

PLASHET SCHOOL



Working together to promote & celebrate achievement

# **Supporting Community Resilience Policy & Strategy Statement**

**Revised and applicable from 25.01.2024**

**Signed:**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Irene Papadopoulos', written in a cursive style.

**Chair of Governors**

# 1. Background

The Prevent Duty Guidance for England and Wales (2023) places a responsibility on schools, colleges and other specified authorities, including local authorities, health and police to have due regard to the need to prevent people being drawn into terrorism.

Schools should understand these requirements as part of their wider safeguarding and welfare responsibilities, so all education settings have a clear approach to safeguarding that includes keeping children safe from the dangers of radicalisation and extremism. As protecting students from the risk of radicalisation is part of our wider safeguarding duties it should be viewed by all school staff and governors as similar in nature to protecting students from any other forms of harm and abuse.

At Plashet School, we are committed to safeguarding our students against the risk of radicalisation presented by some individuals and groups with extreme or violent viewpoints. Therefore, expectations, duties and responsibilities in relation to keeping children safe from any form of harm are fully laid out in our safeguarding policy.

# 2. Definitions

Key vocabulary definitions:

- **Extremism** - the vocal or active opposition to our fundamental values, including the rule of law, individual liberty and the mutual respect and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs. This also includes calling for the death of members of the armed forces.
- **Radicalisation** - refers to the process by which a person comes to support terrorism and extremist ideologies associated with terrorist groups
- **Terrorism** - action that endangers / causes serious violence to a person/people; causes serious damage to property; or seriously interferes with / disrupts an electronic system. The use or threat must be designed to influence the government or to intimidate the public and is made for the purpose of advancing a political, religious or ideological cause.

# 3. Key Documents

The below key documents outline the responsibilities that all educational settings in England and Wales have regarding the need to prevent people being drawn into terrorism.

## **The Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015**

The Act places a 'Prevent Duty' on specified authorities including schools to have "due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism".

"Due regard" means that schools should place an appropriate amount of weight on the need to prevent people being drawn into terrorism when they consider all the other factors relevant to how they carry out their usual functions.

All educational settings are subject to the Prevent Duty and are therefore expected to demonstrate activity in the following areas:

- Assessing the risk of children being drawn into terrorism;
- Demonstrate that we are protecting children and young people from being drawn into terrorism by having robust safeguarding policies;
- Ensure that our safeguarding arrangements take into account the policies and procedures of the Local Safeguarding Children Board;
- Ensuring that staff have training that gives them the knowledge and confidence to identify children at risk of being drawn into terrorism, and to challenge extremist ideas which can be used to legitimise terrorism;

- Ensure that children are safe from terrorist and extremist material when accessing the internet in school.

### **Updated Prevent duty guidance: for England and Wales (Home Office, 2023)**

The guidance makes it clear that education settings are subject to the Prevent Duty (as outlined in the specified authorities section) and schools should understand these requirements as part of their 'wider safeguarding and welfare responsibilities'. The Prevent duty guidance should be read alongside all other relevant safeguarding guidance including 'Working together to safeguard children' and 'Keeping Children Safe in Education'. Compliance with the Prevent duty is therefore expected to reflect existing good practice on safeguarding. In this respect, learning about radicalisation must be incorporated into safeguarding training, policies and risk assessments. It is not anticipated that compliance should result in any additional burdens on the school.

### **Keeping Children Safe in Education (DfE, 2023)**

This document, reinforces the Prevent Duty and sets out that, similar to protecting children from other forms of harm and abuse, protecting children from radicalisation should be seen as part of the setting's wider safeguarding duties. Specific guidance is found under 'Preventing radicalisation' on pages 149 – 152.

### **The Prevent Duty: Safeguarding Learners Vulnerable to Radicalisation (DfE, 2022)**

Schools are required to teach a broad and balanced curriculum which promotes spiritual, moral, cultural development of students while 'actively promoting the 'fundamental British values of democracy, which are explained to be the rule of law, individual liberty, and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs.

The government guidance emphasises that schools should be mindful of their existing duties to forbid political indoctrination and secure a balanced presentation of political issues, while remaining safe places for children to debate controversial issues, and develop the critical thinking skills and knowledge needed to prepare young people to be able to challenge extremist arguments and promote community cohesion.

Ofsted, in its inspection of schools, will check how the school is educating students to prevent radicalisation and extremism particularly through the promotion of fundamental British values. Schools will be required to evidence this.

### **Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy (Plasht School, 5th October 2023)**

This document outlines Plasht School's commitment to developing and sustaining a strong safeguarding culture which supports all staff, Governors and visitors to the school to safeguard children. The policy should be read in conjunction with Keeping Children Safe in Education (DfE, 2023), and with reference to the education Inspection Framework, Ofsted 2023. Also, the Newham Joint Position Statement on Everyone's Invited - Safeguarding all our children and young people in Newham, LBN 2021 (Appendix 1). Specific references to keeping children safe from radicalisation can be found on pages 13, in Appendix 7; Indicators of Vulnerability to radicalisation and Appendix 8; Preventing Violent Extremism.

## **4. 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 and the effective teaching of fundamental British Values.

### **Role of the Head Teacher**

It is the role of the Head Teacher 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;
- Ensure the school has a designated Prevent lead teacher;

- Ensure the school effectively promotes 'British Values' including the teaching of British values through its curriculum;
- To ensure the school actively works towards closing any integration gaps by ensuring all students have access to opportunities to mix with other people, including those of different religious, ethnic and socio-economic backgrounds.

### **Role of Single Point of Contact (SPOC)**

**Plashtet School Safeguarding Policy:** Appendix Five: Preventing Violent Extremism (Roles and responsibilities of Single Point of Contact (SPOC))

The SPOC for Plashtet School is **Sarah Heath, Deputy Head Teacher**, who is responsible for:

- Ensuring that staff of the school are aware that you are the SPOC in relation to protecting students from radicalisation and involvement in terrorism;
- Maintaining and applying a good understanding of the relevant guidance in relation to preventing students from becoming involved in terrorism, and protecting them from radicalisation by those who support terrorism or forms of extremism which lead to terrorism;
- Raising awareness about the role and responsibilities of Plashtet School in relation to protecting students/students from radicalisation and involvement in terrorism;
- Monitoring the effect in practice of the school's RE curriculum and assembly policy to ensure that they are used to promote community cohesion and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs;
- Raising awareness within the school about the safeguarding processes relating to protecting students/students from radicalisation and involvement in terrorism;
- Acting as the first point of contact within the school for case discussions relating to students who may be at risk of radicalisation or involved in terrorism;
- Collating relevant information in relation to referrals of vulnerable students into the Channel\* process;
- Attending Channel\* meetings as necessary and carrying out any actions as agreed;
- Reporting progress on actions to the Channel\* Co-ordinator; and
- Sharing any relevant additional information in a timely manner.

\* Channel is a multi-agency approach to provide support to individuals who are at risk of being drawn into terrorist related activity. It is led by the West Midlands police Counter-Terrorism Unit and it aims to:

- Establish an effective multi-agency referral and intervention process to identify vulnerable individuals;
- Safeguard individuals who might be vulnerable to being radicalised, so that they are not at risk of being drawn into terrorist-related activity; and
- Provide early intervention to protect and divert people away from the risks they face and reduce vulnerability.

### **Role of Staff**

All Plashtet School staff should understand the issues of radicalisation, be able to recognise the signs of vulnerability to radicalisation and know how to address any concerns of a student being vulnerable to radicalisation.

All staff should refer to the Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy (Plashtet School, 5th October 2023) - Section 5; Procedures (Page 15).

"5.1 All staff members have a duty to identify and respond to suspected and actual abuse or disclosure of harm. Any member of staff, volunteer or visitor to our school who receives a disclosure or allegation of abuse, or suspects abuse may have occurred must report it immediately to the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL), or, in their absence the Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead. Concerns about a child at risk of radicalisation or extremism will be raised with the PREVENT SPoC and Designated Safeguarding Leads".

# Plashet School Strategy Statement

## Safeguarding

At Plashet School, the Prevent Duty, is seen as part of the existing school safeguarding framework. All School staff and Governors have an understanding of their duty to safeguard young people and therefore are alert to changes in a child or young person's behaviour. Through annual training, school staff understand the risks affecting children and young people in their local area and can exercise professional judgement to identify those children who may be vulnerable to radicalisation.

Specific references to keeping children safe from radicalisation can be found on pages 13, in Appendix 7; Indicators of Vulnerability to radicalisation and Appendix 8; Preventing Violent Extremism.

The school is committed to working in partnership with external agencies including Local Safeguarding Children Boards (LSCBs), social services and the police to coordinate interagency working so as to safeguard and promote the welfare of all students.

## Staff Training

The Home Office has developed an interactive facilitated 'Workshop to Raise Awareness of Prevent' (WRAP) aimed at training frontline staff such as teachers on how to identify children at risk. Staff at Plashet School receive WRAP training on an annual basis. This is usually in conjunction with the Newham Community Resilience team.

## Curriculum

All aspects of our curriculum are designed to prepare our students for life in modern Britain. At Plashet School, the values promoted support the fundamental values of British society including those of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs. We are committed to ensuring our students are offered a broad and balanced curriculum that supports our students to be inquisitive learners, understand and recognise risk, practise the skills of reasonable and rational decision making and demonstrate acceptance of difference. This underpins the quality teaching and learning we offer, whilst making a positive contribution to the development of a fair, just and civil society.

For example with the **Philosophy, Religion and Ethics (PRE) Curriculum**, learning is designed to reinforce messages of tolerance and respect for others. Students learn to understand and respect the experiences of others. They are empowered through their learning to recognise intolerance and challenge extreme ethical and religious views.

The **Learning for Life (CPSHE)** curriculum is also designed to ensure students know and understand how to keep themselves and others safe. The Curriculum is designed to meet the statutory requirements for Citizenship and Relationships, Sex and Health Education including teaching students about the concepts and laws relating to extremism and radicalisation and grooming activity. Students also learn about the impact of viewing harmful online content, how to identify harmful behaviours online and how to report, or find support, if they have been affected by those behaviours.

The curriculum in **Computing**, is designed to allow students to participate in learning designed to create responsible 'digital citizens' while raising awareness of the danger presented by open source systems such as the internet. In KS3, curriculum content includes teaching about social networking, digital footprints, privacy and the dangers of communication with online contacts. Students also complete learning designed to support them to identify fake news and consider the consequences of fake news. Students are taught to report any internet content that is inappropriate or of concern.

## **ICT Policies**

All schools are required to take steps to keep children safe online for example through appropriate filtering of school web-page content. The school PCs and the student chromebooks are subject to LGfL web filtering which restricts access to sites not suitable for secondary age children. All students and staff sign an acceptable user agreement that sets out the code of conduct for use of the school ICT systems. The school uses a filtering system to monitor the use of PCs in school. Any potential breach is monitored daily by a data manager who reports to a member of the Leadership Team. The school also uses a filtering system to monitor the use of student chromebooks at home. Any breach of the acceptable user agreement is reported to the Leadership Team. If the filtering system indicates breaches of a serious safeguarding nature this is automatically reported to the safeguarding team.

In line with the school's E-Safety Policy, there is an expectation for all users to promote digital resilience. This includes ensuring all online materials used to teach the curriculum are safe for students to access and will not expose students to dangerous content. Whenever applicable, teachers reference e-safety as part of their taught curriculum content.

## **Safer Recruitment**

At Plashet School we adopt robust recruitment procedures that deter and prevent people who are unsuitable to work with children from applying for or securing employment, or volunteering opportunities in the school. As per the statutory guidance published in part 3 of *Keeping Children Safe in Education (2023)*, all those involved with the recruitment and employment of staff to work with children have received appropriate safer recruitment training. All offers of appointment remain conditional until satisfactory completion of the mandatory pre-employment checks including a valid enhanced DBS check (including children's barred list information, for those who will be engaging in regulated activity with children).

**Visitors** to the school are strictly monitored. Any application to work with students outside of the immediate school community is subject to the School Safeguarding Policy and Plashet School visit regulations respectively. All visitors to the school are made aware of our safeguarding policy on arrival at the school and are informed what to do if they are concerned about any aspect of child welfare.

Any member of staff seeking to invite a visitor to the school is required to undertake appropriate due diligence and seek the permission of the Head Teacher.

The school does not accept bookings from individuals or organisations that could be perceived to promote extremist views. The school will always demonstrate due diligence before agreeing the hire of school premises to any individual or organisation.