New Seaham Academy

Prevent Policy

Protecting Children from Extremism and Radicalisation

Schools have a vital role to play in protecting children and young people from the risks of extremism and radicalization. This role is underpinned by the Counter Terrorism and Security Act (2015) to have due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism.

The Prevent Strategy, published by the Government in 2011 is part of an overall counter terrorism strategy CONTEST. The aim of the Prevent strategy is to reduce the threat to the UK from terrorism by stopping people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism activity. This has raised a specific need to safeguard children, young people and families from violent extremism and terrorism. Nationally, there have been situations in which extremist groups have attempted to radicalise vulnerable children and young people to hold extreme views. Such views include justifying political, religious, sexist or racist violence, or to steer individuals into a rigid and narrow ideology that is either vocal or active opposition to fundamental British values including embracing diversity and mutual respect and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs.

New Seaham Academy is fully committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all children and young people who we work with. As a childcare provider we recognise that safeguarding against radicalisation is no different from safeguarding against any other vulnerability.

All staff are expected to uphold and promote the fundamental principles of British values, including democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect, and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs.

New Seaham Academy values freedom of speech and the expression of beliefs / ideology as fundamental rights underpinning our society's values. Children, young people and all

childcare workers 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/or 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 terrorism. The normalisation of extreme views may also make children and young people vulnerable to future manipulation and exploitation. New Seaham Academy is clear that this exploitation and radicalisation should be viewed as a safeguarding concern.

New Seaham Academy seeks to protect children and young people against the messages of all violent extremism including, but not restricted to, those linked to Islamist ideology, Far Right, Neo Nazi or White Supremacist ideology, Irish Nationalist and Loyalist paramilitary groups or extremist Animal Rights movements.

Links to other policies
Policy Statement links to the following policies:

- Safeguarding
- Equality and Discrimination Policy
- Anti-Bullying Policy
- Behaviour Policy

Aims and Principles
To ensure all childcare staff are aware of the Prevent Strategy and are able to protect children and young people who are vulnerable or at risk of being radicalised by working alongside other professional bodies and agencies to ensure that individuals are safe from harm.

The principle objectives are that:

- All staff working or volunteering within a childcare setting will:
  - Have an understanding of what radicalisation and extremism are and why we need to be vigilant in a childcare setting.
  - Know what the childcare provider policy is on safeguarding from radicalisation and extremism and will follow the policy when issues arise.
- All parents will know that the childcare provider has policies in place to keep children and young people safe from harm and that the childcare provider regularly reviews its systems to ensure they are appropriate and effective.

Definitions

- Radicalisation refers to the process by which a person comes to support terrorism and extremism leading to terrorism (Appendix 1).

- Extremism is defined by Government in the prevent strategy as: 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. Also include in the definition of extremism calls for the death of members of our armed forces (Appendix 1).

- Terrorism is defined by Government as *"The use of violence in order to accomplish political, religious or social objectives".* Terrorism is a criminal act that influences an audience beyond the immediate victim. Effectiveness is not the act itself but the impact on Government and the public.

Procedures for referrals
Keeping children and young people safe from these risks is a safeguarding matter and should be approached in the same way as safeguarding children from other risks.

Although serious incidents involving radicalisation have not occurred at New Seaham Academy and although the risk is minimal in County Durham, it is important for us to be vigilant and remain informed about the issues which affect risks to the provision. All staff are reminded to dispel belief that instances of radicalisation 'could not happen here'.

When any member of staff has concerns that a child or young person may be at risk of radicalisation or involvement in terrorism, they should speak with the schools Single Point of Contact (SPOC) for safeguarding pupils from radicalisation and involvement in terrorism. They will be responsible for referring any concerns to the Police Prevent Team who will assess whether the pupil may be at risk of radicalisation, and where relevant, for referring the child to the Channel Panel (Appendix 2).

The SPOC for New Seaham Academy are:
Durham Police Prevent Team - Telephone 0191 3752234 – Email:
HQspecialbranch@durham.pnn.police.uk

Risk reduction
The school Management Team, Board of Trustees and the Designated Safeguarding Lead will assess the level of risk within the school and put actions in place to reduce any identified risks.

Children and young people 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

The school will ensure that staff have 'due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism'. They are aware of the threats, risks and vulnerabilities that are linked to radicalisation and they understand the signs that someone may be vulnerable to radicalisation.
Training may be undertaken via a briefing, e-learning or a face to face workshop to raise awareness of Prevent (WRAP) session.

Policy Review
This policy statement will be reviewed annually as part of the overall Child Protection and Safeguarding policy review.

Appendix 1

Indicators of Vulnerability to Radicalisation

1. Radicalisation refers to the process by which a person comes to support terrorism and forms of extremism leading to terrorism.

2. Extremism is defined by the Government in the Prevent Strategy as: 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. We also include in our definition of extremism calls for the death of members of our armed forces, whether in this country or overseas.

3. Extremism is defined by the Crown Prosecution Service as:
   The demonstration of unacceptable behaviour by using any means or medium to express views which:

   - Encourage, justify or glorify terrorist violence in furtherance of particular beliefs;
   - Seek to provoke others to terrorist acts;
   - Encourage other serious criminal activity or seek to provoke others to serious criminal acts; or
   - Foster hatred which might lead to inter-community violence in the UK.

4. There is no such thing as a "typical extremist": those who become involved in extremist actions come from a range of backgrounds and experiences, and most individuals, even those who hold radical views, do not become involved in violent extremist activity.

5. Pupils may become susceptible to radicalisation through a range of social, personal and environmental factors - it is known that violent extremists exploit vulnerabilities in individuals to drive a wedge between them and their families and communities. It is vital that childcare provider staff are able to recognise those vulnerabilities.

6. Indicators of vulnerability include:

   Identity Crisis – the student / pupil is distanced from their cultural / religious heritage and experiences discomfort about their place in society;

Personal Crisis – the student / pupil may be experiencing family tensions; a sense of isolation; and low self-esteem; they may have dissociated from their existing friendship group and become involved with a new and different group of friends; they may be searching for answers to questions about identity, faith and belonging;
Personal Circumstances – migration; local community tensions; and events affecting the student / pupil's country or region of origin may contribute to a sense of grievance that is triggered by personal experience of racism or discrimination or aspects of Government policy;
Unmet Aspirations – the student / pupil may have perceptions of injustice; a feeling of failure; rejection of civic life;
Experiences of Criminality – including involvement with criminal groups, imprisonment, and poor resettlement / reintegration;
Individual Needs – students / pupils may experience difficulties with social interaction,
empathy with others, understanding the consequences of their actions and awareness of the motivations of others.

However, this list is not exhaustive, nor does it mean that all young people experiencing the above are at risk of radicalisation for the purposes of violent extremism.

7. More critical risk factors could include:

- Being in contact with extremist recruiters;
- Accessing violent extremist websites, especially those with a social networking element;
- Possessing or accessing violent extremist literature;
- Using extremist narratives and a global ideology to explain personal disadvantage;
- Justifying the use of violence to solve societal issues;
- Joining or seeking to join extremist organisations;
- Significant changes to appearance and / or behaviour; and
- Experiencing a high level of social isolation resulting in issues of identity crisis and / or personal crisis.

Appendix 2

Roles and Responsibilities of the Single Point of Contact (SPOC)

The SPOC for New Seaham Academy are Durham Police Prevent Team, who are responsible for:

- Ensuring that staff of the childcare provider are aware that you are the SPOC in relation to protecting students/pupils from radicalisation and involvement in terrorism;

- Maintaining and applying a good understanding of the relevant guidance in relation to preventing students/pupils from becoming involved in terrorism, and protecting them from radicalisation by those who support terrorism or forms of extremism which lead to terrorism;

- Raising awareness about the role and responsibilities of New Seaham Academy in relation to protecting students/pupils from radicalisation and involvement in terrorism;

- Raising awareness within the childcare provider about the safeguarding processes relating to protecting students/pupils from radicalisation and involvement in terrorism;

- Acting as the first point of contact within the childcare provider for case discussions relating to students / pupils who may be at risk of radicalisation or involved in terrorism;

- Collating relevant information in relation to referrals of vulnerable students / pupils into the Channel* process; and

- Attending Channel meetings, where necessary, to support assessment and intervention.

* Channel is a multi-agency approach to provide support to individuals who are at risk of being drawn into terrorist related activity. Channel aims to:

- Establish an effective multi-agency referral and intervention process to identify vulnerable individuals;

- Safeguard individuals who might be vulnerable to being radicalised, so that they are not at risk of being drawn into terrorist-related activity; and

- Provide early intervention to protect and divert people away from the risks they face and reduce vulnerability.

Reviewed by Mr S. Bilton
Date: September 2026

To be next reviewed: September 2027