

Courthouse Green Primary School

Anti Radicalisation Policy

June 2016



Courthouse Green Primary School is fully committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all children. As a school, we recognise that safeguarding against radicalisation is no different to safeguarding against any other vulnerability. At Courthouse Green all staff are expected to uphold and promote the fundamental principles of British Values including – democracy; the rule of law; tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs; individual liberty and mutual respect.

### **LINKS TO OTHER POLICIES**

The Courthouse Green Primary School Anti Radicalisation policy statement links to the following documents that all staff have been trained in (September 2014)

- Child Protection Policy
- Anti Bullying Policy
- Behaviour Policy
- Prevent Strategy
- E-Safety Policy
- Keeping Children Safe
- Working together to safeguard children

### **AIMS AND PRINCIPLES**

The main aims of this policy statement are to ensure that staff are fully engaged in being vigilant about radicalisation; they overcome professional disbelief that such issues will not happen here and ensure that we work in partnership with other agencies to ensure that our children are safe from harm.

All governors, teachers and non teaching staff will have an understanding of what radicalisation and extremism are and why we need to be vigilant in school.

All governors, teachers and non-teaching staff will know what the school policy is on anti-radicalisation and extremism and will follow the policy when issues arise.

All parents 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. Children will recognise that we will work to PREVENT them from receiving radical advice.

### **DEFINITIONS AND INDICATORS**

Radicalisation is defined as the act 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.

Whilst all children are at risk of radicalisation; indicators may include –

- Expressing views that are sympathetic to extremist views
- Becoming overly interested in politics and foreign policy
- Telling other children that they are wrong to hold non extremist views (whether it be about religion, politics or conflict)
- A desire to join an army for vengeful reasons
- Trying to persuade other children or staff to hold their own views on foreign policy, conflict or religion
- Explaining extreme views as told to them by their elders in the community – young children may not realise that what they are being told is in anyway extremist and will not recognise in this case that they have done anything wrong
- Showing disrespect to specific groups within the community
- May become more physically and verbally aggressive
- May seem closed to new ideas or reluctant to accept positive facts about other groups
- Becoming more argumentative and disrespectful of authority
- Seeming more arrogant than usual
- Changes in appearance

### **VISITING STAFF, SPEAKERS AND OUT OF SCHOOL TRIPS – ‘UNKNOWN ADULTS’**

Wherever possible, unknown adults will be vetted by the person arranging the assembly or learning experience. Unknown adults will never be allowed to work with our children unsupervised and should they start to share

extremist views on any subject, they should be stopped by a member of staff and asked to leave the area (and then the school by a senior leader) We should then explain to the children why we have stopped them from speaking ie: “These views are extremist for the following reasons... and we do not tolerate this kind of behaviour at Courthouse Green, we will not allow anyone to try and force their views on you when we believe there is a chance that you are being told things that will affect your safety”. Any parents that hold extremist views – these also translate in to racism or homophobia, should also be challenged by staff.

### **PROCEDURES FOR REFERRALS**

Although serious incidents of radicalisation have not occurred at Courthouse Green to date, it is important for us to be constantly vigilant and remain fully informed about the issues that affect the area around our school. Local secondary schools and community groups report many incidences of radicalisation and extremism on a weekly basis. Many of our children may well be part of a family that has already been exposed to some form of radicalisation. We are most likely to hear conversations between children or for them to ask questions about something they have seen or heard in search of clarity. There are at least six well known right wing groups operating in North East Coventry at the moment and it is important to recognise that extremism can come from many sectors of the community.

There are many factors that lead to children becoming vulnerable to radicalisation which can, in turn, become risk factors. These factors are no different to any other circumstance that we wouldn't already be wary of – bereavements, absent parents, low self esteem, poverty, poor mental health, lack of aspiration, increased use of social media etc. We need to continue to notice these circumstances for our children and share the information in the same way as we would any other safeguarding concern.

In most cases, children will be confused by what they have seen or heard as they will know that it is wrong. They may also be fearful of getting family members or elders in to trouble. In this case we must act in the same way as we would with any other type of disclosure – Reassure the child, log the disclosure immediately on CPOMS, find Sarah (DCPO) or Kate (Deputy DCPO) as soon as possible so that they can alert the necessary external agencies.

### **SUPPORT THROUGH OUR CURRICULUM**

Our curriculum promotes respect, tolerance and diversity. Children are encouraged to share their views and recognise that they are entitled to have their own beliefs but that these shouldn't be used to influence others. Our PHSCE provision is embedded across the curriculum and underpins the ethos of the school.

It is recognised that children with low aspirations are more vulnerable to radicalisation and to this end, we strive to equip our children with confidence, self-belief, respect and tolerance as well as setting high standards and expectations for themselves.

Children are regularly taught how to stay safe when using the internet and are encouraged to recognise that people may not always be 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 CPD and teacher training days, we will ensure that our staff are fully aware of the threats, risks and vulnerabilities that are linked to radicalisation; that they are aware of the process of radicalisation and how this may be identified early. WRAP training will be completed by every member of staff in accordance with Coventry safeguarding and HM Government guidelines.

Kate Halfpenny is our member of staff registered with the Home Office to deliver WRAP training.

Policy date: 17 June 2016

Review date: 17 June 2019

Kate Halfpenny