



CHURCH COWLEY ST. JAMES C of E PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Anti-Extremism Policy

Church Cowley St James C of E Primary School adopted the attached model policy at the Full Governing Body Meeting of 20th February 2018.

The Anti-Extremism Policy was produced by the school. The Governing Body will review this policy every two years.

Reviewed: February 2018

Approved: 20th February 2018

Signed:  Chair of Governors

Next Review: February 2020



ANTI-EXTREMISM POLICY

Church Cowley St James Primary School is committed to providing a secure environment where children feel safe and are kept safe. All adults at Church Cowley St James Primary School recognise that safeguarding is everyone's responsibility, irrespective of the role they undertake or whether that role has direct contact or responsibility for children or not. This is in line with section 10 of the Children's Act, 2004, and includes a requirement for the prevention of extremism and radicalisation in line with the statutory duties set out at section 175 of the Education Act, 2002. This policy draws on national guidance, including:

- Learning Together to be Safe;
- Prevent: Resources Guide;
- Tackling Extremism in the UK;
- Teaching Approaches that help Build Resilience to Extremism among Young People; and
- Peter Clarke's Report of July 2014.

SCHOOL ETHOS AND PRACTICE

Church Cowley St James Primary School uses the following accepted governmental definition of extremism:

"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 this does not relate solely to particular cultural groups, but may, for example, include extremism by far-right British groups.

There is no place for extremist views of any kind in the School, whether from internal sources – pupils, staff or governors – or external sources such as the school community, external agencies or individuals.

As a school we recognise that extremism and exposure to extremist materials and influences can lead to poor outcomes for children and, therefore, should be addressed as a safeguarding concern. We also recognise that if we fail to challenge extremist views, we are failing to protect our pupils.

Extremists of all persuasions aim to develop destructive relationships between different communities by promoting division, fear and mistrust of others based on ignorance and/or prejudice and thereby limiting the life chances of young people. Education is a powerful weapon against this, equipping young people with the knowledge, skills and critical thinking abilities to challenge and debate in an informed way.

At Church Cowley St James Primary School we will provide a broad and balanced curriculum delivered by skilled professionals, so that our pupils are enriched with an understanding and tolerance of difference and diversity. We also aim to ensure that our pupils thrive and feel valued and included rather than becoming marginalised. We will encourage mutual respect and the celebration of individuality and difference.

Furthermore, at Church Cowley St James Primary School 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 pupils 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 language, displayed by pupils or staff will always be challenged and

dealt with where appropriate in line with our Behaviour and Relationships Policy for pupils and our Code of Conduct for staff.

As part of wider safeguarding responsibilities school staff will be alert to:

- 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 reports of changes in behaviour, friendship or actions and requests for assistance;
- Partner schools, local authority services and police reports of issues affecting pupils in other schools or settings;
- Pupils 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 equalities policy, views based on, but not exclusive to, gender, disability, homophobia, race, colour or culture;
- Attempts to impose extremist views or practices on others;
- Anti-Western or anti-British views.

TEACHING APPROACHES

We will challenge the myths and assumptions that can lead to some young people becoming alienated and disempowered, especially where the narrow approaches children may experience elsewhere may make it harder for them to challenge or question these radical influences. In our school this will be achieved by good teaching, primarily via PSHE, but also by adopting the methods outlined in the Government's guidance *"Teaching approaches that help build resilience to extremism among young people"*, DfE, 2011.

We will ensure that all of our teaching approaches help our pupils build resilience to extremism and give pupils a positive sense of identity through the development of critical thinking skills. We will ensure that all of our staff are equipped to recognise extremism and are skilled and confident enough to challenge it. We will be flexible enough to adapt our teaching approaches, as appropriate, so as to address specific issues to become even more relevant to the current issues of extremism and radicalisation. We will seek to:

- Make a connection with young people through good [teaching] design and a pupil-centered approach;
- Facilitate a 'safe space' for dialogue; and
- Equip our pupils with the appropriate skills, knowledge, understanding and awareness for resilience.

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 achieve this by using a curriculum that includes:

- Citizenship programmes, including the study of British democracy and the rule of law;
- Open discussion and debate;
- Work on anti-violence and a restorative approach to behavioural concerns.

We will work with local partners, families and communities in our efforts to ensure that the School understands and embraces our local context and values when challenging extremist views and to assist in the broadening of our pupil's experiences and horizons. We will help support pupils who may be vulnerable to such influences as part of our wider safeguarding responsibilities and where we believe a pupil is being directly affected by extremist materials or influences we will ensure that that pupil is offered mentoring. Additionally, in such instances our school will seek external support from the Local Authority and/or local partnership structures working to prevent extremism.

At Church Cowley St James Primary School we will promote the values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, mutual respect and tolerance for those with different faiths and beliefs. We will teach and encourage pupils to respect one another and to respect and tolerate difference, especially those of a different faith or no faith. It is indeed our most fundamental responsibility to keep our pupils safe and prepare them for life in modern multi-cultural Britain and globally.

USE OF EXTERNAL AGENCIES AND SPEAKERS

At Church Cowley St James Primary School we encourage the use of external agencies and speakers to enrich the experiences of our pupils and to enable them to meet and learn from members of different faith and cultural communities. We will, however, positively vet those external agencies, individuals and speakers whom we engage to provide such learning opportunities or experiences for our pupils. Such vetting is to ensure that we do not unwittingly use agencies that contradict each other with their messages or that are inconsistent with, or are in complete opposition to, the School's values and ethos.

This vetting process will include:

- Ensuring that speakers are clear about the expectations of the School regarding the format of the presentation and the messages to be delivered;
- Ensuring that the use of external speakers contributes to clear outcomes which are driven by the curriculum;
- Ensuring that speakers are overseen by a member of school staff.

STAFF TRAINING

We will work in partnership with the local police and the Oxfordshire Safeguarding Children's Board (OSCB) to ensure that our staff are trained to recognise the signs of extremist behaviour within the local community. Our staff completed Prevent training in January and February 2016, and new starters are expected to complete their training prior to appointment.

WHISTLEBLOWING

Where there are concerns of extremism or radicalisation, pupils and staff will be encouraged to make use of our internal whistleblowing procedures or to raise any issue in confidence. They must inform the Head Teacher straight away.

CHILD PROTECTION

All adults working in Church Cowley St James Primary School (including visiting staff, volunteers, contractors and students on placement) are required to report instances where they believe a child may be at risk of harm or neglect to the Designated Safeguarding Lead or Head Teacher via a Child Concern Form. Procedures for this are set out within our Child Protection policies.

The Designated Safeguarding Leads are Kate Dew and Steve Dew who are supported by Kirsty Hunt & Helen Priscott, Home School Link Workers and Kerry Lenton, School Manager.

The Designated Safeguarding Lead works in line with the responsibilities as set out at Annex B of the DfE Guidance "Keeping Children Safe in Education".