

Policy owner	Julian Cochrane, Headteacher
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**SOUTHVIEW SCHOOL, COLLEGE &
THE VIEW**

Hereafter referred to as "Southview School"

ANTI-RADICALISATION POLICY STATEMENT

Southview School, College and The View are fully committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all children and students. We recognise that safeguarding against radicalisation and the risk of being drawn into terrorism is an important part of our wider safeguarding responsibilities and should be approached in the same way as any other safeguarding concern.

Southview School recognises its responsibilities under the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 and the Prevent duty guidance applicable to education settings in England. We are committed to identifying and responding appropriately to concerns that a child or student may be vulnerable to radicalisation or may be at risk of being drawn into terrorism.

All staff are expected to uphold and promote the fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs. We promote an inclusive environment in which children and students are encouraged to express their views respectfully, question ideas and develop an understanding of different perspectives.

Our approach is based on early identification, proportionate intervention, safeguarding, and working in partnership with parents, carers and relevant professional agencies. We recognise that holding particular political, religious or other beliefs, or expressing views that differ from those of others, does not in itself indicate that an individual is being radicalised.

LINKS TO OTHER POLICIES

Southview School's Anti-Radicalisation Policy Statement links to the following policies:

- Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy.
- Public Sector Equality Duty Information.
- Anti-Bullying Policy.
- Positive Behaviour Policy.
- Online Safety Policy.
- Behaviour and Relationships Policy, where applicable.

This policy should be read alongside the school's current safeguarding procedures and relevant statutory guidance, including Keeping Children Safe in Education and the Prevent duty guidance for England and Wales.

AIMS AND PRINCIPLES

The main aims of this policy statement are to ensure that staff are vigilant and confident in recognising and responding to potential concerns about radicalisation and extremism; that staff understand that these concerns can arise in any educational setting; and that Southview School works alongside parents, carers, local safeguarding partners and other relevant professional bodies to protect children and students from harm.

Southview School recognises that radicalisation is a safeguarding concern and that early identification, appropriate information-sharing and proportionate support can help prevent risks from escalating.

The principal objectives are that:

- All Ambassadors, teachers, teaching assistants and non-teaching staff will understand what radicalisation and extremism mean in the context of safeguarding and the Prevent duty, and why it is important to remain vigilant.
- All Ambassadors, teachers, teaching assistants and non-teaching staff will understand the school's Anti-Radicalisation Policy Statement and follow the appropriate procedures when concerns arise.
- All staff will know how to report concerns promptly to the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) or Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead (DDSL), and understand that they must not dismiss concerns or attempt to investigate them independently.
- All staff will understand that radicalisation can affect children and students from different backgrounds and circumstances, and that concerns must be assessed individually and without stereotyping or discrimination.
- All parents, carers and pupils will be made aware, as appropriate, that Southview School has safeguarding policies and procedures in place to protect children and students from harm.
- Southview School will regularly review its safeguarding arrangements to ensure that they remain appropriate, effective and consistent with current statutory guidance.
- The school will promote British values, respect, tolerance, inclusion and critical thinking through its curriculum and wider school activities.
- Information and links to the government-supported Educate Against Hate resources can be found on the school website.

Further information is available at: <https://educateagainsthate.com/>

DEFINITIONS AND INDICATORS

Radicalisation is a process through which an individual may come to support terrorism or extremist ideologies associated with terrorism. This process can occur over time and may involve exposure to extremist material, influence from others, online activity, coercion, manipulation or exploitation.

Extremism should be understood in accordance with the applicable government guidance. For safeguarding purposes, staff should be alert to behaviour or circumstances that may indicate that a child or student is being influenced towards extremist ideologies or is at risk of being drawn into terrorism.

Staff should be aware that concerns may arise in a variety of contexts, including face-to-face interactions, peer relationships, social media, online gaming, messaging platforms and other digital environments.

Possible indicators of concern may include:

- A significant change in behaviour, attitude or relationships that causes concern when considered alongside other information.
- Increasing involvement with individuals or groups who promote or encourage violence or terrorism.
- Exposure to, or promotion of, material that encourages terrorist activity or supports violent extremist ideologies.
- Attempts by others to manipulate, intimidate, coerce or exploit a child or student into supporting extremist causes.
- Concerning expressions of support for terrorist violence or an apparent fixation on terrorist activity, weapons or explosives, particularly where this is accompanied by other safeguarding concerns.
- Evidence that a child or student is being encouraged to participate in, support or facilitate activities connected with terrorism.

These indicators are not exhaustive and must not be treated as a checklist. No single indicator should automatically be taken as evidence of radicalisation. Staff should consider the child's individual circumstances, developmental needs, behaviour and any other relevant safeguarding information.

Political or religious beliefs, criticism of government policy, discussion of controversial issues, or membership of a particular community must not, on their own, be treated as evidence of radicalisation.

Staff must also remain alert to the possibility of discrimination, bullying, hate incidents and other forms of exploitation that may be relevant to a child's safety and wellbeing.

PROCEDURES FOR REFERRALS

Although serious incidents involving radicalisation may not have occurred at Southview School to date, we recognise that safeguarding concerns can arise in any school or college. Staff must remain vigilant, take concerns seriously and avoid assuming that such issues could not happen within our setting.

Any member of staff who has a concern that a child or student may be vulnerable to radicalisation, may be experiencing extremist influence or may be at risk of being drawn into terrorism must report the concern promptly to the DSL or DDSL, following the school's Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy.

Concerns must be recorded accurately and promptly using the school's approved safeguarding recording system, currently CPOMS, in accordance with established procedures.

Staff should:

- Report concerns promptly to the DSL or DDSL and provide factual information about the concern.

- Record relevant observations, disclosures and actions taken in accordance with safeguarding procedures.
- Avoid making assumptions about a child's beliefs, background or motivations.
- Not attempt to investigate concerns independently or confront individuals who may be involved.
- Continue to follow the school's safeguarding procedures if concerns persist or further information becomes available.
- Seek advice from the DSL or DDSL if they are uncertain about the appropriate course of action.

The DSL or DDSL will consider the information available, assess the safeguarding concerns and determine the appropriate response. This may include consultation with the local authority safeguarding team, children's social care, the local authority Prevent team or other relevant agencies.

Where appropriate, a referral may be made through the local authority's Prevent referral pathway. The DSL will follow current guidance on referrals and any subsequent multi-agency support arrangements, including Channel where applicable.

Parents and carers should be involved where appropriate and safe to do so, taking account of the child's circumstances, safeguarding needs and advice from relevant agencies. Information must be shared in accordance with safeguarding and information-sharing requirements.

If a child or student is at immediate risk of harm, staff must follow the school's emergency safeguarding procedures and contact the appropriate emergency services where necessary.

All staff must remember that safeguarding is everyone's responsibility. Staff should not delay reporting a concern because they are uncertain whether it meets a particular threshold or because they believe the concern may be unfounded.

THE ROLE OF THE CURRICULUM

Our curriculum promotes respect, tolerance, diversity, inclusion and an understanding of different beliefs and perspectives. Children and students are encouraged to express their views respectfully, develop critical thinking skills and recognise that people may hold different beliefs without those differences being a reason for hostility or discrimination.

Our PSHE (Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education), Citizenship and SMSC (Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural) provision is embedded across the curriculum and underpins the ethos of Southview School.

Through appropriate learning opportunities, children and students are supported to understand democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs.

Southview School recognises that children and students may experience a range of vulnerabilities that can affect their wellbeing and safety. We aim to provide a supportive environment in which pupils feel listened to, valued and able to seek help when they are worried or concerned.

We promote positive relationships, confidence, self-belief, resilience, respect and tolerance, while encouraging children and students to develop their own aspirations and make informed decisions.

Children and students are taught about online safety and the importance of recognising that information encountered online may be misleading, harmful or intended to manipulate them. They are encouraged to think critically about online content, understand the risks associated with contact from unknown individuals and recognise when online interactions may be unsafe.

Children and students are encouraged to seek help from a trusted adult if they encounter content or behaviour that makes them feel uncomfortable, frightened, pressured or concerned.

The school will continue to consider opportunities to address radicalisation, extremist influence, misinformation, online manipulation and related safeguarding issues through the curriculum and wider educational activities, as appropriate to pupils' ages, abilities and needs.

STAFF TRAINING

Through INSET opportunities and the school's annual Child Protection and Safeguarding training, Southview School will ensure that staff receive appropriate information and training about radicalisation, extremism and the Prevent duty.

Training will help staff to:

- Understand their safeguarding responsibilities in relation to radicalisation and the risk of being drawn into terrorism.
- Recognise possible indicators of concern and understand the importance of considering these in context.
- Understand the potential risks associated with online activity, extremist material, manipulation and exploitation.
- Know how to report concerns promptly to the DSL or DDSL and record information appropriately.
- Understand the school's safeguarding and Prevent referral procedures.
- Promote British values, inclusion, respect and tolerance through their professional practice.
- Keep their knowledge up to date with relevant changes to statutory guidance and local safeguarding arrangements.

The DSL and DDSL will ensure that they access appropriate role-specific training and guidance to support them in assessing concerns, making referrals and working with relevant agencies.

Staff will be directed to current and authoritative guidance and resources where appropriate. Training arrangements will be reviewed regularly to ensure that they remain suitable for the needs of the school and consistent with current requirements.

POLICY REVIEW

The Anti-Radicalisation Policy Statement will be reviewed annually as part of the overall Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy review.

The policy will also be reviewed when there are significant changes to relevant legislation, statutory guidance, local safeguarding arrangements or the school's own safeguarding procedures.

The review will consider whether the policy remains effective, whether staff understand the procedures for reporting concerns, and whether the school's arrangements continue to reflect current guidance on safeguarding and the Prevent duty.