



Safeguarding Children against Radicalisation and Extremism at St. Cross Catholic Primary School

Strategy Document

What does radicalisation mean?

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.

Vulnerable young people can be targeted by extremists and be radicalised. Our school takes strategic action and works with other external agencies to safeguard children against radicalisation and extremism. Although it may be considered that radicalisation and extremism is more common in secondary schools, there is a risk to primary aged children as well as to parents and siblings. As a result, primary schools need to be aware, vigilant and act to prevent radicalisation of young people.

The School may also need to apply its 'Whistle Blowing Policy' should there be concerns about any adults expressing extremist views or attempting to radicalise pupils.

Our approach:

At St. Cross Catholic Primary School, children participate in a curriculum that promotes active learning and develops critical personal thinking skills. The school's focus on active learning and questioning enables students to explore social and emotional aspects of learning throughout the curriculum. The school actively promotes diversity and shared values between the school community, the local community, the national and global community. We do this by celebrating Gospel values incorporating our St Francis of Assisi Academy values and our own school values of respect, perseverance, resilience, teamwork and engagement.

These school values form the basis of our students understanding of wider communities and there are numerous academic and pastoral opportunities that embed this ethos. The school challenges all prejudices including Islamophobia and anti-Semitism recognising students who are at risk of isolation. The emphasis on pastoral care through our behaviour systems, assemblies, RE curriculum and enrichment activities ensure that the school is a safe place to learn and that anti-bullying strategies minimise hate and prejudice-based bullying.

The role of RE, SMSC and the wider curriculum:

- The RE curriculum and wider inclusive curriculum promotes respect and tolerance for people of all ethnicities, cultural backgrounds, abilities and religions. In addition to the planned curriculum there are opportunities for pupils to share concerns in a private way with trusted adults in the school and Circle Times are used to deal with social issues.
- Relationships and Health Education is another part of our curriculum that helps children develop a sense of right and wrong and support on how to keep themselves safe online and in everyday life.
- ICT lessons further develop children's awareness of potential dangers online.
- The Teachers and Teaching Assistants are skilled in dealing with issues that may trouble children and in leading interventions to support vulnerable children.

- Global aspects of the curriculum alongside our school values help children develop knowledge and understanding of the wider world and people in it.
- Visitors from external agencies including Child Line, Police and Local Authority are invited into school to work with our children.

The role of daily worship and assemblies:

- The school's daily worship activities are of a Christian nature, however stories from all major religions are included in assemblies and children of all faith groups or no religion are given opportunities for prayer/ reflection.
- Assemblies are used to promote the school's values and British values, including respect for all members of the school and wider community.

The role of staff and all adults in school:

- All staff, governors and volunteers have received statutory Child Protection Training.
- All concerns are logged on our safeguarding 'CPOMS' site and sent to the designated safeguarding leads.
- Headship Team and Senior Leadership Team operate an 'open door' policy for children and parents.

What would a member of staff at St. Cross do if a child makes a disclosure?

1. As with any safeguarding issue, they would always report any suspicions/disclosures to your DSL as soon as possible
2. Never promise confidentiality
3. Report the disclosure verbally to a DSL/DDSL
4. Record the conversation on CPOMS as soon as possible

Other key actions:

- We ensure that our safeguarding training is up to date, including 'Prevent' training
- Any prejudice informed incidents are recorded, dealt with and monitored. Concerns are reported to relevant external agencies as appropriate.
- Groups such as the school council and PTA are representative of cultural groups in the school wherever possible.
- The school promotes an atmosphere and ethos in which children feel safe to talk about problems and issues.
- The school promotes a culture of vigilance and one where adults listen to children.
- The school works with parents unless this increases the risk to children.
- Staff/ volunteer/ visitors induction includes safeguarding procedures.

Further details can be found;

- NSPCC Website: <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/reportingabuse/dedicated-helplines/protecting-children-from-radicalisation/>
- Educated Against Hate: Parents' Resources - Educate Against Hate