



# NEWCOMEN PRIMARY SCHOOL

**'BELIEVE ACHIEVE SUCCEED'**

## **Policy to Promote Safeguarding against Radicalisation and Extremism**

Designated Safeguarding Lead: Miss Kinga Pusztai (HT)

Designated Deputy Safeguarding Lead: Mr Ed Jones (DHT)

Designated Governor for Safeguarding: Mr Barry Greenwood

Headteacher: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Written by	Kinga Pusztai
Date	September 2024
To Be Reviewed	September 2026

## **Policy Statement**

Newcomen Primary School is fully committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all its pupils. Every member of staff recognises that safeguarding against radicalisation and extremism is no different to safeguarding against any other vulnerability in today's society.

This policy outlines our beliefs, strategies and procedures to protect vulnerable individuals from being radicalised or exposed to extremist views, by identifying who they are and promptly providing them with support.

## **Links to other Policies:**

This policy links to all other school policies; where you believe the intention of the policy is unclear, you should please contact the Headteacher for clarification.

The following national guidelines should also be read when working with this policy;

- PREVENT Strategy HM Government
- Keeping Children Safe in Education DfE 2022- Statutory guidance for schools and colleges
- Working Together to Safeguard Children HM Government 2018

## **Aims & Principles**

This policy is intended to provide a framework for dealing with issues relating to vulnerability, radicalisation and exposure to extreme views.

We recognise that we are well placed to be able to identify safeguarding issues and this policy clearly sets out how the school will deal with such incidents and identifies how the curriculum and ethos underpins our actions.

The objectives are that:

1. All governors, teachers, teaching assistants and non-teaching staff will have an understanding of what radicalisation and extremism is and why we need to be vigilant in school.
2. All governors, teachers, teaching assistants and non-teaching staff will know what the school policy is on extremism and radicalisation and will follow the policy guidance swiftly when issues arise.
3. All pupils will understand the dangers of radicalisation and exposure to extremist views; building resilience against these and knowing what to do if they experience them.
4. All parents/carers and pupils will know that the school has policies in place to keep pupils safe from harm and that the school regularly reviews its systems to ensure they are appropriate and effective. The main aims of this policy are to ensure that staff are fully engaged in being vigilant about radicalisation; that they overcome professional disbelief that such issues will not happen here, and ensure that we work alongside other professional bodies and agencies, to ensure that our pupils are safe from harm.

## **Definitions**

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

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 or 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.

## **Procedures for Referrals**

Although incidents involving radicalisation have not occurred at Newcomen Primary School to date, it is important for us to be constantly vigilant and remain fully informed about the issues which affect the local area and society in which we teach. Staff are reminded to suspend any 'professional disbelief' that instances of radicalisation 'could not happen here' and to be 'professionally inquisitive' where concerns arise, referring any concerns through the appropriate channels.

We believe that it is possible to intervene to protect people who are vulnerable. Early intervention is vital and staff must be aware of the established processes for professionals to refer concerns about individuals and/or groups.

We must have the confidence to challenge, the confidence to intervene and ensure that we have strong safeguarding practices based on the most up-to-date guidance and best practise.

The Headteacher and Deputy Headteacher are trained as the nominated safeguarding leads and will deal swiftly with any referrals made by staff or with concerns reported by staff.

The Headteacher will discuss the most appropriate course of action on a case-by-case basis and will decide when a referral to external agencies is needed. As with any child protection referral, staff must be made aware that if they do not agree with a decision not to refer, they can make the referral themselves and will be given the contact details to do this via the safeguarding board website.

## **Governors, Leaders & Staff**

The Headteacher (Designated Safeguarding Lead) and the Deputy Headteacher (Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead) make referrals relating to extremism and radicalisation. In the unlikely event that they are not available, all staff know the channels by which to make referrals via the safeguarding board website and also on the safeguarding notice board in the staffroom. Staff will be fully briefed about what to do if they are concerned about the possibility of radicalisation relating to a pupil, or if they need to discuss specific children whom they consider to be vulnerable to radicalisation or extremist views. The school will work together with external agencies to decide the best course of action to address concerns which arise.

## **The Role of the Curriculum**

Our curriculum is broad and balanced. It promotes respect, tolerance and diversity. Children are encouraged to share their views and recognise that they are entitled to have their own different beliefs which should not be used to influence others. Our PSHE provision is embedded across the curriculum, and demonstrated most clearly in our teaching of SMSC which underpins the ethos of the school. It is recognised nationally that children with low aspirations are more vulnerable to radicalisation and therefore we strive to equip our pupils with confidence, self-belief, respect and tolerance as well as setting high standards and expectations for themselves. Our curriculum is published on our website including our rich and varied assembly programme. Children are regularly taught about how to stay safe when using the internet and are encouraged to recognise that people are not always who they say they are online. They are taught to seek adult help if they are upset or concerned about anything they read or see on the internet.

## **Staff Training**

Through training opportunities in school, we will ensure that our staff are fully aware of the threats, risks and vulnerabilities that are linked to radicalisation; are aware of the process of radicalisation and how this might be identified early on and are aware of how we can provide support as a school to ensure that our children are resilient and able to resist involvement in radical or extreme activities.

## **Visitors and the use of School Premises**

Children are NEVER left unsupervised with external visitors, regardless of safeguarding check outcomes. Upon arriving at the school, all visitors, will be made aware of who the nominated persons are, and how to report any concerns which they may experience.

## **Appendix 1**

Dealing with referrals We are aware of the potential indicating factors that a child is vulnerable to being radicalised or exposed to extreme views, including peer pressure, influence from other people or the internet, bullying, crime and anti-social behaviour, family tensions, race/hate crime, lack of self-esteem or identity, prejudicial behaviour and personal or political grievances In the event of prejudicial behaviour the following system will be followed;

- All incidents of prejudicial behaviour will be reported directly to the Headteacher, children will be listened to and supported to share their concerns.
- All incidents will be fully investigated and recorded in line with the Policy to Promote Positive Relationships and Behaviour, and records will be kept in line with procedures for any other safeguarding incident.
- Parents/carers will be contacted and the incident discussed in detail, aiming to identify motivating factors, any changes in circumstances at home, parental views of the incident and to assess whether the incident is serious enough to warrant a further referral. A note of this meeting is kept alongside the initial referral in the Cause for Concern folder.
- In the event of a member of staff being suspected of promoting radical or extremist behaviour, a thorough investigation would follow and be dealt with in line with staff conduct policy
- If deemed necessary, serious incidents will be discussed and referred to Local Authority.
- In the event of a referral relating to serious concerns about potential radicalisation or extremism, the school will also contact Cleveland Police Counter Terrorism Unit (CTU) Security and Partnership Office 01642 326326 or the CTU hotline 0845 678 123.