



Written Statement regarding Extremism and Radicalisation

**Diocese of Coventry
Multi Academy Trust**

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and Radicalisation**

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1. POLICY STATEMENT

- 1.1. The Diocese of Coventry Multi Academy Trust is fully committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all the pupils and staff within the academy trust, including protecting them from the risks associated with extremism and radicalisation of any form.
- 1.2. The Diocese of Coventry Multi Academy Trust is fully committed to promoting respect, tolerance and diversity for all, regardless of their culture or religion and for preparing pupils for the opportunities, responsibilities and experience of life.
- 1.3. The Diocese of Coventry Multi Academy Trust believes that everyone working within the academy trust has a duty to recognise that safeguarding against radicalisation and extremism is no different to safeguarding against any other vulnerability, such as drugs or alcohol, in today's society.
- 1.4. The Diocese of Coventry Multi Academy Trust recognises the challenges posed to pupils within our Trust from a number of different sources including Al Qaida influenced groups, dissident Irish Republican terrorist groups and UK-based extremists groups including racists or fascist organisations and far-right extremist groups which all pose a threat to public order and British multi-cultural way of life.
- 1.5. The Diocese of Coventry Multi Academy Trust expects that everyone working within the academy trust will create an environment of openness and tolerance and support pupils to have a balanced view of the world; including ensuring pupils do not become phobic against certain groups or religions. They have a duty to ensure the fair treatment for all regardless of age, gender, race, sexual orientation, ability and disability.
- 1.6. The Diocese of Coventry Multi Academy Trust requires members of the academy trust to suspend any 'professional disbelief' that instances of radicalisation 'could not happen here' and be aware that radicalisation and extremism can occur in all religions, cultures and communities.

2. DEFINITIONS AND INDICATORS

- 2.1. 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.
- 2.2. Extremism is defined as the holding of extreme political or religious views

2.3. 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 to derogatory names for another group.
- Increase in prejudice-related incidents committed by that person – these may include;
 - physical or verbal assault
 - provocative behaviour
 - damage to property
 - derogatory name calling
 - possession of prejudice-related materials
 - prejudice related ridicule or name calling
 - inappropriate forms of address
 - refusal to co-operate
 - attempts to recruit to prejudice-related organisations
 - condoning or supporting violence towards others.

3. APPROACHES TO TACKLING EXTREMISM AND RADICALISATION

3.1. The Diocese of Coventry Multi Academy Trust will not tolerate any extremist political or religious views expressed by staff, governors, visitors, pupils or other members of the academy trust community either to staff or students. This may be either within an academy or in a more public forum such as social media. Staff members may be subject to disciplinary action if necessary.

3.2. All members of the academy trust should maintain an awareness of pupils who may be vulnerable to such influence and recognise that pupils with low aspirations are particularly vulnerable to radicalisation.

3.3. All members of the academy trust should therefore strive to equip pupils with confidence, self-belief, respect and tolerance as well as setting high standards and expectations for themselves.

3.4. Staff must be vigilant to signs of pupils who may have been subjected to radical or extremist views and must report any concerns **immediately** to the Headteacher, and/or person responsible for safeguarding at the academy, and/or to the Head of HR at the Multi Academy Trust.

- 3.5. Every academy must provide a broad and balanced curriculum which promotes the spiritual, moral and cultural development of all pupils. Pupils should be encouraged to share their views and recognise that they are entitled to have their own beliefs which should not be used to influence others.
- 3.6. Radicalisation and extremism should not be considered in isolation but an awareness should be embedded throughout other areas of the academy trust such as:
- E-safety – pupils should be taught the importance of staying safe on line, recognising people are not always who they say they are and be given the skills to protect themselves from inappropriate material on-line
 - Anti-bullying and acceptable behaviour policies - for both adults and children
 - Safeguarding and Child Protection policies and procedures
 - Equality schemes and policies
 - PSHE / Religious Education lessons
 - Ensuring a balanced representation of views is presented during discussions and lessons, particularly if the discussions is of a political nature
 - Ensuring the academy letting policy sets out the values of the academy and make it clear that any groups not adhering to these values may not hire the academy facilities
 - Ensuring support, advice and training is available to staff to enable them to deal with concerns surrounding radicalisation and extremism.
- 3.7. Each academy is required to adopt the principles set out in this Statement of Intent.
- 3.8. Each academy is required to ensure the Prevent agenda is incorporated into the Academy Safeguarding and Child Protection policies.
- 3.9. Academies are directed to ensure their e-Safety policies and procedures reflect the Prevent agenda.

4. SOURCES OF HELP AND SUPPORT

- 4.1. In the first instance the MAT should be contacted to raise a concern unless there is an emergency situation where a child could be at immediate risk of harm. In this case the Local Safeguarding Officer should be contacted in the first instance and the MAT should then be informed.
- 4.2. Local Authorities and the Police are vital to the all aspects of the Prevent work and it is the role of the Local Safeguarding Children Board to coordinate the work being done by local agencies.
- 4.3. A dedicated telephone line to the Due Diligence and Counter Extremism Group (**DDCEG**) is available on **020 7340 7264** to enable staff and governors to raise concerns relating to extremism directly and in confidence.

5. ADDITIONAL MATERIALS AND FURTHER INFORMATION

- The Prevent Strategy, GOV.UK
https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/97976/prevent-strategy-review.pdf
- The Prevent Website - <http://www.preventforschools.org/>
- Keeping Children Safe in Education DfE 2015
https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/447595/KCSIE_July_2015.pdf
- Working Together to Safeguard Children HM GOV 2015
https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/419595/Working_Together_to_Safeguard_Children.pdf
- Learning Together to be Safe: a toolkit to help schools contribute to the prevention of violent extremism (DCSF, 2008)
http://dera.ioe.ac.uk/8396/1/DCSF-Learning%20Together_bkmk.pdf

Advice for parents and families

- “Prevent Tragedies” online campaign launched by the Police
<http://www.preventtragedies.co.uk/>
- “Families Matter” run by Families Against Stress and Trauma
<http://www.familiesmatter.org.uk/>