



A collaboration of schools which enhances the educational experiences and outcomes for children, maximising the benefits of working together, whilst maintaining the individual culture and ethos of each individual school

Prevent Policy

Author:	CEO/Governance Professional
Approver:	Curriculum Committee
Date:	7 th May 2024
Next review:	May 2027 unless there are earlier statutory or guidance changes
Category of policy:	Trust Board

Changes history

Version:	Date:	Amended by:	Substantive changes:	Purpose:
1			New trust policy	

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Doctor Ali Silby is the Agape Multi- Academy Trust's safeguarding trustee.

This Policy will help the Trust to achieve its aims by:

1. Ensuring that all pupils remain safe and free from harm, thereby helping to prepare them for a full and active adult life.
2. Showing a commitment to its role as a full and active participant in the multi-agency response to child safeguarding concerns.
3. Valuing all God's children and enabling all to flourish
4. Ensuring staff, trustees and governors understand the risks of radicalisation and how the risks may change over time
5. Ensuring staff, trustees and governors are aware of the Prevent strategy and are able to protect children and young people vulnerable or at risk of being radicalised

Background

This 'Preventing Radicalisation Policy' is part of our commitment to keeping children safe. Since the 'Education and Inspections Act 2006' schools have a duty to promote community cohesion. Over the last few years, global events have led to a growth of extremist viewpoints, including advocacy of violent extremism.

Schools have an important part to play in both educating children and young people about extremism and recognising when pupils start to become radicalised. In March 2015, new statutory duties were placed on schools by the Counter Terrorism and Security Act (2015) which means they must work to prevent children being drawn into extremism.

Safeguarding children from all risks of harm is an important part of a school's work and protecting them from extremism is one aspect of that.

Ethos

At the Agape Multi Academy Trust we ensure that through our Christian vision, values, relationships and teaching we promote tolerance and respect for all cultures, faiths and lifestyles. Our Trust Board, its committees including Local Governing Committees also ensures that this ethos is reflected and implemented effectively through school policy and practice and that there is an effective safeguarding policy in place to protect and promote pupils' welfare.

We have a duty to prepare our children for life in modern Britain and to keep them safe.

Everyone at the Agape Multi Academy Trust has the right to learn and work in safety. We do not tolerate bullying of any kind and will challenge derogatory language and behaviour towards others.

Statutory Duties

The duty to prevent children and young people being radicalised is set out in the following documents.

- Counter Terrorism and Security Act (2015)
- Keeping Children Safe in Education (2023) and further updates
- Prevent Duty Guidance (2023) and further updates
- Working Together to Safeguard Children (2018)
- Section 406 and 407 Education Act 1996
- Early Years Foundation Stage framework

Non-statutory Guidance

- Promoting fundamental British values as part of SMSC in schools: Departmental advice for maintained schools (DfE 2014)

Related Policies and Procedures

- Internet use
- Acceptable internet usage/Online safety
- Behaviour
- Safeguarding
- Equalities
- Curriculum
- Whistleblowing
- PSHE
- Antbullying
- Racist incidents
- Information security
- SMSC
- Safer recruitment

Definitions

Extremism is defined in the 2011 Prevent strategy 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, whether in this country or overseas.

Radicalisation refers to the process by which a person comes to support terrorism and extremist ideologies associated with terrorist groups.

British Values are democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs.

Roles and Responsibilities

Agape MAT document: This is a Trust policy which means it must be followed by all schools in Agape MAT

Role of the Trust Board

It is the role of the Trust Board to ensure that the Trust meets its statutory duties with regard to preventing radicalisation.

Each school within the Trust has a nominated person who will liaise with the Senior Leadership Team and other staff about issues to do with protecting children from radicalisation.

Role of the Headteachers

It is the role of Headteachers to:

- ensure that their School and its staff respond to preventing radicalisation on a day-to-day basis,
- ensure that their School's curriculum addresses the issues involved in radicalisation
- ensure that staff conduct is consistent with preventing radicalisation

Role of Designated Safeguarding Lead

It is the role of the designated safeguarding leads to:

- ensure that staff understand the issues of radicalisation, are able to recognise the signs of vulnerability or radicalisation and know how to refer their concerns
- receive safeguarding concerns about children and young people who may be vulnerable to the risk of radicalisation or are showing signs of radicalisation
- make referrals to appropriate agencies with regard to concerns about radicalisation
- liaise with partners, including the local authority and the police
- report to the Trust Board on these matters

Role of staff

It is the role of staff to understand the issues of radicalisation, are able to recognise the signs of vulnerability or radicalisation and know how to refer their concerns.

Curriculum

We are committed to ensuring that our pupils are offered a broad and balanced curriculum that aims to prepare them for life in modern Britain. We encourage our pupils to be inquisitive learners who are open to new experiences and are tolerant of others.

From the Early Years Foundation Stage, in an age appropriate way, we teach children to learn right from wrong, mix and share with other children and value others' views, recognise similarities and differences between themselves and others and challenge negative attitudes and stereotypes.

Our values support the development of the whole child as a reflective learner within a safe respectful learning environment. Teaching the School's core values alongside the fundamental British Values supports quality teaching and learning, whilst making a positive contribution to the development of a fair, just and civil society.

Our schools are a safe space for children and young people to understand and discuss sensitive topics including terrorist and extremist ideas and learn how to be a courageous advocate and challenge those ideas.

Internet Safety

The internet provides children and young people with access to a wide range of content, some of which is harmful. Extremists use the internet, including social media, to share their messages. The filtering systems used in our schools blocks inappropriate content, including extremist content.

Where staff, students, visitors, trustees and governors find unblocked extremist content they must report it to a member of staff named on page 2-3 of this policy.

We are aware that children and young people have access to unfiltered internet when using their mobile phones and staff are alert to the need for vigilance when pupils are using their phones.

Pupils and staff know how to report internet content that is inappropriate or of concern.

Training

Staff, governors and trustees will be given training to help them understand the issues of radicalisation, are able to recognise the signs of vulnerability or radicalisation and know how to refer their concerns. This information also forms part of annual safeguarding training.

Safer Recruitment

We ensure that the staff we appoint to the school are suitable. Our recruitment procedures are rigorous and we follow the statutory guidance published in the most recent Keeping Children Safe in Education. Vetting and barring checks are undertaken on relevant people, including members, trustees, governors and volunteers.

Visitors

We undertake due diligence to ensure that visiting speakers are appropriate. Speakers will be supervised at all times and will not be allowed to speak to children without a member of staff being present.

Staff must not invite speakers into school without first obtaining permission from the Headteacher.

We will challenge the expression and / or promotion of extremist views and ideas by any adult on school premises or at school events and, when necessary, will make appropriate referrals in respect of any such adult.

Signs of vulnerability

There are no known definitive indicators that a young person is vulnerable to radicalisation, but there are a number of signs that together increase the risk. Signs of vulnerability include:

- underachievement
- being in possession of extremist literature
- poverty
- social exclusion
- traumatic events
- global or national events
- religious conversion
- change in behaviour
- extremist influences
- conflict with family over lifestyle
- confused identify
- victim or witness to race or hate crimes
- rejection by peers, family, social groups or faith

Recognising Extremism

Early indicators of radicalisation or extremism may include:

- showing sympathy for extremist causes
- glorifying violence, especially to other faiths or cultures
- making remarks or comments about being at extremist events or rallies outside school
- evidence of possessing illegal or extremist literature

- advocating messages similar to illegal organisations or other extremist groups
- out of character changes in dress, behaviour and peer relationships (but there are also very powerful narratives, programmes and networks that young people can come across online so involvement with particular groups may not be apparent.)
- secretive behaviour
- online searches which raise concern or sharing extremist messages on social profiles
- intolerance of difference, including faith, culture, gender, race or sexuality
- graffiti, art work or writing that displays extremist themes
- attempts to impose extremist views or practices on others
- verbalising anti-Western or anti-British views
- advocating violence towards others

Referral Process

Staff must refer all concerns about children and young people who show signs of vulnerability or radicalisation to a Designated Safeguarding Lead using the usual methods for reporting other safeguarding concerns. Please refer to the safeguarding/child protection policy applicable to the setting.

Families and visitors of our schools must refer all concerns about children and young people who show signs of vulnerability or radicalisation by contacting the Designated Safeguarding Lead of the relevant school. Please refer to page 2 – 3 for contact details.

When there are significant concerns about a pupil, the Designated Safeguarding Lead in liaison with the Headteacher will make a referral to the appropriate body.

The DfE also has a dedicated telephone helpline, 020 7340 7264, which staff, trustees and governors can call to raise concerns about extremism with respect to a child. You can also email counter.extremism@education.gov.uk. Note that this is not for use in emergency situations. In an emergency, call 999 or the confidential anti-terrorist hotline on 0800 789 321 if you:-

- Think someone is in immediate danger
- Think someone may be planning to travel to join an extremist group
- See or hear something that may be terrorist-related

Families, staff, visitors, trustees and governors may find the following websites informative and useful: Protecting children from radicalisation [Protecting children from radicalisation | NSPCC](#) and Educate against hate [Educate Against Hate - Prevent Radicalisation & Extremism](#)

Monitoring and Review

This policy will be monitored and reviewed by the Trust Board triennially unless there are earlier statutory or guidance changes.

The Local Governing Committees will be advised of any Pre Prevent concerns or incidents. This will be through the standing safeguarding agenda item.

Associated Policies

Safeguarding/Child Protection

Online safety

Acceptable use

Internet use

Information security

Equalities

Data Protection