MARATHON SCIENCE SCHOOL

PREVENT POLICY

Reviewed on: September 2024

Next Review: September 2025

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Contents

Background

The purpose of this policy is to provide guidance to employees of Marathon Science School

This Policy has been drafted from guidelines in *Prevent* Duty Guidance, issued on 7 September 2023 under Section 29 of the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015.

This requires schools to have due regard for the need to prevent people being drawn into terrorism. This is called the *Prevent* duty. Protecting children from the risk of radicalisation is part of the School's wider safeguarding duty and is similar to protecting children from other forms of harm (sexual abuse, neglect etc.) whether these come from within their family or are the product of outside influences.

This policy forms part of a group of Safeguarding Policies and should be read in conjunction with the Safeguarding and Child Protection, Anti-Bullying, Online Safety and Use of Reasonable Force Policies.

Roles

Each school is required to have a Prevent Lead and at Marathon Science School this is the assistant head teacher and is supported by the Designated Safeguarding Lead.

The Prevent Lead is the primary contact for any concerns regarding pupils, staff or other individuals associated with the School becoming radicalised or being involved with radicalisation. They are also the primary point of contact for more general advice concerning anti-radicalisation.

In their absence, or if the concerns are about the Prevent Lead, then staff should approach the Designated Safeguarding Lead or another member of the Safeguarding Team.

Definition

Radicalisation is a process by which an individual or group comes to adopt increasingly extreme political, social or religious ideals and aspirations that reject or undermine the status quo or reject and/or undermine contemporary ideas and expressions of freedom of choice.

We seek to build pupils' resilience to radicalisation by promoting fundamental British values and enabling pupils to challenge extremist views. You will find more information on this in the PHSE policy.

Identifying Pupils at Risk

In order to fulfil the Prevent duty, it is essential that staff is able to identify children who might be vulnerable to radicalisation, and to know what to do when they are identified. There are various factors which can put young people at risk such as:

- Peer pressure
- Influence from other internet users
- Bullying
- Family tensions
- Lack of self-esteem or identity
- Desire for status, excitement or adventure
- A need to dominate or control others
- Personal or political grievances
- Race or hate crime

That said, all pupils are at risk of radicalisation and staff must be open to the possibility of any of the children at School becoming radicalised.

Signs of Radicalisation

All staff has a duty to look out for and to report any action or expression of views which suggest that pupils are being radicalised or drawn into terrorism. The Prevent duty asks staff to risk-assess the behaviour they see and hear, considering whether or not it raises a concern about the radicalisation of a pupil.

Some possible signs of radicalisation are listed below though no list could be exhaustive. It
Is important that, when assessing whether behaviour or actions indicate that a child is in danger of becoming radicalised, strong consideration be taken as to the context in which the remarks or actions were made. It is also very important that consideration be made as to whether the behaviour
Is anything other than that which could be construed as normal teenage behaviour.

- Beginning to express an interest in exploring extreme views.
- Carrying out internet searches into areas regarding terrorism, extreme views or other concerning areas.
- Showing support, either vocal or active, for extreme political ideologies and/or organisations.
- Showing support for extreme religious views and/or organisations.
- Resisting integration with pupils/staff that promote and/or support British values.
- Expressing resentment at being educated about and required to practise British values, including attendance at Prayers and Sunday Services (on its own, the latter does not necessarily mean that pupils are being radicalised).
- Using racist language or labels which are derogatory about individuals or groups.
- Using language which distances the pupil from another pupil, indicative of an 'us and them' mentality.
- Resistance to collective worship which goes beyond normal teenage behaviour.
- Showing or expressing hatred towards others.

Radical views could be displayed in any area of a student's school life:

- In class – Politics, Philosophy and Religion, History, English, Geography, DT, and PSHE in particular all present regular opportunities for pupils to promote their views.

- In discussion in House.
- In conversation with peers.
- In other situations where pupils are able to voice their opinions.

Routes to Radicalisation other than Contact with the Current School Community

Information Technology and Social Media: Filtering is already in place to flag up pupils and staff using extreme or terrorist language. This is checked regularly by the Online Safety Officer. Any concerns are recorded and monitored to see if a pattern emerges which suggests a pupil is becomingvulnerable and/or being targeted by potential extremist groups.

The risks of radicalisation of school pupils through social media. It is essential that children and staff within School are aware of how social media can be used to achieve these aims. Both staff and students are educated about the risks of social media via the School Staff INSET and PSHEE programmes respectively.

Recruitment of New Staff: It is important that all newly recruited staff are carefully checked to ensurethat they suitable for employment and not in a position to radicalise others (pupils or staff). The procedures and policy for doing so are laid out in the Recruitment Policy.

Visiting Speakers: The Prevent Duty (updated April 2021) and the ISI Regulatory Requirements require that visiting speakers, whether invited by pupils or staff, are both **suitable** and **appropriatelysupervised**.

The concern raised by the DfE is that 'terrorist groups often draw on extremist ideology developed byextremist organisations. Some people who join terrorist groups have previously been members of extremist organisations and have been radicalised by them.'

The Government has defined extremism as 'vocal or active opposition to the fundamental British [andglobal] values, including democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs.' It also includes 'calls for the death of members of the British armed forces' in the definition of extremism.

Risk Assessment and Procedures for Visiting Speakers

Please see guest speaker policy for detailed information.

If you have more minor concerns about the content of the talk, you should let the DSL and Prevent lead know this after the event so that action can be taken to redress the balance of views presented, which could be through a discussion with the audience about the extremist views they have heard and what makes them extreme. The counter-argument in favour of British values can then be put forward.

Building Resistance to Radicalisation – Allowing Discussion of Key Issues

Pupils have lessons in the promotion of British values and opportunities to discuss issues such as radicalisation, extreme views and terrorism. Whole School assemblies and lectures offer pupils the opportunity to hear a balanced set of political, religious and social messages, which promote the values among others of democracy, and respect for the rule of law. PHSEE Policy also gives further information about this area.

Anti-radicalisation is fundamentally about education and staff must create opportunities for students to be able to discuss current issues from all perspectives. Such discussion must be open, yet carefully guided to ensure that it reflects a balanced view. It is important that arguments for both positive and negative views are considered. Before engaging in any discussion or debate staff must set clear boundaries for the work as well as clear aims and context.

All teachers, tutors and boarding staff in particular should be aware of the opportunities which are presented to them to build pupils' resilience through informal as well as formal discussion.

Procedure for Reporting Concerns

Concerns about pupils: Staff should be alert to any behaviour which could indicate that a pupil might be at risk of potential or actual radicalisation. If you judge that a pupil is engaging in activities where you feel that they are becoming or could potentially become radicalised, you should contact the Prevent Lead or a member of the Safeguarding Team. It is important that all concerns, no matter how small, be reported if the staff member is worried that pupils (or staff) are becoming radicalised. Reporting of even minor issues may help to build a picture of behaviour across the School. Staff should always consider what is in the best interest of the pupils concerned.

Concerns can be reported in a number of ways, but if there is no urgent need of immediate action, and with an initial very low level concern, this could simply be in the form of a conversation with the pupil's Tutor and/or them which should be noted and forwarded to the Prevent Lead. In conjunction with the DSL the Prevent Lead will record the concern in the School Pupil Behaviour Log. Alternatively, an initial concern can be discussed with a member of the Safeguarding Team.

At a more significant level of concern, a referral to Children's Social Care might be appropriate andbeyond that a referral via the Channel process is available (see next section). Where staff feel it isappropriate or where there is a more urgent cause of concern, staff can go directly to external authorities such as the Police or the Channel Police Practitioner. It is very important that all concerns are set into the context of adolescent behaviour and as such a degree of discretion must be applied to the level at which action is taken. Should staff have a concernthe best course of action is to seek advice from the Prevent Lead unless they feel it is not appropriateto do so.

Concerns about staff: Concerns about staff who may become radicalised are equally valid and should also be reported. The procedures for reporting concerns about staff are the same as those forpupils outlined above and staff must report any concerns that they have to the Prevent Lead. Should the concern be about the Prevent Lead staff can report directly to the DSL or Headmistress.

Dealing with a Pupil who may have become radicalised - The Channel Process, External Reporting and Advice

The Government has put in place a process for helping young people who are at risk, which focuseson assessing their vulnerability and on diverting them away from risky behaviour. This is known as the [Channel](#) process. The Prevent Lead is responsible for making any reports via the Channel process.

Schools and other organisations working with children can contact if they have concerns about radicalisation:
Preventing extremism in education settings
Email counter.extremism@education.gov.uk
[Contact form](#)
Telephone 020 7340 7264
Opening times
Monday to Friday from 11am to 3pm (excluding bank holidays)

Monitoring Anti-Radicalisation

The DSL keeps a log of all reported concerns and this is reviewed

This Policy has been drafted from guidelines in *Prevent* Duty Guidance, issued on 7 September 2023 under Section 29 of the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015. It came into force on 31 December 2023, replacing the 2015 guidance which came into force in July 2015.