Preventing Extremism & Radicalisation Safeguarding Policy

"Today's learners are tomorrow's leaders"

Introduction
Holbeach Primary School is committed to providing a secure environment for its children, where they feel safe and are kept safe. All adults at our school 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, and the procedures therein, staff and visitors contribute to Holbeach's delivery of the outcomes to all children, as set out in s10 (2) of the Children Act 20041.

This Preventing Extremism and Radicalisation Safeguarding Policy is one element within our overall school arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children in line with our statutory duties set out at s175 of the Education Act 2002.

From July 2015 all schools are subject to a duty under section 26 of the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015. This policy also draws upon the 'The Prevent Duty, Departmental advice for schools and childcare providers.' June 2015 and 'Keeping Children Safe in Education, July 2015.'

The Prevent duty advice summarises the requirements on schools in terms of four general themes: risk assessment, working in partnership, staff training and IT policies.

School Ethos
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'.*

There is no place for extremist views of any kind in our school, whether from internal sources – children, staff or governors, or external sources - school community, external agencies or individuals. Our children see our school as a safe place where they can explore controversial issues safely and where our teachers encourage and facilitate this – we have a duty to ensure this happens.

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.

Extremists of all persuasions aim to develop destructive relationships between different communities by promoting division, fear and mistrust of others based on ignorance or prejudice and thereby limiting the life chances of young people. Education is a powerful weapon against this, equipping young people with the knowledge, skills and critical thinking, to challenge and debate in an informed way.

Therefore, at Holbeach Primary School we provide a broad and balanced curriculum, delivered by skilled professionals, so that our children are enriched, understand and become tolerant of difference and diversity and to ensure that they thrive, feel valued and not marginalized.

Furthermore we are aware that young people 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 using derogatory language.

Where misconduct by a teacher is proven the matter will be referred to the National College for Teaching and Leadership for their consideration as to whether to a Prohibition Order is warranted.

Any prejudice, discrimination or extremist views, including derogatory language, displayed by children or staff is always challenged and where appropriate dealt with in line with our Behaviour Policy for children and the Code of Conduct for staff.

Risk Assessment
The Prevent duty advice states:

> 'Schools are expected to assess the risk of children being drawn into terrorism, including support for extremist ideas that are part of terrorist ideology. This means being able to demonstrate both a general understanding of the risks affecting children and young people in the area and a specific understanding of how to identify individual children who may be at risk of radicalisation and what to do to support them. Schools and colleges should have clear procedures in place for protecting children at risk of radicalisation. These procedures may be set out in existing safeguarding policies. It is not necessary for schools and colleges to have distinct policies on implementing the Prevent duty.'

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, staff will 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. School staff should use their professional judgement in identifying children who might be at risk of radicalisation and act proportionately.

The Holbeach staff are alert to:

- disclosures by children of their exposure to the extremist actions, views or materials of others outside of school, such as in their homes or community groups, especially where children have not actively sought these out
- graffiti symbols, writing or art work promoting extremist messages or images
- children accessing extremist material online, including through social networking sites
- children self-segregating
- parental reports of changes in behaviour, friendship or actions and requests for assistance

- partner schools, local authority services, and police reports of issues affecting children in other schools or settings
- children voicing opinions drawn from extremist ideologies and narratives
- 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
- attempts to impose extremist views or practices on others
- Anti-Western or Anti-British views

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.

Working in Partnership
The Prevent duty advice: The Prevent duty builds on existing local partnership arrangements. For example, governing bodies and proprietors of all schools should ensure that their safeguarding arrangements take into account the policies and procedures of Local Safeguarding Children Boards (LSCBs).

Holbeach Primary School closely follows any locally agreed procedure as set out by the Local Authority and Lewisham's Safeguarding Children Board's agreed processes and criteria for safeguarding individuals vulnerable to extremism and radicalisation.

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

Staff Training
The Prevent duty advice 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. Individual schools are best placed to assess the training needs of staff in the light of their assessment of the risk to children at the school of being drawn into terrorism. As a minimum, however, Holbeach Primary School ensures that a senior member of staff undertakes Prevent awareness training and is able to provide advice and support to other members of staff on protecting children from the risk of radicalisation.

Online Safety Policy
The prevent duty advice states 'Schools must ensure that children are safe from terrorist and extremist material when accessing the internet in schools. Schools should ensure that suitable filtering is in place. It is also important that schools teach children about online safety more generally.'

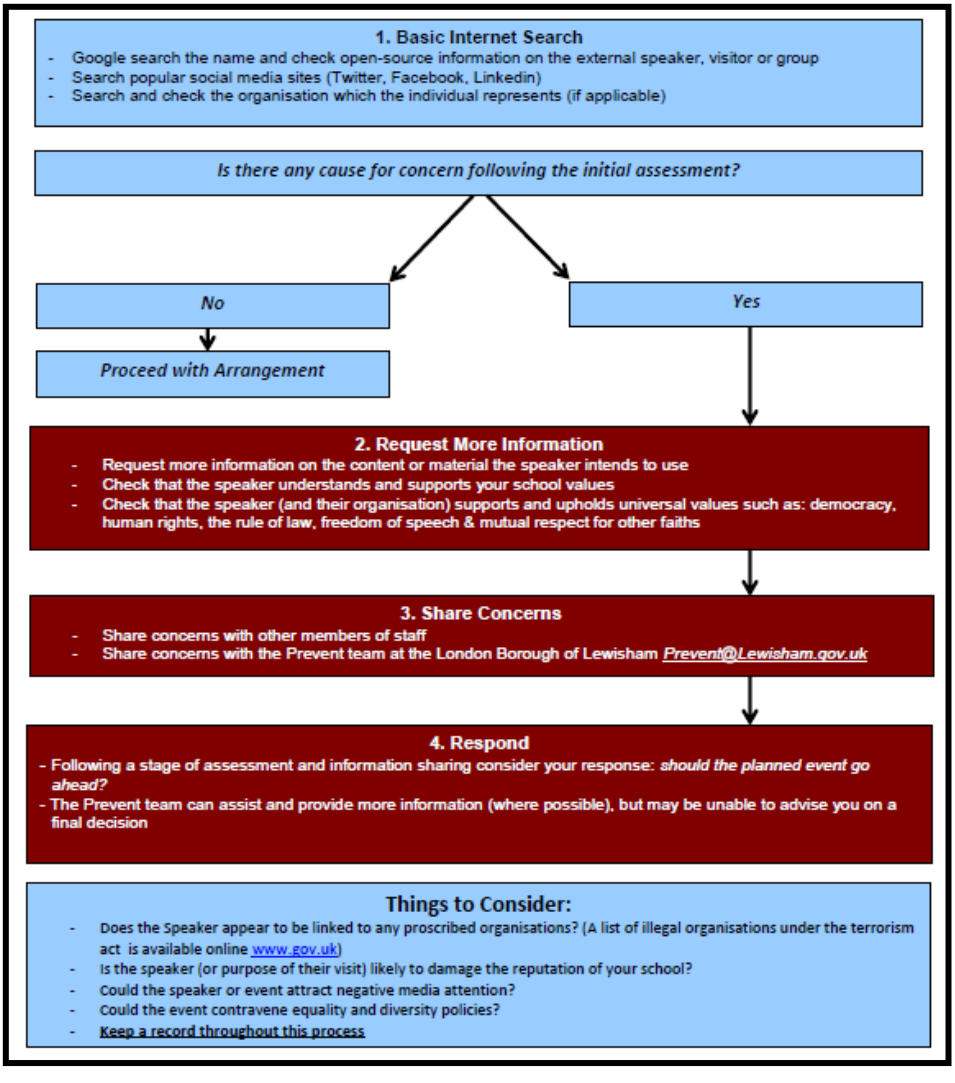
Our Online Safety policy specifies the precautions we have in place. The children's Internet access is filtered. Internet safety is an integral part of our Computing policy.

Building Children's Resilience To Radicalisation
At Holbeach Primary School, we promote the values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, mutual respect and tolerance for those with different faiths and beliefs. We teach and encourage children to respect one another and to respect and tolerate difference, especially those of a different faith or no faith. It is indeed our most fundamental responsibility to keep our children safe and prepare them for life in modern multi-cultural Britain and globally.

All members of staff strive to eradicate the myths and assumptions that can lead to some young people becoming alienated and disempowered, especially where the narrow approaches children may experience elsewhere may make it harder for them to challenge or question these radical influences. At Holbeach Primary School this is achieved by:

- Using opportunities within our PSHE curriculum to explore sensitive or controversial ideas, make safer choices and recognise when pressure from others threatens their personal safety and well-being
- teaching approaches that are flexible enough to adapt, as appropriate, so as to address specific issues and to become even more relevant to the current issues of extremism and radicalisation
- facilitating a safe environment so that children can debate controversial issues
- helping children to understand how they can influence and participate in decision making and preparing them to play a full and active part in society (citizenship)
- encouraging our children to develop positive character traits such as resilience, determination, self-esteem, and confidence
- promoting the Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural development of our children and, within this, fundamental British Values

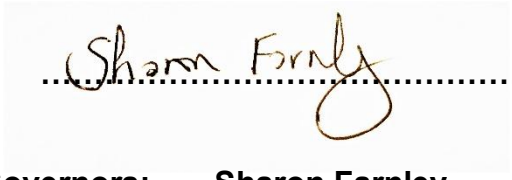
Use of External Agencies and Speakers
Prior to the visit the member of staff arranging the visit will assess the suitability and effectiveness of input from external agencies or individuals using the following Lewisham protocol:



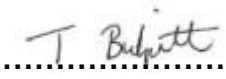
What To Do If You Have A Concern

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, and where deemed necessary, with the LA's designated Prevent Officer and/or children's social care. They can also contact the government's helpdesk by email: counter.extremism@education.gov.uk

Preventing Extremism & Radicalisation Safeguarding Policy

Signed: 

Chair of Governors:……Sharon Farnley…… (please print name)

Signed: 

Headteacher: ……Tom Bulpitt…… (please print name)

Date of Policy: September 2026

Date of Review: September 2028