

Ambleside Centre
Preventing Extremism and Radicalisation Policy

Introduction

The Ambleside Centre is committed to providing a secure environment for children, where they feel safe and are kept safe. All adults in our setting recognise that safeguarding is everyone's responsibility irrespective of the role they undertake or whether their role has direct contact or responsibility for children or not.

In adhering to this policy, all staff, including visiting staff, volunteers, students on placement and visitors will contribute to our setting's delivery of the outcomes for all children, as set out in s10 (2) of the Children Act 2004[(1).]

This Preventing Extremism and Radicalisation Safeguarding Policy is one element within our overall arrangements to Safeguard and Promote the Welfare of all Children in line with our statutory duties set out in Ofsted's Common Inspection Framework, 2021 Inspecting safeguarding in early years, education and skills from September 2021, and Statutory framework for the early years foundation stage, 2021.

Our setting's Preventing Extremism and Radicalisation Policy also draws upon:
- Keeping Children Safe in Education, 2024, DfE
- Counter-terrorism and Security Act, 2015
- Guidance to the Prevent Duty, DfE
- Protecting children from radicalisation: the prevent duty; July 2015
- Prevent: Resources Guide, DfE
- Social Media Guidance, July 2015,
- Tackling Extremism in the UK, DfE
- Equality Act 2010 and guidance on its implementation
- Peter Clarke's Report into allegations concerning Birmingham schools, July 2014.

Ethos and Practice

When operating this policy we use the following accepted Governmental definition of extremism which is:

'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; and/or calls for the death of members of our armed forces, whether in this country or overseas'.

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(1) the physical, mental health and emotional well-being of children; the protection of children from harm and neglect; the education, training and recreation of children; the contribution made by them to society; and their social and economic well-being

- There is no place for extremist views of any kind in our setting, whether from internal sources –children, staff or management, or external sources - school community, external agencies or individuals. The children see our setting as a safe place where they can ask questions about the world and where our staff encourage and facilitate these opportunities.

- As a setting we recognise that extremism and exposure to extremist materials and influences can lead to poor outcomes for children and so should be addressed as a safeguarding concern as set out in this policy. We also recognise that if we fail to challenge extremist views, we are failing to protect our children.

- We aim to provide a broad and balanced early years curriculum, delivered by skilled professionals, so that our children understand and become tolerant of difference and diversity and also to ensure that they thrive and feel valued and respected as individuals.

- Children can be exposed to extremist influences or prejudiced views from an early age which originate from a variety of sources and media, including via the internet. There may be times when children may reflect or display views that may be discriminatory, prejudiced or extremist, including using derogatory language.

- Any prejudice, discrimination or extremist views, including derogatory language, displayed by children or staff will always be challenged and where appropriate supported through discussion with children and their families and the Code of Conduct for staff.

- Where misconduct by a member of staff is proven the matter will be referred to the Local Authority.

As part of wider safeguarding responsibilities setting staff will be alert to:

- Disclosures by children of their exposure to the extremist actions, views or materials of others outside of the setting, such as in their homes or community groups.

- Graffiti symbols, writing or art work promoting extremist messages or images

- Children exposed to extremist material online, including through social networking sites

- Parental reports of changes in behaviour, friendship or actions and requests for assistance

- Local authority services, and police reports of issues affecting children in other schools or settings

- Use of extremist or 'hate' terms to exclude others or incite violence

- Intolerance of difference, whether secular or religious or, in line with our equalities policy, views based on, but not exclusive to, gender, disability, homophobia, race, colour or culture

  Our setting will closely follow any locally agreed procedure as set out by the Local Authority and /or the Safeguarding Children Board's agreed processes and criteria for safeguarding individuals vulnerable to extremism and radicalisation.

Teaching Approaches

- We will ensure our teaching approaches help children to build resilience to extremism and give them a positive sense of identity through Personal, Social and Emotional development and the promotion of critical thinking. We will aim to ensure that all our staff are equipped to recognise extremism and are skilled and confident enough to challenge it in a way appropriate to the child's age and level of development.

- We will facilitate a 'safe place' for children to speak confidently and openly about any worries or concerns they may have concerning their safety and will equip our children with the appropriate skills to become self-assured young people.

- This approach will be embedded within the ethos of our setting so that children know and understand what safe and acceptable behaviour is in the context of extremism and radicalisation. 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 work with local partners, families and communities in our efforts to ensure our setting understands and embraces our local context and values in challenging extremist views and to assist in the broadening of children's experiences. We will help support children who may be vulnerable to such influences as part of our wider safeguarding responsibilities and in such instances seek external support from the Local Authority and/or local partnership structures working to prevent extremism.

- At our setting we will promote the values of democracy, the rules of law, individual liberty, mutual respect and tolerance for those with different faiths and beliefs. We will teach and encourage children to respect one another and to respect and tolerate difference.

Whistle Blowing

- Where there are concerns of extremism or radicalisation children and staff will be encouraged to make use of our internal systems to Whistle Blow or raise any issue in confidence.

Please refer to our setting's Whistle Blowing Policy.

Safeguarding

- Staff at our setting will be alert to the fact that whilst extremism and radicalisation is broadly a safeguarding issue and there may be some instances where a child or children may be at direct risk of harm or neglect.

- All adults working in our setting (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 Lead Safeguarding Practitioner or setting Manager.

Role of the Lead Safeguarding Practitioner

The Lead Safeguarding Practitioner is the Head Teacher

In line with Recommendation 2 of Peter Clarke's Report; In the Ambleside Centre, the role of the Lead Safeguarding Practitioner has been extended to include the responsibilities of the PREVENT strand of the Government's counter-terrorism strategy.

Training

- Training on Safeguarding, Child Protection and Prevent Radicalisation will be organised for staff and management at least every three years and will comply with the prevailing arrangements agreed by the Local Authority and the Safeguarding Children Board and will, in part, include training on extremism and radicalisation and its safeguarding implications. Annual Safeguarding and Prevent update training will be given to all staff.

- The Lead Safeguarding Practitioner will attend training courses as necessary and the appropriate inter-agency training organised by the Safeguarding Children Board at least safeguarding implications.

- All new staff will undertake Prevent Training and Safeguarding training.

Recruitment

- The arrangements for recruiting all staff, permanent and volunteers will follow LA guidance for safer recruitment best practice in education settings, including, but not limited to, ensuring that DBS checks are always made at the appropriate level, that references are always received and checked and that we complete and maintain a single central record of such vetting checks.

- Safer recruitment best practice principles and sound employment practice will be applied and in doing so will deny opportunities for inappropriate recruitment or advancement. We will be alert to the possibility that persons may seek to gain positions within our setting so as to unduly influence our setting's character and ethos. We are aware that such persons seek to limit the opportunities for our children thereby rendering them vulnerable to extremist views and radicalisation as a consequence.

- By adhering to safer recruitment best practice techniques and by ensuring that there is an ongoing culture of vigilance within our setting and staff team we will minimise the opportunities for extremist views to prevail.

Policy Adoption, Monitoring and Review

This policy was considered and adopted by the Centre's Governing Body in line with their overall duty to safeguard and promote the welfare of children as set out in the DfE guidance 'Keeping Children Safe in Education'

Parents will be issued with a hard copy of this policy on request. This policy will also be made available to parents via the setting website.

The effectiveness of this policy will be evaluated by monitoring the staff group's understanding and application of the procedures within this policy as their overall duty to safeguard children.