



MARSH HILL NURSERY SCHOOL

Prevent Policy

Introduction

The threat of International terrorism in the UK is substantial.

In line with guidance from the Department for Education (DfE), Marsh Hill Nursery School has a zero tolerance acceptance of extremist behaviour and ensures that our care, guidance and curriculum empower our young children to reject violent or extremist behaviour.

Whilst it remains very rare for nursery age children to be involved in extremist activity, young children can be exposed to extremist influences or prejudiced views, including via the internet from an early age. Early intervention and prevention of exposure are preferable ways of tackling extremism.

What is the Prevent Duty?

The aim of the Government's Counter terrorism Strategy is to reduce the risk to the UK and its interests overseas from terrorism. The duty is known as the Prevent Duty. All schools are subject to a duty under section 26 of the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015, in the exercise of their functions, to have **"due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism"**.

Early Years Settings have a critical role in the Prevent Duty. The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) describes clear duties that Early Years Providers have to keep children safe and promote their welfare. It makes it clear that to protect children in their care, providers must be alert to any safeguarding and child protection issues in the child's life at home or elsewhere (paragraph 3.4). The Ofsted Common Inspection Framework implemented in September 2015 includes reference to "providers promoting children's welfare and preventing radicalisation and extremism".

Definition

Extremism can be defined as “holding extreme opinions: the holding of extreme political or religious views or the taking of extreme actions on the basis of those”.

Radicalisation is defined as the act or process 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.

Strategies for Preventing Extremism

The Office for Security and Counter Terrorism works to counter the threat from terrorism and their work is detailed in the counter terrorism strategy CONTEST. The strategy is based on four areas of work:

1. Pursue

To stop terrorist attacks.

2. Prevent

To stop people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism.

3. Protect

To strengthen our protection against terrorist attack.

4. Prepare

To mitigate the impact of a terrorist attack.

Our role, as a school, is outlined more specifically in the DfE document “Learning together to be safe: A toolkit to help schools contribute to the prevention of violent extremism”.

Aims

At Marsh Hill Nursery School we follow the principles outlined in the DCSF toolkit which seeks to:

- **Raise awareness** amongst staff within school of the threat from violent extremist groups and the risks to young people.
- Provide **information** about what can cause violent extremism, about preventative actions taking place locally and nationally and where to get additional information and advice.
- Help schools understand the **positive contribution** they can make to empower young people to create communities that are more resilient to extremism and **protecting the wellbeing** of particular pupils or groups who may be vulnerable to being drawn into violent extremist activity.
- Provide advice on **managing risks** and responding to incidents locally, nationally or internationally that might have an impact on the school community.

The school will use these principles to guide our work in all areas including building on our work in:

- Promoting pupil wellbeing, equalities and community cohesion
- Building the resilience of the school, working with partners, to prevent pupils becoming the victims or causes of harm
- Working with other agencies and parents to build community networks to support the school.

As an Early Years setting Marsh Hill Nursery School has the responsibility to meet the following criteria:

- Keep children safe and promote their welfare
- Be alert to any safeguarding and child protection issues in the child's life at home or elsewhere
- Make sure that staff have sufficient training that gives them knowledge and confidence to recognise the vulnerability and be aware of what action to take in response
- Demonstrate that they are protecting children and young people from being drawn into terrorism by having clear procedures for protecting children at risk of radicalisation

- Ensure their safeguarding arrangements take into account the policies and procedures of the Local safeguarding Children's Board
- Assess the risk of children being drawn into terrorism
- Understand when to make referrals into "Channel" process and where to get additional advice and support i.e Local Authority Prevent Lead
- Focus on children's personal, social and emotional development
- Ensure children learn right from wrong, mix and share with other children and value others' views
- Ensure children know about similarities and differences between themselves and others, and challenge negative attitudes and stereotypes (in an age appropriate way)

To do this practitioners will:

- Listen to children
- Share appropriate information with parents
- Listen to parents
- Report concerns
- Challenge negative behaviour
- Focus on what children need
- Support children's personal, social and emotional development

Staff Training

The statutory guidance refers to the importance of "Prevent" awareness training to equip staff to identify children at risk of being drawn into terrorism and to challenge extremist ideas.

Training for our staff ensures

- Staff are fully aware of the threats, risks and vulnerabilities that are linked to radicalisation, aware of the process of radicalisation and how this might be identified early
- Practitioners are aware of how we can provide support to help families and children to be resilient and able to resist involvement in radical or extreme activities
- Designated Safeguard Lead (DSL) and Deputy DSL attend regular training and network Safeguarding meetings.