STEEL RIVER
ACADEMY TRUST

Safeguarding Against Radicalisation & Extremism



Review Date	Sept 2026
Review Frequency	Annually
Date for Next Review	Sept 2027
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POLICY STATEMENT

Whale Hill Primary School is fully committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all its pupils. Every member of staff recognises that safeguarding against radicalisation and extremism is no different to safeguarding against any other vulnerability in today's society.

The Tackling Extremism and Radicalisation Policy sets out our beliefs, strategies and procedures to protect vulnerable individuals from being radicalised or exposed to extremist views, by identifying who they are and promptly providing them with support.

LINKS TO OTHER POLICIES

The Whale Hill Primary School Tackling Extremism and Radicalisation Policy links to all other School policies; where you believe the intention of the Policy is unclear you should contact the Head teacher for clarification.

The following national guidelines should also be read when working with this policy;

- o PREVENT Strategy HM Government
- o Keeping Children Safe in Education DfE Sept 2026
- o Working Together to Safeguard Children HM Government 2026.

AIMS AND PRINCIPLES

The School Tackling Extremism and Radicalisation Policy is intended to provide a framework for dealing with issues relating to vulnerability, radicalisation and exposure to extreme views. We recognise that we are well placed to be able to identify safeguarding issues and this policy clearly sets out how the school will deal with such incidents and identifies how the curriculum and ethos underpins our actions.

The objectives are that: All governors, teachers, teaching assistants and non-teaching staff will have an understanding of what radicalisation and extremism are, is and why we need to be vigilant in school

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

All pupils will understand the dangers of radicalisation and exposure to extremist views; building resilience against these and knowing what to do if they experience them.

All parents/carers 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. The main aims of this policy 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 Prevent Duty

Under Section 26 of the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015, schools have a duty to have due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism. Whale Hill Primary School

recognises that protecting children from radicalisation is part of its wider safeguarding responsibilities and works closely with local safeguarding partners, police and children's social care where concerns arise.

DEFINITIONS AND INDICATORS

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.

Extremism is defined as the holding of extreme political or religious views. There are a number of behaviours which may indicate a child is at risk of being radicalised or exposed to extreme views. These include;

- Spending increasing time in the company of other suspected extremists.
- Changing their style of dress or personal appearance to accord with the group.
- Day-to-day behaviour becoming increasingly centred on an extremist ideology, group or cause.
- Loss of interest in other friends and activities not associated with the extremist ideology, group or cause.
- Possession of materials or symbols associated with an extremist cause.
- Attempts to recruit others to the group/cause.
- Communications with others that suggests identification with a group, cause or ideology.
- Using insulting to derogatory names for another group.
- Increase in prejudice-related incidents committed by that person – these may include;
- physical or verbal assault or provocative behaviour
- damage to property or derogatory name calling
- possession of prejudice-related materials
- prejudice related ridicule or name calling
- inappropriate forms of address
- refusal to co-operate
- attempts to recruit to prejudice-related organisations condoning or supporting violence towards others.

PROCEDURES FOR REFERRALS

Although incidents involving radicalisation have not occurred at School to date, it is important for us to be constantly vigilant and remain fully informed about the issues which affect the local area and society

in which we teach. Staff are reminded to suspend any 'professional disbelief' that instances of radicalisation 'could not happen here' and to be 'professionally inquisitive' where concerns arise, referring any concerns through the appropriate channels. (See appendix 1 – Dealing with referrals).

We believe that it is possible to intervene to protect people who are vulnerable. Early intervention is vital and staff must be aware of the established processes for front line School professionals to refer concerns about individuals and/or groups. We must have the confidence to challenge, the confidence to intervene and ensure that we have strong safeguarding practices based on the most up-to-date guidance and best practice.

Six members of the Strategic Leadership Team (SLT) are trained as Nominated Persons for Child Protection and Safeguarding and will deal swiftly with any referrals made by staff or with concerns reported by staff.

The Head Teacher and SLT will discuss the most appropriate course of action on a case-by-case basis and will decide when a referral to external agencies is needed (see appendix 1 – Dealing with referrals)

As with any child protection referral, staff must be made aware that if they do not agree with a decision not to refer, they can make the referral themselves and will be given the contact details to do this via the safeguarding board website.

GOVERNORS, LEADERS AND STAFF

The Head Teacher and the nominated members of the SLT are the leaders for referrals relating to extremism and radicalisation. In the unlikely event that SLT members and the Head Teacher are not available, all staff know the channels by which to make referrals via the safeguarding board website. Staff will be fully briefed about what to do if they are concerned about the possibility of radicalisation relating to a pupil, or if they need to discuss specific children whom they consider to be vulnerable to radicalisation or extremist views. The SLT will work in conjunction with the Head Teacher and external agencies to decide the best course of action to address concerns which arise.

The Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) is responsible for:

- Receiving Prevent concerns.
- Assessing risk.
- Making referrals to Children's Services, Police or Prevent as appropriate.
- Maintaining confidential records.
- Ensuring staff receive Prevent training.
- Monitoring emerging risks within the local community.

THE ROLE OF THE CURRICULUM

Our curriculum is broad and balanced. It 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.

Our PSHE provision is embedded across the curriculum. It directs our assemblies and underpins the ethos of the school. It is recognised nationally that children with low aspirations are more vulnerable to radicalisation and therefore we strive to equip our pupils with confidence, self-belief, respect and tolerance as well as setting high standards and expectations for themselves.

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.

The school recognises that the internet and social media can be significant tools for radicalisation. Through filtering, monitoring systems and online safety education, the school seeks to protect pupils from exposure to extremist material and inappropriate content.

The school actively promotes fundamental British Values through its curriculum and wider school life:

- Democracy
- The Rule of Law
- Individual Liberty
- Mutual Respect
- Tolerance of different faiths and beliefs

These values help pupils develop resilience to extremist narratives and prepare them for life in modern Britain.

STAFF TRAINING

Through INSET opportunities in school we will ensure that our staff are fully aware of the threats, risks and vulnerabilities that are linked to radicalisation; are aware of the process of radicalisation and how this might be identified early on and are aware of how we can provide support as a school to ensure that our children are resilient and able to resist involvement in radical or extreme activities.

All staff will receive safeguarding and Prevent awareness training as part of induction and regular refresher training. Relevant safeguarding leaders will undertake additional training to enable them to fulfil their responsibilities effectively.

SAFER RECRUITMENT PROCESS

The school's safer recruitment processes help deter individuals who may seek to influence children through extremist views. All recruitment procedures are conducted in accordance with statutory safeguarding guidance.

VISITORS AND THE USE OF SCHOOL PREMISES

If any member of staff wishes to invite a visitor in the school, they must first put in a request to the Head Teacher. Only after agreement from the Head Teacher can the visitor enter school and then they will be subject to Safeguarding Checks including when required DBS checks and photo identification.

Children are NEVER left unsupervised with external visitors, regardless of safeguarding check outcomes.

Upon arriving at the school, all visitors including contractors, will read the child protection and safeguarding guidance and be made aware of who the nominated persons are and how to report any concerns which they may experience.

If any agreement is made to allow non-school groups or organisations to use the premises, appropriate checks will be made before agreeing the contract. Usage will be monitored and in the event of any behaviour not in-keeping with the Tackling Extremism and Radicalisation Policy, the school will contact the police and terminate the contract.

STAFF CONCERNS AND WHITSLEBLOWING

Any member of staff who is concerned about the conduct of a colleague in relation to radicalisation, extremism or safeguarding should follow the school's whistleblowing procedures immediately.

POLICY REVIEW

The Whale Hill Primary School Tackling Extremism and Radicalisation Policy will be reviewed annually as part of the overall Child Protection and Safeguarding policy review. This policy will be ratified by the Governing Body in October 2026.

Appendix 1 – Dealing with referrals

Where appropriate, referrals may be made to the Prevent team for consideration under the Channel programme. Channel is a voluntary, multi-agency safeguarding programme that provides support for individuals vulnerable to being drawn into terrorism.

We are aware of the potential indicating factors that a child is vulnerable to being radicalised or exposed to extreme views, including peer pressure, influence from other people or the internet, bullying, crime and anti-social behaviour, family tensions, race/hate crime, lack of self-esteem or identity, prejudicial behaviour and personal or political grievances In the event of prejudicial behaviour the following system will be followed;

- All incidents of prejudicial behaviour will be reported directly to the SLT or the Head Teacher.

- All incidents will be fully investigated and recorded in line with the Positive Behaviour Policy and records will be kept in line with procedures for any other safeguarding incident.

- Parents/carers will be contacted and the incident discussed in detail, aiming to identify motivating factors, any changes in circumstances at home, parental views of the incident and to assess whether the

incident is serious enough to warrant a further referral. A note of this meeting is kept alongside the initial referral in the Safeguarding folder.

- The SLT follow-up any referrals for a period of four weeks after the incident to assess whether there is a change in behaviour and/or attitude. A further meeting with parents would be held if there is not a significant positive change in behaviour.

- If deemed necessary, serious incidents will be discussed and referred to the CAF Coordinator in Children's Services on 01642 771500.

- In the event of a referral relating to serious concerns about potential radicalisation or extremism, the school will also contact Cleveland Police Counter Terrorism Unit (CTU) Security and Partnership Office 01642 326326 or the CTU hotline 0845 678 123