



Whitegate Nursery School and EYC

PREVENT Duty Policy

This policy incorporates Whitegate nursery school and Whitegate Early Years Care, referred to within as the 'centre'.

Policy Statement

Whitegate is fully committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all its children and families. Every member of staff recognises that safeguarding against radicalisation and extremism is no different to safeguarding against any other vulnerability in today's society. The Prevent Policy sets out 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.

Whitegate's Prevent Policy links to the following centre policies:

- Child Protection and Safeguarding
- Equality Policy
- Anti-bullying Policy
- Promoting positive relationships and behaviour
- Acceptable Use/ Online Safety Policy

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

- PREVENT Strategy HM Government – Counter Terrorism Act 2015
- Keeping Children Safe in Education DfE 2022
- Working Together to Safeguard Children HM Government 2013.

Aims and 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.

At Whitegate:

- All staff and governors will have an understanding of what radicalisation and extremism are and why we need to be vigilant.
- All staff and governors will know what the policy is on tackling extremism and radicalisation and will follow the policy guidance swiftly when issues arise.
- We will promote British Values - **Democracy, Rule of Law, Respect and Tolerance, Individual Liberty** - throughout our curriculum and all our interactions with children and families.
- All families will know that the centre has policies in place to keep pupils safe from harm and that we regularly review 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 and Indicators

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, 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 serious incidents involving radicalisation have not occurred at Whitegate to date, it is important for us to be constantly vigilant and remain fully informed about the issues which affect the local area, town and society in which we are located. 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 front line 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 Designated Safeguarding Lead 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 as outlined in the Safeguarding Policy.

Responsibilities

The Headteacher is the lead for referrals relating to extremism and radicalisation. In the unlikely event that the Headteacher is unavailable, all staff know who the Deputy DSLs are and the channels by which to make referrals via the information in the School's Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy.

Staff will be fully briefed about what to do if they are concerned about the possibility of radicalisation within a family, or if they need to discuss specific children/ families whom they consider to be vulnerable to radicalisation or extremist views.

Our Curriculum and British Values

At Whitegate, we offer a curriculum that is broad and balanced. It promotes respect, tolerance and diversity. Children are learning to share their views and recognise that they are entitled to have their own beliefs which should not be used to influence others.

We promote the fundamental British Values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs. For young children this focuses around being listened to and beginning to listen to others, having the opportunity to find out about similarities and differences within their families and other families and being encouraged to notice and be interested in these. We encourage children to make choices and talk about good choices; we discuss consequences of our actions and words on ourselves and others.

It is recognised 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.

Children are protected whilst using our internet and we provide information to parents about safe internet use at home.

Training

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.

Induction includes PREVENT training and all staff will receive PREVENT update training bi-annually. Governors will be offered PREVENT training bi-annually.

Other agencies

Upon arriving at the school, all visitors including contractors, will be made aware of who the Designated Safeguarding Leads for the school are and how to report any concerns which they may experience. All visitors are expected to follow the centre policies; they will be challenged if not.

Other groups or organisations which use the premises will have appropriate checks before agreeing the contract. Usage will be monitored and in the event of any behaviour not in-keeping with the Prevent Duty Policy, the school will contact the police and terminate the contract.

Policy review

The Governing Body of our School is responsible for ensuring the bi-annual review of this policy.