



**Ravenshall**

all different | all equal | all important

## **RAVENSHALL SCHOOL**

### **PREVENT POLICY**

Reviewed October 2019

# **Ravenshall School PREVENT Policy**

## **INTRODUCTION**

The threat to the UK from international terrorism is substantial. The terrorist threats that we now face are more diverse than ever before, dispersed across a wider geographical area and often in countries without effective governance. We therefore face an unpredictable situation!

Dealing with violent extremism is nothing new. Throughout history there have been groups prepared to use violence to achieve their aims. A small minority of these seek to radicalise young people with an ideology which justifies the use of violence through a distorted interpretation of a set of values (often associated with a religion).

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

Whilst it remains very rare for school age children to become involved in extremist activity, young people can be exposed to extremist influences or prejudiced views, including via the internet, from an early age. Early intervention is a preferable way of tackling extremism.

## **DEFINITION**

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

Prevent is one strand of the Government’s counter terrorism Strategy, CONTEST. Its main aim is to prevent people from becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism. Theresa May, MP (Home Secretary and Minister for Women and Equalities) is in charge of the Prevent strategy nationally.

- [Protecting the UK against terrorism policy](#)

**The strategy has three clear objectives;**

1. Terrorist ideas should be identified and challenged.
2. Vulnerable people should be supported and protected from becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism.
3. Communities, institutions and the Government should all work together to tackle the problem of extremism.

## **Background**

The number of people who are prepared to support violent extremism in this country is very small. However, it is much greater amongst young people. All the terrorist groups who pose a threat to us look for people to recruit to their cause. Vulnerable individuals that are at risk of being radicalised or recruited is viewed as a safeguarding issue, just as it is with other areas of risk such as drugs and sexual exploitation.

Local authorities have an important role to play through our responsibilities at a local level of

safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and vulnerable adults.

## Warning signs and behavioural indicators

### Some behavioural indicators

- Change in appearance
- Search for answers - identity, faith and belonging
- Desire for adventure/excitement
- Desire to enhance self esteem
- Sense of grievance triggered by personal experience of racism/discrimination/aspects of government policy etc
- Isolated from peers, associates with only 1 group of people
- Withdrawal from family members
- Additional vulnerability risk factors: Special Educational Needs, Mental Health Issues, Alcohol and Drug abuse

### Warning signs

- Graffiti, symbols or artwork promoting extremist messages
- Accessing extremist material online
- Changes in behaviour, friendship and actions
- Young people voicing opinions drawn from extremist ideologies or narratives
- Use of extremist or hate terms to exclude others or incite violence

## Report issues or to seek support

We can all stop abuse. We can all make a difference by taking more notice of what is going on in our work place, in our home or neighbourhood.

Ravenshall School recognises that together we can stop the abuse from happening. We can do this by looking for the signs and by involving the Police, Health Services or Kirklees Council.

Together we can promote a "Zero Tolerance" approach to safeguarding those that are vulnerable.

Look for the signs, and treat people with dignity and respect

**It's everyone's responsibility to speak out. Together we can stop it.**

Our Local Authority key contact is:

- Lee Hamilton- Prevent Coordinator
- Telephone **01484 221000**
- Email [lee.hamilton@kirklees.gov.uk](mailto:lee.hamilton@kirklees.gov.uk)