

**Reviewed: August 2023**

## **Prevent Policy**

### **Principles**

The Counter-Terrorism and Security Act (2019) requires schools to have 'due regard, in the exercise of their functions, to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism'. This is known as the 'Prevent Duty'.

The Prevent Policy is intended to provide a framework for dealing with issues relating to radicalisation and exposure to extremist groups.

This policy should be read in conjunction with the PRU's Safeguarding Policy and Prevent should be regarded as part of the existing safeguarding network.

### **Definition**

For the purposes of this policy the definition of radical or extreme ideology is a 'set of ideas which could justify vilification or violence against individuals, groups or self'.

### **Aims**

- To ensure all staff understand the risks of radicalisation within the PRU and how the risk may change from time to time
- To ensure staff are aware of the Prevent Strategy and are able to protect children who are vulnerable or at risk of being radicalised
- Whilst following the Prevent Strategy the PRU maintains its mission for diversity to be central to its ethos. The PRU places a strong emphasis on common values such as self-respect, understanding, tolerance and the sanctity of life. Pupils are taught to respect and value diversity as well as understanding how to make safe, well-considered decisions.

### **Prevent Lead**

**Karen Ayre (SLT)** is the named lead member of staff at Northumberland PRU.

## **Vulnerability to radicalisation or extreme viewpoints from the internet**

- The PRU recognises its duty to protect pupils from indoctrination into any form of extreme ideology which may lead to the harm of self or others. This is particularly important because of information available via the internet. The PRU will therefore aim to do the following:
- Educate pupils on the appropriate use of social media and the dangers of downloading and sharing inappropriate material including that which is illegal under the Counter-Terrorism Act.
- Ensure that pupils are unable to access inappropriate internet sites whilst using school computers through the use of robust filtering, firewalls and security settings.
- Educate pupils on the concepts of radicalisation and extremism.
- Inform pupils of the importance of Internet Safety in PSHCE lessons.

## **Visitors to the School**

In order to safeguard pupils from visitors to the PRU who may have extreme or radical views the

PRU will:

- Ensure all visitors to the PRU are carefully vetted and take immediate action if any individual or group is perceived to be attempting to influence members of our community in line with their views, either physically or electronically.
- 'Open source' check any organisations may have dealings with the school, particularly those in the voluntary sector.

## **Staff Training**

In order to fulfil Prevent Duty the PRU will:

- Ensure the DSL undertakes Prevent awareness training and is able to provide advice and support to other members of staff on protecting children from the risk of extremism and radicalisation
- Ensure all permanent staff are Prevent trained and are vigilant in spotting signs of extremist views and behaviours and that they always report anything relevant to the DSL which may suggest a pupil, staff member, visitor or outside agency personnel is expressing an opinion which may cause concern. Staff should follow the usual reporting procedure as laid out in the Safeguarding (Child Protection) Policy.

## **Curriculum**

Northumberland PRU ensures that its pupils are offered a broad and balanced curriculum that aims to prepare them for life encouraging them to be inquisitive learners who are enriched, understanding and tolerant of difference and diversity, whilst also ensuring that they thrive, feel valued and are not marginalized.

PSHCE lessons are an effective way of providing pupils with the opportunity to explore sensitive or controversial issues, and equipping them with the knowledge and skills to understand and manage difficult situations. Alongside PSHCE our wider curriculum offers

opportunities to further student's knowledge and understanding of extremism and to build a resilience to it.

Northumberland PRU values freedom of speech and the expression of beliefs/ideology as a fundamental right. Pupils regularly participate in discussion, with speaking and listening embedded across the curriculum. However, there is an understanding that this freedom comes with a responsibility and free speech which is intended to manipulate or encourage hatred and violence is not acceptable and goes against the moral principles of the value of free speech.

### **Risk Assessments**

All staff are responsible for reviewing and updating individual student's risk assessments which must include the risk of radicalisation and extremism as appropriate.

### **Managing Referrals**

Any pupil who is deemed at risk will be referred by the DSL as appropriate through the Local Authority at Northumberland County Council.

Policy will be reviewed annually.

<b>Approved by the Headteacher, Mr R Carr</b>	<b>Date: 3rd August 2023</b>
<b>Approved by the Management Committee Chair, Mr G Reiter</b>	<b>Date: 16th October 2023</b>
<b>Last Reviewed On:</b>	<b>17<sup>th</sup> July 2023</b>
<b>Next Review Due By:</b>	<b>July 2024</b>