



Churchdown School Academy
ACHIEVING SUCCESS FOR ALL

Prevent Policy

Churchdown School Mission Statement

Our mission is to be a school where student development and learning are at the centre of everything we do. Students are expected to strive for personal excellence and demonstrate a commitment to learning as they fulfil their potential. Our community is a nurturing and caring one, where students are encouraged to show compassion, friendship and support towards one another. We aim to provide an education which is fully inclusive, where every child is valued for who they are and who they can become.

At Churchdown School the education we provide is guided by the values of integrity, resilience, respect, ambition and friendship. These values are particularly important to us as we develop the students into lifelong learners and prepare them for a life beyond school.

Introduction

As of 1st July 2015, there is a statutory duty for schools to report on extremist behaviours or act upon concerns they have related to extremism. Section 26 of the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 places a duty on certain bodies in the exercise of their functions to have “due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism”.

There have been several occasions both locally and nationally in which extremist groups have attempted to radicalise vulnerable children and young people to hold extreme views including views justifying political, religious, sexist or racist violence, or to steer them into a rigid and narrow ideology that is intolerant of diversity and leaves them vulnerable to future radicalisation.

Churchdown School values freedom of speech and the expression of beliefs/ideology as fundamental rights underpinning our society’s values. Both students and teachers have the right to speak freely and voice their opinions. However, freedom comes with responsibility and free speech that is designed to manipulate the vulnerable or that leads to violence and harm of others goes against the moral principles in which freedom of speech is valued. Free speech is not an unqualified privilege; it is subject to laws and policies governing equality, human rights, community safety and community cohesion.

The current threat from terrorism in the United Kingdom may include the exploitation of vulnerable people, to involve them in terrorism or in activity in support of extremism and terrorism. The normalisation of extreme views may also make children and young people vulnerable to future manipulation and exploitation.

Churchdown School is clear that this exploitation and radicalisation should be viewed as a safeguarding concern and this is noted with our Safeguarding Policy.

Our school’s Preventing Extremism and Radicalisation Policy also draws upon the guidance contained in the “Prevent Duty Guidance for England and Wales, March 2015”; DfE Guidance “Keeping Children Safe in Education, 2015” and “Working together to safeguard children, March 2015”.

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School Ethos and Practice

There is no place for extremist views of any kind in our school, whether from internal sources – students, staff or governors, or external sources – school community, external agencies or individuals.

It is imperative that our students and parents see our school as a safe place where they can discuss and explore controversial issues safely and in an unbiased way and where our teachers encourage and facilitate this.

As a school we recognise that extremism and exposure to extremist materials and influences can lead to poor outcomes for our students. We also recognise that if we fail to challenge extremist views, we are failing to protect our students.

Extremists of all persuasions aim to develop destructive relationships between different communities by promoting division, fear and mistrust of others based on ignorance or prejudice and thereby limiting the life chances of young people. Education is a powerful weapon against this; equipping young people with the knowledge, skills and critical thinking, to challenge and debate in an informed way.

Therefore, at Churchdown School we will provide a broad and balanced curriculum, delivered by skilled professionals, so that our pupils are enriched, understand and become tolerant of difference and diversity and also to ensure that they thrive, feel valued and not marginalised.

As part of wider safeguarding responsibilities school staff will be alert to:

- Disclosures by students of their exposure to the extremist actions, views or materials of others outside of school, such as in their homes or community groups, especially where students have not actively sought these out.
- Graffiti symbols, writing or art-work promoting extremist messages or images
- Students accessing extremist material online, including through social networking sites.
- Parental reports of changes in behaviour, friendship or actions and requests for assistance
- Local schools, Local Authority services, and police reports of issues affecting pupils in other schools or settings
- Students voicing opinions drawn from extremist ideologies and narratives
- Use of extremist or 'hate' terms to exclude others or incite violence
- Intolerance of difference, whether secular or religious or, in line with our equalities policy, views based on, but not exclusive to, gender, disability, homophobia, race, colour or culture
- Attempts to impose extremist views or practices on others
- Anti-Western or Anti-British views.

Teaching Approaches

We will all strive to eradicate the myths and assumptions that can lead to some young people becoming alienated and disempowered, especially where the narrow approaches children may experience elsewhere may make it harder for them to challenge or question these radical influences. In our school this will be achieved by good teaching, primarily during PSHE lessons; but also, by adopting the methods outlined in the Government's guidance ['Teaching approaches that help build resilience to extremism among young people'](#) DfE 2011.

We will ensure that all of our teaching approaches help our students build resilience to extremism and give pupils a positive sense of identity through the development of critical thinking skills. We will ensure that all of our staff are equipped to recognise extremism and are skilled and confident enough to challenge it.

We will be flexible enough to adapt our teaching approaches, as appropriate, so as to address specific issues so as to become even more relevant to the current issues of extremism and radicalisation.

This approach will be embedded within the ethos of our school so that students know and understand what safe and acceptable behaviour is in the context of extremism and radicalisation. This will work in conjunction with our school's approach to the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils as defined in OfSTED's School Inspection Handbook and will include assemblies which promote fundamental British values to help further promote this rounded development of our students.

We will promote the values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, mutual respect and tolerance for those with different faiths and beliefs. We will teach and encourage pupils to respect one another and to respect and tolerate difference, especially those of a different faith or no faith. It is indeed our most fundamental responsibility to keep our pupils safe and prepare them for life in modern multi-cultural Britain and globally.

Risk reduction

The school governors, the Headteacher and the Deputy Head (Designated Safeguarding Lead) will assess the level of risk within the school and put actions in place to reduce that risk. Risk assessment may include consideration of the school's RE curriculum, E Safety policy, visiting speakers, the use of school premises by external agencies, anti-bullying policy and other issues specific to the school's profile, community and philosophy.

The school will screen staff, visitors and volunteers to ensure that they will not deliver messages of extremism or radicalisation.

This risk assessment will be reviewed as part of the annual report to governors that is monitored by the local authority and the local safeguarding children board.

Response

Our school, like all others, is required to identify a Prevent Single Point of Contact (SPOC) who will be the lead within the organisation for safeguarding in relation to protecting individuals from radicalisation and involvement in terrorism. The SPOC at Churchdown School will be the Headteacher, David Potter.

All adults working in Churchdown School (including visiting staff, volunteers, contractors and students on placement) are required to report instances where they believe a child may be at risk of harm or neglect or if they have concerns that a student may be at risk of radicalisation or involvement in terrorism. They should speak with the SPOC, David Potter, or to Deputy Headteacher Josie Hilton. **Disclosures should be reported without delay in line with guidance in our safeguarding policy.**