
drb Ignite Multi Academy Trust

No Platform Policy

Introduction

The Trust and its individual schools have a range of duties in relation to safeguarding our pupils from extremism. The statutory guidance *Keeping Children Safe in Education* (usually updated annually) provides an overview of our duties with regard to preventing the radicalisation of pupils. It recognises that they may be vulnerable to extremist ideology and radicalisation and that protecting them from this risk must be part of our safeguarding approach.

The Policy also references:

- The *Terrorism Act* (2000)
- The *Equality Act* (2010)
- **The Government's paper *Preventing extremism in the education and children's services sector* (2015)**
- The *Counter Terrorism and Security Act* (2015)
- The *Prevent Duty* guidance (2019)

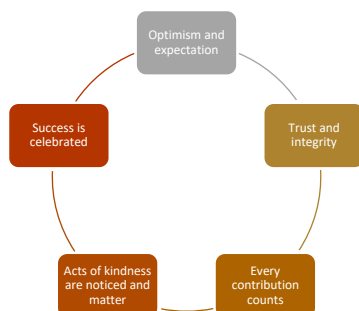
The 2015 Act placed the *Prevent Counter-Terrorism Strategy* on a statutory footing and strengthened the duties on schools to have due regard to the importance of preventing children being drawn into terrorism. Schools are expected to address a wide range of concerns relating to radicalisation e.g. the potential for children to be groomed and drawn into extremist narratives.

Aims of the policy

- To ensure that the right to freedom of speech is balanced against the potential use of Trust facilities for the promotion of extremist ideological, religious or political beliefs
- To provide clarity about the definition of extremist belief
- To provide guidelines for our schools and staff about how to respond to extremist concerns and conduct research into the background of potential speakers

Alignment with Trust values

The policy contributes to the Trust's core values



Alignment with Trust key objectives

Our Trust has four key objectives, all of which relate directly or indirectly to this policy.

- Outstanding pupil experience
- Excellence in education
- Impactful teaching
- Effective partnerships

Definitions for the purpose of the policy

The Trust and the schools must pay attention to the particular definitions below:

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| Equality Duty | <p>A duty not to unlawfully discriminate against anyone based on the nine protected characteristics: race, disability, religion or belief, gender, sexual orientation, gender reassignment, pregnancy or maternity, age, marriage or civil partnership</p> <p>And to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation • Advance equality of opportunity between people with a shared protected characteristic <p style="padding-left: 40px;">and those who do not share it</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Foster good relations between people with a shared protected characteristic and those <p style="padding-left: 40px;">who do not share it</p> |
| Extremist beliefs | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The expression of racist or fascist views • The incitement of hatred based on religious interpretation, ideology or belief • The promotion of discrimination on the grounds of political opinion, age, colour, <p style="padding-left: 40px;">disability, ethnic or national origin, gender, marital status, race, religion or sexual orientation</p> |
| Extremism | <p>Defined in the Prevent and Counter Extremism Strategy as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>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.</i> • <i>Calls for the death of members of our armed forces, whether in this country or overseas</i> |

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| <p>Freedom of speech</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A fundamental right underpinning our society’s values but not an unqualified privilege • Must be subject to laws and policies governing equality, human rights, community safety and social cohesion • The right to speak freely and voice opinions - but with freedom comes responsibility • Free speech that leads to violence and harm goes against the moral principles on which free speech is valued |
| <p>Proscribed organisation</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • List of terrorist groups or organisations published by the Home Office |
| <p>Terrorism Act</p> | <p>A criminal offence to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Belong (or profess to belong) to a proscribed organisation • Arrange, manage or assist in arranging a meeting in the knowledge that it is intended to support the proscribed organisation • Wear clothing or display articles to arouse reasonable suspicion that an individual is a member or supporter of the proscribed organisation |

Policy principles

- No person may use the facilities of the Trust (including its schools) to express or promote extremist ideological or political views.
- No person may use the facilities of the Trust (including its schools) to express or promote discriminatory views in relation to the protected characteristics listed in the Equality Act 2010.
- The Trust (including its schools) will not allow the use of its facilities by any group or organisation that is proscribed by HM Government.
- The facilities include property and land owned or leased by the Trust and the receipt or provision of its services from or to others.
- The facilities also include the use of the Trust or school websites, IT facilities and information management systems.

- The Trust exercises its right to monitor and control all activities in terms of electronic communications associated with the name of the Trust or a school and the content of any written materials as they appear to promote discriminatory views, the glorification of terrorism or extreme ideological, religious, or political beliefs.
- The Trust or school may refuse a group or organisation to make use of its facilities if such use is incompatible with the policies and objectives of the Trust.

Policy responsibilities

The Trust Board ensure that:

- a policy is in place and updated in line with guidance

The CEO and Exec. Director for Governance and Strategy ensure that:

- the Trust policy is up-to-date and robust and can be applied to each school
- reviews take place and any changes to risk assessments made with reports to the Board as appropriate
- support is provided to schools as necessary

The Trust Improvement Board ensure that:

- reports are received from schools as appropriate as part of the performance review schedule
- any changes to risk assessments are monitored and reviewed

School leaders ensure that:

- all procedures relating to the policy are robust
- research is conducted into the background of potential speakers
- risk assessments are undertaken
- staff understand the policy and receive guidance on how to recognise a potential issue
- all concerns are reported to the CEO and Director for School Improvement

All staff:

- have responsibility to act on concerns by informing their headteacher or, if concerned about pupil welfare, the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) or a Deputy DSL.
- to know that they can escalate the concern further to the CEO or Director of School Improvement if they feel that no satisfactory action has been taken
- may use the Trust's whistleblowing policy (to be found on the Trust and school websites)

Conducting research and mitigating risk

The Trust and its schools will be vigilant and consider the following steps in order to mitigate risk. This is not a definitive list but acts as a guide.

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| ASK | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Who is the individual or organisation (e.g. name/address/phone number/website – including landline number and business address)? Do they implement policies which promote equality and diversity and challenge discrimination? Do they agree to implement the Trust’s equality and diversity principles? The event/theme/title/content/speakers/audience/numbers/demographics. How it will be promoted and whether it is open to the public or ticket only. If being arranged by an event management company or agency, what are the details of their client? |
| CHECK | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> View websites, articles, speeches, blogs, reports, social media. Request a reference from a previous provider. If for a charity, check the charity number at charity.commission.gov.uk. The Trust/school must be wary of any individual only giving a mobile number or any individual offering a cash payment. |
| DECIDE | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will the event go ahead, or should further action be taken to reduce risk? |

The Trust’s lettings policy

The Trust and its schools may have some longer-term lettings arrangements with, for example, a children’s centre or sports company. These should not be impacted by this policy, but the advice is always to remain cautious and to conduct a risk assessment if there appear to be any changes to a contractual arrangement or service level agreement (SLA). In broad terms, the Trust’s lettings arrangements apply to use of facilities during the school day or immediately after school and not for any evening or weekend activities because site management facilities are generally not available. For these reasons, the Trust and its schools can reasonably refuse any requests for use of facilities out of regular school hours.


Educational visitors

The policy also applies to any educational visitor, working directly with staff or pupils e.g. in delivering training or leading assemblies. This includes remote or online presentations. The Trust expects that a thorough check of the background of any individual or organisation is under-taken and appropriate risk assessments conducted, in line with the requirements of the Trust’s Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy. Where there is doubt at school level, immediate advice should be sought from the CEO, Director of School Improvement or Designated Safeguarding Lead.

Monitoring and review

This Policy will be monitored as part of the Trust's annual internal review and Fully reviewed on a two-year cycle or as required by legislature changes.

Change management

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| Monitoring and review: | CEO Trust Board Trust Improvement Board |
| Links: | Equalities Health and Safety Lettings Risk and Management Whistleblowing Safeguarding and Child Protection |
| Staff responsible: | CEO, Executive Director Governance and Strategy, Director of School Improvement, Headteachers |
| Committee responsible: | Trust Improvement Board |
| Date: | March 2021 |
| Next review: | March 2023 |
| Sign off by Chair of Trust: |  Date: March 2021 |

Change Management

| Issue No.: | Change date: | Change description: |
|------------|--------------|---------------------|
| 1.0 | Mar'21 | Initial release |
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