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TWYXCROSS HOUSE SCHOOL PREVENT DUTY

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Introduction

Twycross House School (THS) recognises its duty under section 26 of the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 to have 'due regard to the need to prevent people being drawn into terrorism'.

THS accepts the Department for Education's definition radicalisation is the process by which a person comes to support terrorism and forms of extremism leading to terrorism. During that process it is possible to intervene to prevent vulnerable people being drawn into terrorist-related activity. THS also accepts the Department for Education's definition of 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. We also include in our definition of extremism calls for the death of members of our armed forces, whether in this country or overseas. Terrorist groups very often draw on extremist ideas developed by extremist organisations.

The purpose of our Prevent Duty Policy is, therefore, to combat the radicalisation of potentially vulnerable youths by protecting them from extremist views, and combating those views should they arise within the remit of the THS. The school must consider what they can do to protect children from the risk of radicalisation, just as they try to protect them from drugs, neglect and sexual exploitation.

Fulfilling this duty involves the undertaking of efforts to identify potentially radicalising factors and material (including access to it, i.e. the internet) and potentially vulnerable youths. The risks will be managed by various means: existing safeguarding measures, the teaching of British values, and the providing of a system of support and guidance.

The THS wishes to emphasise that the Prevent Duty Policy is not intended to stop pupils debating controversial issues. It simply wishes to provide a safe environment within which they can do so, while also making them aware of the risks associated with terrorism, thereby providing them with the knowledge and skills to be able to challenge and reject extremist arguments.

School Action

Staff: All staff must be aware that every member of the whole school community has a responsibility to support the Prevent Duty.

Training: In order for staff at THS to fulfil the Prevent Duty it is essential that staff receive adequate training so that they are able to identify children who may be vulnerable to radicalisation, and know what to do when they are identified. The Prevent Single Point of Contact is Mrs Charlotte Lauder and she will lead the training of staff.

DSL Training: The Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSLs) of THS must undertake Prevent awareness training. Mrs C Lauder will use Local Authority recommendations on which courses would be most beneficial for staff and DSLs.

Concerns: If a member of staff has a concern about a particular pupil they should follow the school's normal safeguarding procedures, including discussing with the school's designated safeguarding lead. If staff have further concerns about a pupil they can, in accord with their Channel training, refer the pupil to the Channel Programme.

Professional Judgement: There is no single way of identifying an individual who is likely to be susceptible to an extremist ideology. Therefore staff must use their professional judgement in identifying children who might be at risk of radicalisation and act proportionately.

The Prevent Duty will be delivered as part of the Child Safeguarding Policy: also through PSGE lessons and the school's SMSC programme to help build British values.

Safeguarding

Protecting children from the risk of radicalisation is part of THS's wider safeguarding duties, and should be treated in the same vein as protecting children from other harms (e.g. drugs, neglect, and sexual exploitation). Staff must be alert to changes in children's behaviour which could indicate that they may be in need of help or protection. Children at risk of radicalisation may display different signs or seek to hide their views.

It is the responsibility of the DSLs to raise awareness of the risks of radicalisation amongst the staff and ensure that Staff safeguarding training. The Local Authority and the Police will be able to provide help and advice if necessary, as well as contextual information to further help understand and identify the potential risks.

Risk Assessment

There is no single way of identifying an individual who may be susceptible to terrorist ideology. Family, friends, social media and radical websites may exert a negative influence. However, a pupil displaying the following might be at risk:

- Changes in behaviour – withdrawn, troubled, unable to concentrate, given to angry outbursts, secretive;
- Sudden more vocal about world affairs, particularly area of conflict prone to terrorist activity;
- Suddenly less vocal about these issues;
- Reporting any extremist views expressed by his/her parents or friends which may cause concern;
- Referring to any extremist material found online.

An individual may also become vulnerable to extremist influence if he/she:

- Has suffered verbal or physical abuse, or more serious crime, based on race or faith;
- Has problems over personal identity because of race or faith;
- Experiences family tensions caused by race or faith;
- Is easily influenced by other people because of low self-esteem or peer pressure.

Further guidance

For non-emergency situations:

Police: dial 101 for confidential discussion, advice and support

DfE: 020 7340 7264

Email: counter.extremism@education.gsi.gov.uk

Prevent Duty:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/439598/prevent-duty-departmental-advice-v6.pdf

Channel Awareness Training:

http://course.ncalt.com/Channel_General_Awareness/01/index.htm

UK Safer Internet: <http://www.saferinternet.org.uk/> o Promoting British Values:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/guidance-on-promoting-british-values-in-schools-published>