

# Diocese of Gloucester Academies Trust

## Prevent Policy

### Policy Statement

- 1 The Trust is an organisation with a Christian foundation. The ethos, values and relationships of the Trust, and its associated academies, are central to witnessing to the value of the foundation.
- 2 The Trust is committed to providing a secure environment for pupils, where children feel safe and are kept safe. All staff within the Trust recognise that safeguarding is everyone's responsibility irrespective of the role they undertake or whether their role has direct contact or responsibility for pupils or not. This policy is designed to support academies in protecting pupils from the risk of radicalisation.

### Introduction

- 3 This policy is based on non-statutory advice from the Department for Education. The Prevent duty is the duty in the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 and requires institutions to have due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism.
- 4 From 1 July 2015 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". This duty is known as the Prevent duty.
- 5 The Ofsted's revised common inspection framework which comes into effect from 1 September 2015, makes specific reference to the need to have safeguarding arrangements to promote pupils' welfare and prevent radicalisation and extremism.

### Definitions

- 6 "Radicalisation" refers to the process by which a person comes to support terrorism and forms of extremism leading to terrorism.
- 7 "Extremism" is vocal or active opposition to fundamental British values, including democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs.

### Responsibilities

- 8 It is essential that staff are able to identify pupils who may be vulnerable to radicalisation, and know what to do when they are identified. The Trust is committed to ensuring that protecting pupils from the risk of radicalisation and this is seen as part of the Trusts' wider safeguarding duties, and is similar in nature to protecting children from other harms (e.g. drugs, gangs, neglect, sexual exploitation), whether these come from within their family or are the product of outside influences.
- 9 Academies will build pupils' resilience to radicalisation by promoting British values and enabling them to challenge extremist views. All Trust academies will provide a safe space in which children, young people and staff can understand the risks associated with terrorism and develop the knowledge and skills to be able to debate difficult issues and challenge extremist arguments. Each academy will help pupils to learn to make safer choices, and recognise when pressure from others threatens their personal safety and wellbeing. DGAT academies will also help pupils to develop effective ways of resisting pressures, including knowing when, where and how to get help. Through the values and ethos of the Trust, each academy will encourage pupils to develop positive character traits such as resilience, determination, self-esteem, and confidence. For early years childcare providers, the

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statutory framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage sets standards for learning, development and care for children from 0-5, thereby assisting their personal, social and emotional development and understanding of the world.

10 The Trust will fulfil its responsibilities in four areas:

**Risk assessment:** Each academy will to assess the risk of pupils being drawn into terrorism, including support for extremist ideas that are part of terrorist ideology. This means being able to demonstrate both a general understanding of the risks affecting pupils in the area and specific understanding of how individual children who may be at risk of radicalisation and what to do to support them; this includes the identification of on-line risks and the potential use of social media for such purposes. Staff will need to be alert to changes in pupils' behaviour which could indicate that they are in need of help or protection.

The Prevent duty does not require teachers or childcare providers to carry out unnecessary intrusion into family life but as with any other safeguarding risk, they must take action when they observe behaviour of concern.

Each academy will therefore have clear procedures in place for protecting children at risk of radicalisation. These procedures will be set out in existing safeguarding policies. However, academy staff and childcare providers should understand when it is appropriate to make a referral to the Channel programme. Channel is a programme which focuses on providing support at an early stage to people who are identified as being vulnerable to being drawn into terrorism.

**Working in partnership:** Each academy will build on existing local partnership arrangements. Local Safeguarding Children Boards (LSCBs) are responsible for co-ordinating what is done by local agencies for the purposes of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in their local area.

Each academy will ensure effective engagement with parents/carers as families also important in identifying radicalisation. Where families raise concerns, the academy will assist and advise families by pointing them to the right support mechanisms.

**Staff training:** All Trust academies will provide Prevent awareness training to equip staff to identify children at risk of being drawn into terrorism and to challenge extremist ideas. As a minimum, each academy will ensure that the Designated Safeguarding Lead undertakes Prevent awareness training and is able to provide advice and support to other members of staff on protecting children from the risk of radicalisation.

**IT policies:** Each academy will ensure that children are safe from terrorist and extremist material when accessing the internet in schools. The Local Governing Body must assure itself that there are suitable filters in place. E-safety will be an important feature of each academy.

11 If a member of staff in an academy has a concern about a particular pupil, normal safeguarding policies should be followed.

## Related Policies

E-Safety Policies

Safeguarding Policy

SMSC Policies

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