

# Ashfield Junior School

## Tackling Extremism and Radicalisation Policy



Ashfield Junior School is fully committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all its pupils. 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.

At our school there is no place for extremist views of any kind. Our children know that our school is a safe place, and all adults at Ashfield have a duty of care to ensure that this happens.

The government definition of extremism in its 'Prevent Strategy' 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 of our armed forces, whether in this country or overseas.'*

We recognise that exposure to extremism materials and influences can lead to poor outcomes and will be addressed as a safeguarding concern as set out in this document. We acknowledge that if we fail to challenge extremist views we are failing to protect our pupils, and tackling extremism comes under the remit of our Designated Child Protection Officers.

### Key Staff for Safeguarding

The Designated Child Protection Officer	Carolyn Dalziel, Headteacher
Deputy Designated Child Protection Officers	Helen Flint, Deputy Headteacher
Governor with Responsibility for Safeguarding	Di Hoeksma
Chair of Governors	Doreen Thorne
Pastoral Lead	Sandra Podro

Education is a powerful tool against the ignorance, division and fear created by extremism. We will provide children with the knowledge, skills and critical thinking to challenge extremist ideas.

### School Ethos and Practice

At Ashfield School, we provide a broad and balanced curriculum so that our children embrace difference and diversity, and feel valued members of our school community.

We are aware that children can be exposed to extremist influences or prejudiced views from early childhood through a variety of sources and media, and that they may at times reflect or display views which may be discriminatory, prejudiced or extremist, or use offensive language.

Any discrimination, prejudice or extremist views, including offensive language, shown by pupils or staff will be dealt with in line with our Behaviour Policy and staff Code of Conduct, and will always be addressed.

## Links to Other Policies

The Ashfield Junior School Tackling Extremism and Radicalisation Policy links to the following School policies;

- Safeguarding
- Equality Policy
- Behaviour & Anti-bullying Policy
- E-Safety Policy
- Safer Recruitment Policy
- Whistleblowing Policy

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

- PREVENT Strategy HM Government
- Keeping Children Safe in Education DfE 2014
- Working Together to Safeguard Children HM Government 2013.

## Teaching Approaches

We value the rule of law and individual liberty, mutual respect and tolerance to those of other faiths, backgrounds and beliefs. We teach all our children to respect each other and tolerate differences. Our teaching will support our school ethos and ensure that children do not feel alienated or disempowered.

We place high priority on spiritual, moral, social and cultural development, which we achieve through our quality delivery of:

- PSHE & RTime
- RE
- Collective Worship
- Family groupings and assemblies
- Snack & Chat

which all instil in our children a positive and strong self-identity and foster a sense of belonging.

We also adhere to the main methods outlined in the governmental guidance 'Teaching Approaches that help build resilience to extremism among young people.' (DfE 2011):

- We make good connections with our children through good teaching design and a child-centred approach
- We facilitate a safe place for discussion and dialogue
- We equip our children with the skills, knowledge and understanding and awareness to develop resilience.

We promote the values of democracy through our School Council, Eco Schools, buddy system and family groupings and ample opportunities to vote on decisions regarding our school.

## Indications of Risk

There are a number of behaviours which may indicate a child is at risk of being radicalised or exposed to extreme views. These might 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.
- Communications with others that suggests identification with an extreme group, cause or ideology.
- Using insulting to derogatory names for another group.
- Increase in prejudice-related incidents committed by that person – these may include;
  - Physical or verbal assault
  - Damage to property
  - Derogatory name calling
  - possession of prejudice-related materials
  - Prejudice related ridicule or name calling
  - Condoning or supporting violence towards others.

## Procedures for Referrals

It is important for us to be 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 DSP, **as with any other safeguarding concern.**

In cases where the school considers a pupil may be vulnerable to being drawn into terrorism, the DSP will complete the Hertfordshire CHANNEL REFERRAL FORM and forward to [prevent@herts.pnn.police.uk](mailto:prevent@herts.pnn.police.uk)

## The role of the 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 support our ethos and values, and will support us in tackling any form of radicalisation or extremism.