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Prevent Duty Policy.

This Policy is prepared using the following publications:

DFE 'The Prevent duty. Departmental advice for schools and childcare providers. June 2015' DFE 'Keeping Children Safe in Schools' July 2015'
HM Gov. 'Channel Guidance- Preventing vulnerable people from being drawn into terrorism. 2015'

Policy Statement

Since 1st July 2015 all schools, registered early year's childcare providers 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. It applies to a wide range of public facing bodies.

What is Radicalism?

Radicalism refers to the process by which a person comes to support terrorism and forms of extremism.

Protecting children from the risk of radicalisation is seen as part of St Thomas playgroup wider safeguarding duties and is similar in nature to protecting children from other forms of harm and abuse. During the process of radicalisation, it is possible to intervene to prevent vulnerable people from being radicalised.

There is no single way of identifying an individual who is likely to be susceptible to an extremist ideology. It can happen in many different ways and settings.

Specific background factors may contribute to vulnerability which are often combined with specific influences such as family, friends or online, and with specific needs for which an extremist or a terrorist group may appear to provide an answer.

The internet and the use of social media in particular has become a major factor in the radicalisation of young people.

What is Extremism?

Extremism is vocal or active opposition to fundamental British values, including democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of difference 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.

Constant practice and Procedure

At St Thomas it is essential that staff are able to identify children who may be vulnerable to radicalization and know what to do when they are identified.

Protecting children from the risk of radicalisation should be seen as part of schools and childcare providers wider safeguarding duties, and is similar in nature to protecting children from other harms (eg. Drugs, gangs, neglect, sexual exploitation), whether these come from within their family or are the product of outside influences.

We can also build pupils resilience to radicalisation by promoting fundamental British Values and enabling them to challenge extremist views.

All staff are instructed to challenge extremist and radical views.

In the playgroup we can emphasise this in daily work such as assisting the children's personal, social and emotional development and understanding of the world.

All staff are DBS checked and attend regular up to date Safeguarding training.

All staff who work directly with children are expected to assess the risk of children being drawn into terrorism. This means being able to demonstrate both a general understanding of the risks affecting young children in the area and a specific understanding of how to identify individual children who may be at risk of radicalisation and what to do to support them.

As with managing other safeguarding risks, staff should be alert to changes in children's behaviour which could indicate that they may be in need of help or protection.

Staff should use their professional judgement in identifying children who might be at risk of radicalisation and act proportionately which may include making a referral to the Channel program (see appendix one for more information on Channel).

Procedures for reporting concerns.

If a member of staff has a concern about a particular pupil they should follow the playgroup's normal safeguarding procedures, including discussing with the playgroup's designated safeguarding lead, who will, where deemed necessary, contact children's social care.

You can also contact your local police station or dial 101 (the non-emergency number). They can talk to you in confidence about your concerns and help you gain access to support and advice. Also, they can advise if this would be a case for Channel.

The Department for Education has a dedicated telephone helpline (020 7340 7264) to enable staff and committee members/ governors.

Concerns can always be raised by email to counter.extremism@education.gsi.gov.uk

Appendix 1.

Channel

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. It provides a mechanism for colleges/schools/early years settings to make referrals if they are concerned that an individual might be vulnerable to radicalisation. An individual's engagement with the programme is entirely voluntary at all stages.

Section 36 of the CTSA 2015 places a duty on local authorities to ensure Channel panels are in place. The Panel must be chaired by the local authority and include the police for the relevant local authority area. Following a referral, the panel will assess the extent to which identified individuals are vulnerable to being drawn into terrorism, and, where considered appropriate and necessary consent is obtained, arrange for support to be provided to those individuals.

Channel is available at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/channel-guidance>

All staff at St Thomas' Playgroup have taken part in Channel training and obtained certificates. This policy was adopted by St Thomas' Playgroup in October 2021 and will be reviewed in October 2022.