



# Prevent Duty and Anti-Radicalisation Policy

Policy Type:	Safeguarding
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## 1. Prevent policy statement

The James Montgomery Academy Trust (JMAT) deplores terrorism of any kind and of any radical ideology, and is fully committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all its pupils. As a Trust we recognise that protecting pupils from the risk of radicalisation is part of our wider responsibility in safeguarding pupils against other vulnerabilities, whether this comes from within their family or from other influences outside the home. Each JMAT school will assess the risk of pupils who may be susceptible to being drawn into terrorism through identifying the factors that affect children in the local area and knowing how to identify those at risk.

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.

Through the curriculum we aim to build pupils' resilience to radicalisation by promoting fundamental British values and enabling them to challenge extremist views. It is important to emphasise that the Prevent duty is not intended to stop pupils talking about or debating controversial issues. In all our Trust schools, we want to provide a safe space in which pupils can develop the knowledge and skills to be able to challenge extremist arguments at an age-appropriate level.

It is important to note that a pupil's susceptibility to radicalisation may be linked to a particular vulnerability, such as SEND, due to their age, or if they are at risk of abuse or neglect. However, not all pupils susceptible to radicalisation will be vulnerable, and there may be other circumstances that may make them susceptible to radicalisation, but do not constitute a vulnerability.

## 2. Key Terms

- **Extremism** – the holding of extreme political or religious views.
- **Ideology** – a set of beliefs
- **Terrorism** – a violent action against people or property, designed to create fear and advance a political, religious or ideological cause
- **Radicalisation** – the process by which a person comes to support extremist behaviour
- **British values** – are a set of expected standards by which people resident in the UK must live

## 3. Prevent 2023 – new definition

Extremism is the promotion or advancement of an ideology based on violence, hatred or intolerance, that aims to:

- Negate or destroy the fundamental rights and freedoms of others; or
- Undermine, overturn or replace the UK's system of liberal parliamentary democracy and democratic rights; or
- Intentionally create a permissive environment for others to achieve the results in (1) or (2).

## 4. Aims and principles

As is the JMAT's responsibility under law, we will do our utmost to safeguard our pupils from being drawn into extremism and terrorism.

The main aims of this policy are to ensure:

- Each school has a dedicated Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) who deals with any incidents of extremism and or terrorism within our school community, and referral to Channel if required.
- That all JMAT staff are fully engaged in being vigilant about radicalisation.
- We assess the risk of students who are susceptible to being drawn into terrorism.
- JMAT staff are trained to recognise radicalisation and extremism.
- We work alongside local safeguarding partners in terms of Prevent and Channel.
- We carefully manage access to extremist material - ICT filters.

- Our staff and pupils are confident about British Values.

## **5. Roles and responsibilities**

### **5.1 The headteacher is responsible for:**

- Providing a safe environment in which children can discuss and learn.
- Building resilience to radicalisation and extremism through the curriculum.
- Limiting children children's exposure to radicalising narratives, both online and offline.
- Ensuring pupils are taught about British values through the curriculum and creating an environment where radicalising ideologies are challenged and not permitted to flourish.
- Undertaking a risk assessment to determine whether pupils are at risk of being drawn into terrorism.
- Identifying extremist risks as part of the contextual safeguarding risk for the school community.
- Ensuring any visitors and speakers at the school are checked prior to visit to school - this may include an online search.

### **5.2 The DSL, and any deputies, are responsible for:**

- Sharing information about safeguarding concerns with relevant agencies promptly.
- Handling and following up any referrals to the Channel programme, via established route.
- Updating own Prevent training every two years.
- Ensuring that staff receive Prevent awareness training appropriate to their role.
- Working with external agencies to support pupils at risk of being drawn into terrorism.
- Providing guidance to other staff members to help them support pupils at risk of being drawn into terrorism.
- Sharing relevant information about a pupil's engagement with Channel and other agencies as appropriate, this should be transferred with CP files when a child leaves.

### **5.3 All staff members are responsible for:**

- Understanding and being alert to the risk factors that leads people to extremist ideologies, terrorism or supporting terrorism.
- Being able to recognise susceptibility to terrorism and extremism in the local area.
- Being alert to the need to 'notice, check and share' if they identify a concern.
- Raising any concerns with the DSL (or any deputies, in their absence) via the RecordMy system.
- Engaging in staff training on the Prevent duty, for example the Prevent duty GOV.UK awareness course.

## **6. Procedures for referrals**

Although serious incidents involving radicalisation have not occurred within the JMAT and its schools to date, it is important for all staff to be constantly vigilant and remain fully informed about the issues which affect the community 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 DSL in school.

We believe that early intervention is vital to protect children and young people who may be susceptible to being drawn into terrorism and extremism. Staff must have the confidence to identify and challenge, the confidence to intervene and ensure that we have strong safeguarding practices based on the most up-to-date Prevent guidance and best practice. The DSL in school will deal swiftly with any referrals made by staff or with concerns reported by staff, and make the appropriate referral to external agencies.

## **7. Safer recruitment**

The arrangements for recruiting all staff, governors and volunteers follows the statutory guidance in Keeping Children Safe in Education. We ensure that DBS checks are made at the appropriate level, that references are always checked and that we maintain a single central record of all vetting checks, including barred list, prohibition from teaching, overseas check, etc, in each school.

Staff involved in recruitment in each JMAT school are alert to the possibility that certain people may seek to gain positions within our school so as to unduly influence our school's character and ethos. Therefore, by applying safer recruitment best practice and ensuring that there is an ongoing culture of vigilance within our Trust and school teams will minimise the opportunities for extremist views to prevail.

## **8. The role of the 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 different beliefs which should not be used to influence others.

We are committed to ensuring that our pupils are offered a broad and balanced curriculum that aims to equip our pupils with confidence, self-belief, respect and tolerance as well as setting high standards and expectations for themselves. Teaching the schools' core values alongside the fundamental British values supports quality teaching and learning, whilst making a positive contribution to the development of a fair and just society.

Children 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.

## **9. Internet safety**

The internet provides children and young people with access to a wide-range of content, some of which is harmful. Extremists use the internet, including social media, to share their messages. The filtering systems used at JMAT schools block inappropriate content, including extremist content.

Where staff, pupils or visitors find unblocked extremist content they must report it immediately to a senior member of staff. Pupils and staff should be aware of how to report internet content that is inappropriate or of concern.

## **10. Staff training**

The DSL, and any deputies, will undergo Prevent awareness training in order to provide advice and support to staff on protecting pupils from the risk of radicalisation, this will be updated every two years.

Staff will undergo regular Prevent awareness training, in order to ensure that they are up-to-date to recognise indicators of radicalisation and they are alert to the need to 'notice, check and share' if they identify a concern for a child. Staff training addresses the importance of staff members effectively engaging with parents/carers and recognising their key position in spotting signs of radicalisation.

## **11. Monitoring, evaluation and policy review**

The policy will be promoted and implemented throughout the JMAT schools.

This policy will be assessed for its implementation and effectiveness annually by the Trust Safeguarding Lead.