



## **ST MARK’S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL ANTI-RADICALISATION POLICY**

St. Mark’s is a Catholic Primary School where Core Values, underpin every aspect of school life. Our Mission Statement is **‘Proudly & Joyfully, we Love, Live and Learn as God’s Children’**.

To love all those with whom we come into contact as taught to us by Jesus through the Gospels. To learn to the best of our ability using our God given talents.

**St Mark’s Catholic Primary School** is fully committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all its pupils. As a school we recognise that safeguarding against radicalisation is no different from safeguarding against any other vulnerability. At St Mark’s Catholic Primary School all staff are expected to uphold and promote the fundamental principles of British values, including democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect, and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs.

In formulating this policy, the Governors have taken account of the guidance from the Department for Education (DfE) who has called for all public bodies to make explicit their preventative measures to minimise the threat of extremism in their setting.

### **DEFINITIONS AND INDICATORS**

Radicalisation is defined as the act or process of making a person more radical or favouring of extreme or fundamental changes in political, economic or social conditions, institutions or habits of the mind.

Extremism is defined as the holding of extreme political or religious views.

The Governing Body has 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.

### **AIMS AND PRINCIPLES**

The main aims of this policy statement are to ensure that staff are fully engaged in being vigilant about radicalisation; that they overcome professional disbelief that such issues will not happen here and ensure that we work alongside other professional bodies and agencies to ensure that our pupils are safe from harm.

The principle objectives are that:

- 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.
- Pupils are helped to understand the importance of democracy and freedom of speech, through assemblies, PSHE and citizenship sessions and through the elected School Council members.
- Pupils are taught how to keep themselves safe, in school and when using the internet.



- Pupils participate in local community events so that they appreciate and value their neighbours and friends who may not share their faith background.
- Pupil's wellbeing, confidence and resilience is promoted through our planned curriculum and out of hours learning opportunities.
- Pupils are supported in making good choices from a very young age, so they understand the impact and consequences of their actions on others.
- Governors, teachers, teaching assistants and non-teaching staff demonstrate an understanding of what radicalisation and extremism are and why we need to be vigilant in school.

The Office for Security & Counter Terrorism works to counter the threat from terrorism and their work is detailed in the counter terrorism strategy CONTEST. This strategy is based on four areas of work:

- **Pursue** - To stop terrorist attacks
- **Prevent** - To stop people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism
- **Protect** - To strengthen our protection against a terrorist attack
- **Prepare** - To mitigate the impact of a terrorist attack

Our role, as a school, is outlined more specifically in the DCSF/DfE document 'Learning together to be safe': A toolkit to help schools contribute to the prevention of violent extremism.'

Primarily our work will be concerned with PREVENTION and is outlined more specifically in the DfE document 'Learning together to be safe: A toolkit to help schools contribute to the prevention of violent extremism.'

**This policy should be read alongside the school's** Safeguarding and Child Protection, Equal Opportunities, E-Safety and Anti-bullying policies.

### **PROCEDURES FOR REFERRALS**

Although serious incidents involving radicalisation have not occurred at St Mark's to date, it is important for us to be constantly vigilant and remain fully informed about the issues which affect the region in which we teach. Staff are reminded to suspend any professional disbelief that instances of radicalisation 'could not happen here' and to refer any concerns through the appropriate channels (currently via the Child Protection/ Safeguarding Coordinator). This policy is strictly adhered to should issues arise. We follow Guidance and referral procedures in Sandwell's 'Understanding Extremism Resource Pack.'

### **THE ROLE OF THE CURRICULUM**

Our curriculum promotes respect, tolerance and diversity. Children are encouraged to express themselves through discussions, debates and consultations. The R.E, PSHE (Personal, Social and Health Education), Citizenship and SMSC (Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural) provision is embedded across the curriculum, and underpins the ethos of the school. Children learn about other faiths and visit places of worship and are taught about how to stay safe when using the Internet.

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### **STAFF TRAINING**

Through INSET opportunities in school, we will ensure that our staff are fully aware of the threats, risks and vulnerabilities that are linked to radicalisation; are aware of the process of radicalisation and how this might be identified early on.

### **POLICY REVIEW**

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

**Policy created: June 2017.**

**Policy review date: June 2018.**