Heathland Whitefriars Federation

ANTI–RADICALISATION STATEMENT

Approved by the Board of Trustees: February 2016
Effective from: February 2016

Reviewed Annually by the Safeguarding & Inclusion Committee
Last Review Date: November 2025
Next Review Date: October 2026

1.Introduction

At Heathland Whitefriars Federation, our Core Values underpin every aspect of school life, fostering an inclusive, safe, and respectful environment for all pupils and staff. We are fully committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all pupils, recognising that protecting them from radicalisation and extremism is an integral part of safeguarding.

The Directors of the Federation have a zero-tolerance approach to extremist behaviour for all community members. We rely on our strong values to steer our work and ensure the pastoral care of our pupils protects them from exposure to negative influences and potentially harmful ideas.

Furthermore, the positive promotion of Rights through our work in achieving the UNICEF Rights Respecting Schools Award equips our pupils with the skills to reject violence and in tolerance in all its forms.

2.Legislative Context and Guidance

This policy reflects the statutory duties placed on schools by the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 (Prevent Duty), the DfE guidance "Keeping Children Safe in Education," and the latest Department for Education Prevent guidance. It aligns with the national CONTEST strategy and local Prevent arrangements.

Article 41: Your right to respect for better national standards

3. Policy Aims

- To ensure all staff and governors understand what radicalisation and extremism are, and why vigilance is necessary.
- To develop good relationships among all those involved in the school and the wider community. To provide equality of opportunity to all regardless of culture, religion, language, ethnic background or race.
- To embed British Values—democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, mutual respect, and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs—across the curriculum and school culture.
- To equip pupils with the skills and knowledge to challenge extremist views and stay safe, particularly online.
- To provide clear procedures for identifying and referring concerns related to radicalisation.
- To work collaboratively with parents, local authorities, and community partners to prevent extremism.

Article 36: You have the right to be free from other forms of exploitation

4. Definitions

Radicalisation: The process by which a person comes to support terrorism and extremist ideologies.

Extremism: Vocal or active opposition to fundamental British values including democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, and mutual respect.

Article 17: You have the right to access to information from mass media

5. Curriculum and Pupil Engagement

- Our curriculum promotes respect, tolerance, and diversity through PSHE, SMSC, Citizenship, and RE.
- Pupils learn about different faiths and cultures, participate in community events, and engage in democratic processes such as the School Council.
- Online safety education includes recognising and responding to extremist content.
- We use restorative and trauma-informed approaches to support vulnerable pupils and build resilience.
- Pupils are encouraged to adopt and live out our core Values. These complement the key "British Values" of tolerance, respect, understanding, compassion and harmonious living.
- Pupil's wellbeing, confidence and resilience is promoted and taught through our planned curriculum and enrichment.
- Pupils are actively supported in making good choices from a very young age, so they understand the impact and consequences of their actions on others and are able to question and positively challenge the behaviour of others.

6. Staff Training and Awareness

- All staff receive regular Prevent training during INSET and induction, including updates on emerging risks and referral pathways.
- Governors and trustees receive training on their safeguarding responsibilities related to Prevent.
- Training includes recognising signs of radicalisation and understanding the referral process.

7. Referral and Reporting Procedures

- Any concerns about a pupil's vulnerability to radicalisation should be reported immediately to the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) or Deputy DSL.

- The DSL will follow safeguarding protocols and liaise with local Prevent coordinators and Channel panels as appropriate.

- Confidentiality will be maintained, and support offered to pupils and families throughout the process.

- Staff are reminded to challenge any disbelief or assumptions that radicalisation "could not happen here."

8. Parental and Community Engagement

We work proactively with parents through workshops and communications to raise awareness of Prevent and radicalisation risks. The school fosters strong partnerships with local agencies, faith groups, and community organisations to promote cohesion and shared values.

9. Monitoring and Review

- The effectiveness of this policy is monitored through safeguarding audits, staff feedback, and pupil surveys.

- The policy is reviewed annually by the Safeguarding & Inclusion Committee and updated as necessary.

- The named Prevent lead within the safeguarding team oversees implementation and liaison with external agencies.

10. Equality and Inclusion

- The Federation is committed to equality and inclusion, ensuring that no pupil is discriminated against or stigmatised due to their faith, ethnicity, or background.

- Our approach to Prevent is rooted in respect for diversity and human rights.

Policy Review

The Anti-Radicalisation Policy statement will be reviewed annually as part of the overall Child Protection and Safeguarding policy review.