



Preventing Extremism and Radicalisation Policy

Effective Period	01.09.25-31.08.26
Reviewer	Jan McColl
Date of Review	July 25
Next Review Due	July 26

1. Introduction

Herefordshire Marches Federation of Academies (HMFA) is committed to providing a secure environment for pupils, where children feel safe and are kept safe. All HMFA adults recognise that safeguarding is everyone's responsibility irrespective of the role they undertake or whether their role has direct contact or responsibility for children or not.

In adhering to this policy, and the procedures therein, staff and visitors will contribute to HMFA's delivery of the outcomes to all children, as set out in s10 (2) of the Children Act 2004*. This Preventing Extremism and Radicalisation Safeguarding Policy is one element within our overall school arrangements to Safeguard and Promote the Welfare of all Children in line with our statutory duties set out at s175 of the Education Act 2002 (s157 of the Education Act 2002).

Our school's Preventing Extremism and Radicalisation Safeguarding Policy also draws upon the guidance contained in the Prevent Duty Guidance; <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/prevent-duty-guidance/prevent-duty-guidance-for-england-and-wales-accessible> and Keeping Children Safe in Education 2025; https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/68add931969253904d155860/Keeping_children_safe_in_education_from_1_September_2025.pdf

2. School Ethos and Practice

When operating this policy HMFA uses the following accepted Governmental definition of extremism which 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.'

There is no place for extremist views of any kind in our school, whether from internal sources – pupils, staff or governors, or external sources - school community, external agencies or individuals. Our pupils see our school as a safe place where they can explore controversial issues safely and where our teachers encourage and facilitate this – we have a duty to ensure this happens.

As a school we recognise that extremism and exposure to extremist materials and influences can lead to poor outcomes for children and so should be addressed as a safeguarding concern as set out in this policy. 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 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, to challenge and debate in an informed way.

Therefore, at HMFA we will provide a broad and balanced curriculum, delivered by skilled professionals, so that our pupils are enriched, understand and become tolerant of difference and diversity and also to ensure that they thrive, feel valued and not marginalized.

Furthermore, at HMFA 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, HMFA's Preventing Extremism and Radicalisation Policy 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 where appropriate dealt with in line with our Behaviour and Discipline Policy for pupils and the Code of Conduct for staff. Where misconduct by a teacher is proven the matter will be referred to the National College for Teaching and Leadership for their consideration as to whether to a Prohibition Order is warranted.

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, especially where pupils have not actively sought these out;
- 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, 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.

HMFA will closely follow any locally agreed procedure as set out by the Local Authority and/or Herefordshire's Safeguarding Children Partnership agreed processes and criteria for safeguarding individuals vulnerable to extremism and radicalisation.

All staff will receive training which will include DfE Prevent training. Early Years staff will attend the DfE online Prevent training for Early Years staff and DSLs will attend the DfE online Prevent training specific to their role.

3. Teaching Approaches

We will all strive to eradicate 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 so as to become even more relevant to the current issues of extremism and radicalisation. In doing so we will apply the 'key ingredients' for success as set out in the Table in Appendix 1 taken from the DfE document above and we will apply the methodologies set out in that document following the three broad categories of HMFA's Preventing Extremism and Radicalisation Policy.

- Making a connection with young people through good teaching and a student centred approach;
- Facilitating a 'safe space' for dialogue, and
- Equipping our pupils with the appropriate skills, knowledge, understanding and awareness for resilience.

Therefore, this approach will be embedded within the ethos of our schools so that pupils know and understand what safe and acceptable behaviour is in the context of extremism and radicalisation. This will work in conjunction with our school's approach to the Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural development of pupils as defined in Ofsted's School Inspection Handbook and will include the sound use of assemblies to help further promote this rounded development of our pupils.

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;
- Open discussion and debate;
- Work on anti-violence and a restorative approach addressed throughout curriculum and the behaviour policy;
- Focussed educational programmes.

We will also work with local partners, families and communities in our efforts to ensure our school understands and embraces our local context and values in challenging extremist views and to assist in the broadening of our pupils' 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 student is being directly affected by extremist materials or influences we will ensure that that student 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 HMFA 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.

4. Use of External Agencies & Speakers

At HMFA we encourage the use of external agencies or speakers to enrich the experiences of our pupils, however we will positively vet those external agencies, individuals or speakers who we engage to provide such learning opportunities or experiences for our pupils.

These external agencies will be vetted 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. We must be aware that in some instances the work of external agencies may not directly be connected with the rest of the school curriculum so we need to ensure that this work is of benefit to pupils.

- Any messages communicated to pupils are consistent with the ethos of the school and do not marginalise any communities, groups or individuals;
- Any messages do not seek to glorify criminal activity or violent extremism or seek to radicalise pupils through extreme or narrow views of faith, religion or culture or other ideologies;
- Activities are properly embedded in the curriculum and clearly mapped to schemes of work to avoid contradictory messages or duplication;
- Activities are matched to the needs of pupils;
- Activities are carefully evaluated by schools to ensure that they are effective.

We recognise, however, that the ethos of our school is to encourage pupils to understand opposing views and ideologies, appropriate to their age, understanding and abilities, and to be able to actively engage with them in informed debate, and we may use external agencies or speakers to facilitate and support this.

Therefore, by delivering a broad and balanced curriculum and enrichment programme augmented by the use of external sources where appropriate, we will strive to ensure our pupils recognise risk and build resilience to manage any such risk themselves where appropriate to their age and ability but also to help pupils develop the critical thinking skills needed to engage in informed debate.

5. Whistle Blowing

Where there are concerns of extremism or radicalisation, pupils, staff and governors will be encouraged to make use of our internal systems to Whistle Blow or raise any issue in confidence.

They must inform the Executive Headteachers or Director of Safeguarding straight away (or if it relates to the Executive Headteachers inform the Chair of Governors).

6. Safeguarding

Please refer to our Safeguarding Policy for the full procedural framework on our Safeguarding and Child Protection duties.

Staff at HMFA will be alert to the fact that whilst Extremism and Radicalisation is broadly a safeguarding issue there may be some instances where a child or children may be at direct risk of harm or neglect. For example; this could be due to a child displaying risky behaviours in terms of

the activities they are involved in or the groups they are associated with or staff may be aware of information about a child's family that may equally place a child at risk of harm. (These examples are for illustration and are not definitive or exhaustive).

Therefore, all adults working in HMFA (including visiting staff, volunteers' contractors, and pupils 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.

At HMFA our Safeguarding reporting arrangements are set out fully in our Safeguarding Policy and are summarised here, as follows;

- Report the concern on MyConcern app as soon as possible

The Designated Safeguarding Lead works in line with the responsibilities as set out in DfE Guidance 'Keeping Children Safe in Education' which is detailed in the Safeguarding Policy.

7. Role of 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 of our school will support the ethos and values of our school and will support the school in tackling extremism and radicalisation.

In line with the provisions set out in the DfE guidance 'Keeping Children Safe in Education, 2025' the governing body will challenge the school's senior management team on the delivery of this policy and monitor its effectiveness.

Appendix 1: 'Key Ingredients' for successful teaching in the context of 'push' and 'pull' factors.

PUSH FACTORS – factors that push an individual/make an individual vulnerable to extremist messages

- Lack of excitement, frustration
- Lack of sense of achievement – seen as significant. 'Lack of purpose.' Confidence in the future, life goals.
- Lack of an outlet for views.
- Gaps in knowledge or understanding of Islam – both young people and their parents.
- Sense of injustice.
- Actual or perceived humiliating experiences. (including bullying, racial discrimination as well as perceived humiliating experiences - perhaps linked closely to a sense of injustice)
- Exclusion – Lack of belonging to peer or community networks, associations etc

KEY INGREDIENTS

Teacher confidence:

In many cases it will be the use of existing teaching skills and methods which may well be the most effective approach.

Teacher Attitudes & Behaviours:

- Willingness to admit you don't know
- Acknowledging controversial issues exist
- Awareness that I have role to play
- Willingness to turn to others for help when you don't know about something

Specific Knowledge:

- Understanding other cultures and religions as well as alternative values and beliefs.
- Knowledge of an alternative values framework.

Teaching Practice –

- Boosting critical thinking
- Helping to see multiple perspectives
- Using multiple resources

- Embedding or sustaining dialogue following specialist interventions
- Enabling pupils to tackle difficult issues.
- Linking school work to the wider community
- Drawing evidence from across the curriculum
- Developing in young people a sense of multiple identities, help young people become aware of, and comfortable with, multiple personal identity.

PULL FACTORS – Factors that draw young people into extremist messages

- Charismatic/confident individuals
- Networks/sense of belonging
- Broader community views which enable or do not oppose extremism
- Persuasive, clear messages. Exploiting knowledge gaps.