



LYDIATE
LEARNING
TRUST

Preventing Extremism & Radicalisation Policy (LLT)



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LEARNING
TRUST

ENGAGE, ENABLE,
EMPOWER

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Preventing Extremism & Radicalisation Policy (LLT)

The Preventing Extremism and Radicalisation Policy is part of our commitment to keeping our students safe. Over the last few years, global events have led to a growth of extremist viewpoints, including advocacy of violent extremism.

Schools have an important part to play in both educating children and young people about extremism and recognising when students start to become radicalised. In March 2015, new statutory duties were placed on schools by the Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015 which means they must work to prevent children being drawn into extremism.

Safeguarding children from all risks of harm is an important part of our school's work and protecting them from extremism is one aspect of that.

ETHOS

At the Lydiate Learning Trust we ensure that through our schools' vision, values, relationships and teaching we promote tolerance and respect for all cultures, faiths and lifestyles. The school also ensures that this ethos is reflected and implemented effectively through school policy and practice and that there is an effective suite of safeguarding policies in place to safeguard and promote students' welfare.

We have a duty to prepare our students for life in modern Britain and to keep them safe. Everyone at the Lydiate Learning Trust has the right to learn and work in safety. We do not tolerate bullying of any kind and will challenge derogatory language and behaviour towards others.

STATUTORY DUTIES

The duty to prevent children and young people being radicalised is set out in the following documents.

- Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015
- Keeping Children Safe in Education 2015
- Prevent Duty Guidance 2015
- Working Together to Safeguard Children 2015

RELATED POLICIES

- E-Safety and Internet use Policy
- Behaviour Policy
- Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy
- Equality Opportunities Policy
- Code of Conduct Policy
- Curriculum Policy
- Whistle-blowing Policy

DEFINITIONS

Extremism is defined in the 2011 Prevent strategy as 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. We also include in our definition of extremism calls for the death of members of our armed forces, whether in this country or overseas.

Radicalisation refers to the process by which a person comes to support terrorism and extremist ideologies associated with terrorist groups.

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British Values are democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs. Roles and Responsibilities Role of the Management Committee It is the role of the Management Committee to ensure that the school meets its statutory duties with regard to preventing radicalisation.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Role of the Governing Body

It is the role of the Governing Body to ensure that the school meets its statutory duties with regard to preventing radicalisation.

Role of the Headteacher

It is the role of the Headteacher to:

- ensure that the school and its staff respond to preventing radicalisation on a day-to-day basis
- ensure that the school's curriculum addresses the issues involved in radicalisation
- ensure that staff conduct is consistent with preventing radicalisation

Role of Designated Safeguarding Lead

It is the role of the designated safeguarding lead to:

- ensure that staff understand the issues of radicalisation, that they are able to recognise the signs of vulnerability or radicalisation and know how to refer their concerns
- receive safeguarding concerns about students who may be vulnerable to the risk of radicalisation or are showing signs of radicalisation
- make referrals to appropriate agencies with regard to concerns about radicalisation
- liaise with partners, including the local authority and the police
- report to the SLT and Governing Body on these matters

Role of staff

It is the role of staff to understand the issues of radicalisation, that they are able to recognise the signs of vulnerability or radicalisation and know how to refer their concerns.

CURRICULUM

We are committed to ensuring that our students are offered a broad and balanced curriculum that aims to prepare them for life in modern Britain. We encourage our students to be inquisitive learners who are open to new experiences and are tolerant of others. Our values support the development of the whole child as a reflective learner within a safe respectful learning environment. Teaching the school's core values alongside the fundamental British values supports quality teaching and learning, whilst making a positive contribution to the development of a fair, just and civil society.

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INTERNET SAFETY

The internet provides children and young people with access to a wide-range of content, some of which is harmful. Extremists use the internet, including social media, to share their messages. The filtering systems used at our school blocks inappropriate content, including extremist content. Where staff, students or visitors find unblocked extremist content they must report it to a senior member of staff.

The e-safety and internet user policy refers to preventing radicalisation and related extremist content. Students and staff know how to report internet content that is inappropriate or of concern.

STAFF TRAINING

Staff will be given training to help them understand the issues of radicalisation, so that they are able to recognise the signs of vulnerability or radicalisation and know how to refer their concerns. This information also forms part of annual safeguarding training.

SAFER RECRUITMENT

We ensure that the staff we appoint to the school are suitable, our recruitment procedures are rigorous and we follow the statutory guidance published in part 3 of Keeping Children Safe in Education 2015. Vetting and barring checks are undertaken on relevant people, including the Governing Body and volunteers.

VISITORS

Visitors to the school are made aware of our safeguarding and child protection policies on arrival at the school and are given information about what to do if they are concerned about any aspect of child welfare.

We undertake due diligence to ensure that visitors are appropriate. Visitors will be supervised at all times and will not be allowed to speak to students without a member of staff being present.

Staff must not invite visitors into school without first obtaining permission from the Headteacher or their representative.

RECOGNISING EXTREMISM

Early indicators of radicalisation or extremism may include:

- showing sympathy for extremist causes
- glorifying violence, especially to other faiths or cultures
- making remarks or comments about being at extremist events or rallies outside of school
- evidence of possessing illegal or extremist literature
- advocating messages similar to illegal organisations or other extremist groups
- out of character changes in dress, behaviour and peer relationships (there are also very powerful narratives, programmes and networks that young people can come across online so involvement with particular groups may not be apparent)
- secretive behaviour
- online searches or sharing extremist messages or social profiles
- intolerance of difference, including faith, culture, gender, race or sexuality
- graffiti, art work or writing that displays extremist themes
- attempts to impose extremist views or practices on others
- verbalising anti-Western or anti-British views
- advocating violence towards others

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At the Lydiate Learning Trust we have determined “British Values” to be our core values and based on

- Democracy
- The rule of law
- Individual liberty
- Mutual respect
- Tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs

As a school we aim to develop and nurture these by:

- Planning a vibrant, engaging Assembly programme with core ethical values and beliefs at its heart
- A well-structured Personal, Social, Health and Citizenship education programme which addresses all of the requirements of the programmes of study (looking at Democracy, Freedom, the rule of law, Human Rights and responsibilities)
- A strong Religious Studies and Ethics programme at every Key Stage
- Effective and well-managed School Council enabling students to actively participate in the democratic process
- A broad and balanced curriculum which addresses many of these core values across a range of subject areas
- Having a clearly communicated and consistently applied Behaviour Policy so that students understand what is expected of them and the consequences of both meeting and failing to meet these expectations
- A Code of Conduct which is regularly referred to and communicated with students, reiterating that we are a school community built on mutual respect and understanding
- Adopting restorative approaches, where possible, to resolve any difficulties between members of our school community
- Having a rigorous commitment to student safety (for example: trips and visits policy and procedures, Safeguarding procedures, Code of Conduct and Health and Safety procedures)

1. Teaching Approaches

We will all strive to eradicate the myths and assumptions that can lead to some young people becoming alienated and disempowered, especially where the narrow approaches children may experience elsewhere may make it harder for them to challenge or question these radical influences. In our school this will be achieved by good teaching, primarily via PSHE; but also by adopting the methods outlined in the Government's guidance 'Teaching approaches that help build resilience to extremism among young people' DfE 2011.

We will ensure that all of our teaching approaches help our students build resilience to extremism and give students a positive sense of identity through the development of critical thinking skills. We will ensure that all of our staff are equipped to recognise extremism and are skilled and confident enough to challenge it.

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Therefore, this approach will be embedded within the ethos of our school so that students know and understand what safe and acceptable behaviour is in the context of extremism and radicalisation. This will work in conjunction with our school's approach to the Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural development of students as defined in OfSTED's School Inspection Handbook and will include the sound use of assemblies to help further promote this rounded development of our students.

Our goal is to build mutual respect and understanding and to promote the use of dialogue not violence as a form of conflict resolution.

We will also work with local partners, families and communities in our efforts to ensure our school understands and embraces our local context and values in challenging extremist views and to assist in the broadening of our students' experiences and horizons.

We will help support students who may be vulnerable to such influences as part of our wider safeguarding responsibilities and where we believe a student is being directly affected by extremist materials or influences we will ensure that that student is offered mentoring.

At the Lydiate Learning Trust we will promote the values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, mutual respect and tolerance for those with different faiths and beliefs. We will teach and encourage students to respect one another and to respect and tolerate difference, especially those of a different faith or no faith. It is indeed our most fundamental responsibility to keep our students safe and prepare them for life in modern multi-cultural Britain and globally.

2. Use of External Agencies and Speakers

At the Lydiate Learning Trust we encourage the use of external agencies or speakers to enrich the experiences of our students; however, we will positively vet those external agencies, individuals or speakers who we engage to provide such learning opportunities or experiences for our students.

These external agencies will be vetted to ensure that we do not unwittingly use agencies that contradict each other with their messages or that are inconsistent with, or are in complete opposition to, the school's values and ethos.

Our school will assess the suitability and effectiveness of input from external agencies or individuals to ensure that:

- Any messages communicated to students are consistent with the ethos of the school and do not marginalise any communities, groups or individuals;
- Any messages do not seek to glorify criminal activity or violent extremism or seek to radicalise students through extreme or narrow views of faith, religion or culture or other ideologies;
- Activities are properly embedded in the curriculum and clearly mapped to schemes of work to avoid contradictory messages or duplication;
- Activities are matched to the needs of students;
- Activities are carefully evaluated by schools to ensure that they are effective.

We recognise, however, that the ethos of our school is to encourage students to understand opposing views and ideologies, appropriate to their age, understanding and abilities, and to be

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able to actively engage with them in informed debate, and we may use external agencies or speakers to facilitate and support this.

Therefore, by delivering a broad and balanced curriculum and enrichment programme augmented by the use of external sources where appropriate, we will strive to ensure our students recognise risk and build resilience to manage any such risk themselves where appropriate to their age and ability but also to help students develop the critical thinking skills needed to engage in informed debate.

3. Whistle Blowing

Where there are concerns of extremism or radicalisation Students, Staff and Governors will be encouraged to make use of our internal systems to Whistle Blow or raise any issue in confidence. They must inform the Headteacher straight away (or if it relates to the Headteacher inform the Chair of Governors).

4. Safeguarding

Please refer to our Safeguarding Policy for the full procedural framework on our Safeguarding and Child Protection duties.

Staff at the Lydiate Learning Trust will be alert to the fact that whilst Extremism and Radicalisation is broadly a safeguarding issue there may be some instances where a child or children may be at direct risk of harm or neglect. For example; this could be due to a child displaying risky behaviours in terms of the activities they are involved in or the groups they are associated with or staff may be aware of information about a child's family that may equally place a child at risk of harm. (These examples are for illustration and are not definitive or exhaustive).

Therefore, all adults working in the Lydiate Learning Trust (including visiting staff, volunteers' contractors, and students on placement) are required to report instances where they believe a child may be at risk of harm or neglect to the Designated Safeguarding Lead or Headteacher.

In the Lydiate Learning Trust our Safeguarding reporting arrangements are set out fully in our Safeguarding Policy.

5. Role of Governing Body

The Governing Body of our School will undertake appropriate training to ensure that they are clear about their role and the parameters of their responsibilities as Governors, including their statutory safeguarding duties.

The Governing Body of our school will support the ethos and values of our school and will support the school in tackling extremism and radicalisation.

In line with the provisions set out in the DfE guidance 'Keeping Children Safe in Education, 2014' the governing body will challenge the school's senior management team on the delivery of this policy and monitor its effectiveness.

6. Review

Governors will review this policy annually.

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