

**Myddelton College**

Preventing Extremism & Radicalism Policy

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| **Date policy reviewed** | September 2022 |
| **Reviewed & approved by** | AJA, MTP & Governors |
| **Next review** | September 2024 |

**Introduction**

This is a whole school policy. The national Prevent Strategy aims to stop people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism.

The updated Counter-Terrorism and Security Act (2015) requires us to have a clear policy to prevent pupils from being drawn into extremism, terrorism and radicalisation.

Myddelton College, working with other local partners, families and communities, seeks to play a key role in ensuring that the pupils who attend the School or use its services are safe from the threat of terrorism. Prevent is part of the School’s wider responsibility for Safeguarding and this policy is linked to the School’s Policy for Safeguarding Children and Child Protection.

While we have assessed the risk to be low, ongoing monitoring will be part of both academic and pastoral review meetings.

Extremists of all persuasions aim to develop destructive relationships between different communities by promoting division, fear and the mistrust of others, based on ignorance or prejudice. Education equips children with the confidence, knowledge, skills and critical thinking to challenge and debate in an informed way.

Myddelton College seeks to provide a broad and balanced teaching programme, delivered by skilled professionals, so that our children understand and become tolerant of difference and diversity, and feel valued and not marginalised. Furthermore, we are aware that children can be exposed to extremist influences or prejudiced views from an early age which emanate from a variety of sources and media, including via the internet, and at times children may themselves reflect or display views that may be discriminatory, prejudiced or extremist, including the use of derogatory language.

Any prejudice, discrimination or extremist views, including derogatory language, displayed by children or staff will always be challenged and, where appropriate, dealt with in line with our Rewards and Sanctions Policy and the Staff Code of Conduct.

Protecting children from the risk of radicalisation is part of our 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.

**The Government’s Prevent Strategy defines extremism 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’.

**Aims**

We believe that Myddelton College should be a safe place where pupils can understand and discuss sensitive topics, including terrorism and the extremist ideas that are part of the terrorist ideology, and learn how to challenge such ideas.

There is no place for extremist views of any kind in our School, whether from internal sources

– children and adults

– or from external sources, such as external agencies or individuals.

Our pupils see their School as a safe place where they can explore controversial issues safely and where our teachers encourage responsibly and facilitate this.

At Myddelton College, we recognise that safeguarding is everyone’s responsibility, irrespective of the role they undertake and whether or not their role involves direct contact or responsibility for children. In adhering to this policy, and the procedures contained therein, staff and visitors contribute to the School’s delivery of these outcomes to all children and young people.

**Strategy and Methodology**

In order to fulfil our Prevent Duty, we undertake to do the following:

• Actively promote fundamental British values, including mutual respect, tolerance and democratic participation, as part of our wider SMSC/ PSHE programmes as well as within other subject areas and assemblies

• Respect learner and staff diversity, encouraging freedom and openness

• Assess the risk of children in our school/ settings/ activities being drawn in to terrorism

• Maintain robust safeguarding policies which take into account the policies and procedures set out by the Denbighshire Safeguarding Children and Adult Partnership and identify extremism/radicalisation as issues to be reported promptly to the Staff Prevent Lead

• Identify a nominated Staff Lead (the DSL – will also fulfil the role of Staff Prevent Lead and in their absence the Deputy DSLs)

• Train staff so that they have 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

• Conduct due diligence checks on groups/ individuals seeking to hire or use the School premises

• Conduct due diligence checks on visitors to school, particularly visiting speakers, whether invited by pupils or staff

• Conduct due diligence checks on contractors working on the school sites

• Ensure pupils are safe from terrorist and extremist material when accessing the internet in the School

• Review our policies regularly

**External Agencies and Speakers in school**

Both before and when inviting visiting speakers to Myddelton College, we will risk assess the likely suitability and effectiveness of input from external agencies or individuals to ensure that:

• any messages communicated to children and young people 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 children and young people through extreme or narrow views of faith, religion or culture or other ideologies;

• activities are matched to the needs of children and young people and

• activities are carefully evaluated by schools to ensure that they are effective. Staff must feel confident and able to stop presentations which challenge this.

Myddelton College’s ethos is to encourage children to understand opposing views and ideologies, appropriate to their age, understanding and abilities, and to be able to actively engage with them in informed debate. To this effect, we may use external agencies or speakers to facilitate and support this.

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

**Teaching Approaches**

We strive to eradicate the myths and assumptions that can lead to some children and young people becoming alienated and disempowered; such guidance and support are delivered formally and explicitly in PSHE lessons and assemblies and informal meetings and conversations with tutors and teachers.

We ensure that teachers’ support and approaches will help our children and young people build resilience to extremism and give them a positive sense of identity through the development of critical thinking skills.

Our goal is also to build mutual respect and understanding and to promote the use of dialogue not violence as a form of conflict resolution. We will achieve this by using appropriate approaches in

• Citizenship topics, which take place in PSHE lessons,

• Open discussion and debate, and

• Work on anti-violence and a restorative approach to conflict resolution.

At Myddelton College, we promote the values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, mutual respect and tolerance for those with different faiths and beliefs. We will encourage children to respect one another and to respect and tolerate difference, especially those of a different faith or no faith.

**The internet and on-line influences**

The most likely source of influence on children in respect of terrorism and radicalisation is the Internet. The School has specific policies in place to ensure the safe use of the Internet. Please see the School’s Child Protection & Safeguarding Policy and E-Safety Policy. Statutory guidance makes clear the need for schools to ensure that children are safe from terrorist and extremist material when accessing the internet in schools.

• We ensure that suitable filtering is in place and Smoothwall alerts are monitored and discussed within the Designated Safeguarding Lead team.

• We should be aware of the risk of online radicalisation, as terrorist organisations

seek to radicalise young people through the use of social media and the internet.

• There is no single way of identifying an individual who is likely to be susceptible to a terrorist ideology. As with managing other safeguarding risks, we should be alert to changes in children’s or young people’s behaviour which could indicate that they may be in need of help or protection.

Those at risk of radicalisation may display different signs or seek to hide their views.

• School staff should use their professional judgment in identifying children or young people who might be at risk of radicalisation and act proportionately.

• Even very young children may be vulnerable to radicalisation by others, whether in the family or outside, and display concerning behaviour. 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.

• Procedures are in place for protecting those at risk of radicalisation. These procedures are set out in existing safeguarding policies.

**Working in partnership**

The Prevent duty builds on existing local partnership arrangements.

• Local Safeguarding Children and Adult Partnerships 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.

• Working in conjunction with other partners, in particular the police and also civil society organisations, may be able to provide advice and support.

• Effective engagement with parents / the family is also important as they are in a key position to spot signs of radicalisation. We would look to assist and advise families who raise concerns and be able to point them to the right support mechanisms.

**Staff training**

The statutory guidance refers to the importance of Prevent awareness training to equip staff to identify children at risk of being drawn into terrorism and to challenge extremist ideas.

Teaching and Support Staff receive training on Prevent as part of Staff training. This includes the use of the “Channel” process for advice guidance, assessment and referral. This process is an open and transparent service and is used with the full understanding and support of the child or young person.

All adults working at Myddelton College (including visiting staff, volunteers, contractors, and students on placement) are required to report instances where they believe a child or young person may be at risk of harm or neglect to the Designated Safeguarding Officer or Headmaster.

**Possible Indicators of Risk which will cause staff concern**

• Racist graffiti/ symbols/ comments made in School

• Speaking out or writing in favour of extremist ideas in school work

• Extreme comments shared on social media

• Distribution of extreme or terrorist propaganda among other pupils

• Vulnerable students being influenced by others (although we are aware of a need to avoid over-simplified assessments of who might be ‘vulnerable’), because of the existence of one or more

factors, which may include:

* An identity crisis, involving an individual’s distance from her cultural/ religious

 heritage, including peer/ family/ faith group rejection

* A personal crisis, including family tension/ social isolation/ friendship issues
* Personal circumstances, such as migration, experience of racism
* Unmet aspirations
* Criminality
* Experience of poverty, disadvantage, discrimination or social exclusion

• Association with those known to be involved in extremism (including via the internet)

• A significant shift in the pupil’s behaviour or outward appearance, particularly involving conflict with their family and/or faith group

• Travel for extended periods of time to international locations known to be associated with extremism

• Disguising of a pupil’s identity, for example in documentation

• A simplistic or flawed understanding of religious/ political/ global issues

• A significant adult or other in the pupil’s life who has extremist views or sympathies

• Critical risk factors being:

* Contact with extremist recruiters
* Articulation of support for extremist causes/ leaders
* The possession of extremist literature
* Using extremist narratives and a global ideology to explain personal disadvantage
* Justifying the use of violence to solve societal issues
* Membership of extremist organisations

**Supportive Interventions**

‘Channel’ is the multi-agency approach to protect people at risk from radicalisation and aims to:

* identify individuals at risk of being drawn into terrorism;
* assess the nature and extent of that risk; and
* develop the most appropriate support plan for the individuals concerned.

Should concerns require support from other agencies, the following are ways in which terrorism and extremism can be reported:

* Anti-terrorist hotline: 0800 789 321
* Crime stoppers: 0800 555 111
* Relevant police force: 101
* [www.gov.uk/report-suspicious-activity-to-mi5](http://www.gov.uk/report-suspicious-activity-to-mi5)

To report any online terrorist-related material: [www.gov.uk/report-terrorism](http://www.gov.uk/report-terrorism)

**Equality and Diversity**

All developments are intended to ensure that no-one is treated in any way less favourably on the grounds of race, colour, national or ethnic or social origin, race, disability, gender, sexual orientation,

gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, age, religion/ belief or political/ other personal beliefs.

**Related Policies**

• Anti-Bullying Policy

• Safeguarding Children and Child Protection Policy

**References**

Revised Prevent Duty Guidance for England and Wales (12/03/2015):

(https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/prevent-duty-guidance)

Counter-Terrorism and Security Act (2015)

Guidance contained in the DfE Guidance ‘Keeping Children Safe in Education: January 2021’

‘Prevent: Resources Guide’

‘Tackling Extremism in the UK’, DfE’s ‘Teaching Approaches’

Peter Clarke’s Report of July 2014: The 'Trojan Horse' investigation - 'An inconvenient truth for the coalition government'

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In addition, we could share two AGBIS template documents, following discussion

Prevent Duty Action Plan (27/01/22)

Prevent Duty Risk Assessment (Jan 2022)