Lawrence House School

Anti-Terrorism and Radicalisation Policy

Document Reference	Anti-Terrorism and Radicalisation Policy
Publication Date	September 2024
Review Date	September 2025
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Approved Chair of Governors	Tony Nolan

1. Introduction

Lawrence House School is fully committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all its students. As a school, we recognise that safeguarding against radicalisation is no different from safeguarding against any other vulnerability.

All members of staff are expected to uphold and promote the fundamental principles of British values, including democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs. In formulating this policy, we have taken account of the guidance from the Department for Education (DfE) which has called for all schools and childcare providers to make explicit their preventative measures to minimise the threat of extremism in their setting.

2. Definitions And Indicators

Radicalisation is defined as the act or process of making a person more radical or favouring of extreme or fundamental changes in political, economic or social conditions, institutions or habits of the mind. Extremism is defined as the holding of extreme political or religious views.

The school has a zero-tolerance approach to extremist behaviour for all community members. We rely on our strong values to steer our work and ensure that the pastoral care of our students protects them from exposure to negative influences. Furthermore, our positive promotion of behaviour through the PSHCE curriculum, equips our students with the skills to reject violence in all its forms.

3. Aims And Principles

The main aims of this policy statement are to ensure that Lawrence House School staff members are all fully engaged in being vigilant about radicalisation and ensure that we work alongside other professional bodies and agencies to ensure that our students are safe from harm.

The principal objectives are that:

- Students are encouraged to adopt and live out our core values. These complement the key “British Values” of tolerance, respect, understanding, compassion and harmonious living.
- Students are helped to understand the importance of democracy and freedom of speech through student voice.
- Students are taught how to keep themselves safe, in school and when using the Internet with our in-house e-safety course.
- Students are encouraged to use the educational and leisure facilities in the local community so that they appreciate and value their community.
- Students’ wellbeing, confidence and resilience is promoted through our planned curriculum and extra curricula learning opportunities.
- Students are supported in making good choices, so they understand the impact and consequences of their actions on others.
- Staff demonstrate an understanding of what radicalisation and extremism are and why we need to be vigilant in school.

The Office for Security and Counter Terrorism works to counter the threat from terrorism, and its work is detailed in the counter terrorism strategy.

This strategy is based on four areas of work:

- Pursue - To stop terrorist attacks.
- Prevent - To stop people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism.
- Protect - To strengthen our protection against a terrorist attack.
- Prepare - To mitigate the impact of a terrorist attack.

Primarily our work will be concerned with PREVENTION which is outlined more specifically in the DfE document: 'The Prevent duty. Departmental advice for schools and childcare providers, June 2015'. This policy should be read alongside the school's Child Protection and Safeguarding, E-Safety and Anti-bullying policies. The statutory prevent guidance summarises the requirements on schools in terms of four general themes:

- Risk assessment
- Working in partnership
- Staff training
- IT policies.

Prevention means reducing or eliminating the risk of individuals or groups becoming involved in terrorism. Prevent involves the identification and referral of those susceptible to violent extremism into appropriate interventions. These interventions are aimed to stop the vulnerable being radicalised.

Extremists will always target the vulnerable in a bid to spread their firmly held, but flawed, ideologies, but we must tackle them at source and prevent people being brainwashed into terrorism.

4. Procedures For Referrals

Although serious incidents involving radicalisation have not occurred at Lawrence House School, to date, it is important for us to be constantly vigilant and remain fully informed about the issues which affect the region in which we teach. Members of staff are reminded to suspend any professional disbelief that instances of radicalisation 'could not happen here' and if a member of staff has a concern about a student, they should follow the school's normal child protection and safeguarding procedures and have a responsibility to refer any concerns to the Designated Safeguarding Lead. This policy will be strictly adhered to if issues arise.

The school will work in partnership with other local agencies e.g. the local Safeguarding Children's Board, CHANNEL and the police. The Designated Safeguarding Officer will contact the local authority and/or police if any concerns are raised.

5. The Role of The Curriculum

Our curriculum promotes respect, tolerance and diversity. Children are encouraged to express themselves through discussions, debates and consultations. The RE(Religious Education), PSHE (Personal, Social and Health Education), Citizenship and SMSC (Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural) provision is embedded across the curriculum, and underpins the ethos of the school.

Children learn about other faiths, visit places of worship and are taught about how to stay safe when using the Internet.

Effective tackling of controversial issues can help learners challenge their own and others' perceptions and misconceptions. To do this, classroom practices include:

- Delivering questioning techniques, to open up safe debate.
- Building confidence, to promote honesty about a plurality of views.
- Ensuring freedom of expression and freedom from threat.
- Debating fundamental moral and human rights principles.
- Promoting open respectful dialogue.
- Affirming multiple identities.

6. Staff Training

Through INSET and CPD opportunities in school, we will ensure that our staff members 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.

There is a useful online awareness course that can help staff understand the signs and symptoms of those who may be vulnerable on the Home Office web page: http://course.ncalt.com/Channel_General_Awareness

There is also a useful CHANNEL awareness course available on http://course.ncalt.com/Channel_General_Awareness/01/index.html

7. Risk Assessment

Being expected to assess the risk of children being drawn into terrorism means that we need to identify and understand the risks facing our pupil, how to identify a child at risk, and how to support them. Lawrence House School has completed a self-assessment and risk assessment

8. Useful Phone Numbers

The Merseyside PREVENT team 0151 777 8311

Anti-Terrorism Hotline 0800 789 321