguarding practices based on the most up-to-date guidance and best practice.

The Designated Lead for Child Protection and Safeguarding (Mrs Walker) and she will deal swiftly with any referrals made by staff or with concerns reported by staff. In her absence, the Deputy Designated Officer is Mrs Jo Davies.

The Head Teacher and Designated lead (or Deputy) will discuss the most appropriate course of action on a case-by-case basis and will decide when a referral to external agencies is needed (see appendix 1 – Dealing with referrals)

As with any child protection referral, staff must be made aware that if they do not agree with a decision not to refer, they can make the referral themselves and will be given the contact details to do this via the safeguarding board in the staffroom.

5. GOVERNORS, LEADERS AND STAFF

The Designated Lead, Deputy Lead and the Head teacher are the leaders for referrals relating to extremism and radicalisation, followed by the SLT team.

In the unlikely event that the Designated Lead, Deputy Lead, Head Teacher and SLT are all unavailable, all staff know the channels by which to make referrals via the safeguarding board in the staffroom.

Staff will be fully briefed about what to do if they are concerned about the possibility of radicalisation relating to a pupil, or if they need to discuss specific children whom they consider to be vulnerable to radicalisation or extremist views. This will be done through Staff meetings, Staff induction, Policy sharing and information in the staffroom.

The Designated Lead will work in conjunction with the Head Teacher, Pastoral Care Team and external agencies to decide the best course of action to address concerns which arise.

Prejudicial behaviour can be a factor in radicalisation and extremism. With this in mind, St Monica's has updated procedures for dealing with prejudicial behaviour, as outlined in the Equality Policy.

6. THE ROLE OF THE CURRICULUM

Our curriculum is broad and balanced. It promotes respect, tolerance and diversity. Children 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 PSHE provision is embedded across the curriculum. It directs our assemblies and underpins the ethos of the school. It is recognised that children with low aspirations are more vulnerable to radicalisation and therefore we strive to equip our pupils with confidence, self-belief, respect and tolerance as well as setting high standards and expectations for themselves.

Children are regularly taught about 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.

Children will be taught about the specific dangers of extremism and radicalisation through Citizenship lessons and in stand-alone days such as the Be Safe Be Cool event, Diversity Days and Cross Curricular weeks, working in partnership with outside agencies such as School Nursing team, The Counter Terrorism Police,

Bury Education Authority and MASH team. In addition pupils will be taught about British values and community cohesion in Citizenship and RE lessons specifically, as well as in various topics throughout the curriculum.

7. STAFF TRAINING

Through INSET opportunities in school, we will ensure that our 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, and are aware of how we can provide support as a school to ensure that our children are resilient and able to resist involvement in radical or extreme activities. Staff are able to access free online awareness training provided by Channel. (See **The Prevent duty Departmental advice for schools and childcare providers** June 2015).

8. VISITORS AND THE USE OF SCHOOL PREMISES

Children are not left unsupervised with external visitors who have not been DBS checked.

Upon arriving at the school, all visitors including contractors, will have access to the child protection and safeguarding guidance and be made aware of who the Designated Safeguarding Lead is and how to report any concerns which they may experience. Any organisations or external professionals working with pupils, e.g. sporting coaches, outreach workers, supply teachers, peripatetic music teachers etc. will be thoroughly vetted before working alone with pupils, in line with safeguarding guidelines.

If any agreement is made to allow non-school groups or organisations to use the premises, appropriate checks will be made before agreeing the contract. Usage will be monitored and in the event of any behaviour not in-keeping with the Tackling Extremism and Radicalisation Policy, the school will contact the police and terminate the contract.

Mrs G. Walker

Appendix One - Referral Process – PATHWAY FOR CHANNEL REFERRALS FOR BURY

This pathway should be read in conjunction with the Greater Manchester Safeguarding Partnership policy on Safeguarding Children and Young People vulnerable to violent extremism (4.38)

INTRODUCTION The current threat from terrorism in the United Kingdom can involve the exploitation of vulnerable people, including children, young people and vulnerable adults to involve them in terrorism or activity in support of terrorism.

Bury Council and Greater Manchester Police agree that this exploitation should be viewed as a safeguarding concern. This pathway is intended to provide a clear referral process for all professionals working with children for whom there are concerns that they or the young person's family are at risk of becoming involved in violent extremist or terrorist activity.

The pathway includes the link between safeguarding procedures and the Channel programme, and provides a mechanism for supporting those who may be vulnerable to violent extremism or terrorism by assessing the nature and the extent of the potential risk and, where necessary, providing an appropriate support package.

PREVENT AND INDICATORS

Under the Counter Terrorism & Security Act 2015, there have been a number of duties that have been placed on specified agencies. These duties are to support agencies in preventing young people from becoming involved in terrorist or extremist behaviour.

INFORMATION SHARING There is a statutory duty for workers to share information where there are concerns about the safety or well-being of a child or vulnerable adult.

REFERRAL PATHWAY If, at any stage, it is felt that the individual poses an immediate danger to themselves or any other person, the police should be called immediately.

Each agency will have a safeguarding lead who should be advised of any concerns in relation to protecting individuals; this will include radicalisation and involvement in terrorism.

Once a concern is identified the safeguarding lead or designated person must contact either the Channel team or Children's Social Care Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) for advice and guidance about the appropriateness of making a referral to MASH. Once a referral has been made to Children's Social Care this will then progress to the Channel Team who will identify whether threshold for service support is met. If Channel identify that further involvement is required by Children's Social Care, they will refer back to MASH for a Child & Family Assessment, this will be completed alongside the Channel involvement.

PATHWAY FOR CHANNEL REFERRALS FOR BURY REFERRAL RESPONSE

Should a referral progress to a Channel case then the Channel team will make every effort to notify the referrer, where appropriate, of the outcome of involvement. If the referrer has not had feedback from the Channel team within 10 working days then the referrer should contact directly the Channel team.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FOR EDUCATION

The DfE has launched a helpline for anyone concerned about a child who may be at risk of extremism, or about extremism within an organisation working with children and young people.

Email: counter.extremism@education.gov.uk

Telephone: 020 7340 7264

However, it is advised that the LA safeguarding lead is also contacted for local advice and support in such circumstances. Channel Team – 0161 856 6362 / Channel.project@gmp.pnn.police.uk Children’s Social Care MASH – 0161 253 5678 / Childwellbeing@bury.gov.uk

Preventing Violent Extremism Safeguarding Flowchart



