



PREVENTING EXTREMISM AND RADICALISATION STATEMENT

John Taylor Multi Academy Trust strives to provide a caring, structured learning environment in which all pupils can develop academically, socially, and emotionally, and in which pupils and staff feel safe, secure, and valued. JTMAT is fully committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all its pupils. As a Trust 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. In formulating this statement, JTMAT has considered the guidance from the Department for Education (DfE) who has called for all public bodies to make explicit their preventative measures to minimise the threat of extremism in their setting.

DEFINITIONS AND INDICATORS

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

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.”

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.

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.

Staff at JTMAT schools understand that students 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. Indicators of vulnerability will be set out in each school’s Safeguarding Policy, but may include identity crisis, personal crisis, unmet aspirations, experiences of criminality. More critical risk factors include contact with extremist recruiters, family members convicted of a terrorism act or subject to Channel intervention, access to extremist websites or literature, justifying violence to solve societal issues, joining or seeking to join extremist organisations, significant changes in appearance, or high levels of social isolation.

JTMAT has a zero-tolerance approach to extremist behaviour for all community members. We rely on our strong values to steer our work and ensure the pastoral care of our pupils protects them from exposure to negative influences. Furthermore, our positive promotion of our behaviour policies and practices based on respect and tolerance equips our pupils with the skills to reject violence in all its forms.

AIMS AND PRINCIPLES

The main aims of this statement 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. The principle objectives are that:

- Pupils are encouraged to adopt and live out our core values. These complement the key “British Values” of tolerance, respect, understanding, compassion and harmonious living.
- Pupils are helped to understand the importance of democracy and freedom of speech, through PHSE activities, as part of the wider curriculum, displays in and around school, thematic assemblies and information provided to parents.
- Pupils are taught how to keep themselves safe, in school and when using the internet.
- Pupils participate in local community events so that they appreciate and value their neighbours and friends who may not share their background.
- Pupil’s wellbeing, confidence and resilience is promoted through our planned curriculum and out of hours learning opportunities.
- Pupils are supported in making good choices, so they understand the impact and consequences of their actions on others.
- All staff, Local Governing Bodies and Trustees demonstrate an understanding of what radicalisation and extremism are and why we need to be vigilant in school. The Office for Security & Counter Terrorism works to counter the threat from terrorism and their work is detailed in the counter terrorism strategy CONTEST. This strategy is based on four areas of work:
 - Pursue - To stop terrorist attacks
 - Prevent - To stop people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism
 - Protect - To strengthen our protection against a terrorist attack
 - Prepare - To mitigate the impact of a terrorist attack. Staff have been briefed and trained in this approach.

Although serious incidents involving radicalisation have not occurred to date within JTMAT it is important for us to be constantly vigilant and remain fully informed about the issues which affect the region in which we teach. Staff are reminded to suspend any professional disbelief that instances of radicalisation ‘could not happen here’ and to refer any concerns through the appropriate channels.

Staff are aware that where there are concerns that an individual may be vulnerable to radicalisation it does not mean that they think the person is a terrorist; it means that they are concerned that the person may be prone to being exploited by others. Radicalisation of vulnerable children and adults is a safeguarding issue. Staff are expected to use their professional judgement and should there be a concern that someone is at risk of being involved in extremism, they should contact the local Prevent Team via Tel: 01785 232054 or email prevent@staffordshire.pnn.police.uk

Should a student be referred to Channel, staff at the school will support and attend any necessary meetings.