



WEDNESFIELD HIGH SPECIALIST ENGINEERING ACADEMY

PREVENT POLICY

Author	Revision Number	Date of Ratification at JNC	Review date
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Policy adopted by the LAB of:		Date:	
Signed by the Chair of the LAB:		Print:	

Introduction

The threat to the UK from international terrorism is substantial. The terrorist threats that we now face are more diverse than ever before, dispersed across a wider geographical area and often in countries without effective governance. We therefore face an unpredictable situation!

Dealing with violent extremism is nothing new. Throughout history there have been groups prepared to use violence to achieve their aims. A small minority of these seek to radicalise young people with an ideology which justifies the use of violence through a distorted interpretation of a set of values (often associated with a religion).

In line with guidance from the Department for Education (DfE), Wednesfield High Specialist Engineering Academy has a zero tolerance acceptance of extremist behaviour and ensures that our care, guidance and curriculum empowers young people to reject violent or extremist behaviour.

Whilst it remains very rare for school age children to become involved in extremist activity, young people can be exposed to extremist influences or prejudiced views, including via the internet, from an early age. Early intervention is a preferable way of tackling extremism.

Definition

Extremism can be defined as “holding of extreme opinions: the holding of extreme political or religious views or the taking of extreme actions on the basis of those views”.

Strategies for Preventing Extremism

The Office for Security and 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

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

In response;

Risk assessment

- Through staff training all staff will have a general understanding of the risks affecting students, how to identify those who may be at risk of radicalisation and what to do to support them.

- Via links with the Local Authority and local Police we will have an understanding of general risks in and around our area.
- Clear procedures in place for protecting students at risk of radicalisation will be set out in the academy Safeguarding Policy.

Working in Partnership

- Create links specifically with Local Safeguarding Children Boards (LSCBs) to identify key personnel and thresholds.
- Identify Local Authority Prevent Co-ordinator, if this in place.
- Engage with parents and advise families who raise concerns and be able to point them to the right support mechanisms

Staff Training

- Identify a professional in the Local Authority or local Police who can deliver 'Workshop to Raise Awareness of Prevent' (WRAP) to all staff.
- Designated Safeguarding Officer to undertake Prevent awareness training. Safeguarding Officer to then provide in-house training to all staff to provide advice and support on protecting students from the risk of radicalisation.

IT Policies

- Ensure that students are safe from terrorist and extremist material when accessing the internet at the academy, ensuring that suitable filtering is in place.
- Continue to include Internet Safety in the academy curriculum.

Our role, as an academy, 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.'

The principles outlined in the DfE toolkit seeks to;

- Raise awareness within the academy of the threat from violent extremist groups and the risks for young people.
- Provide information about what can cause violent extremism, about preventative actions taking place locally and nationally and where we can get additional information and advice.
- Help schools understand the positive contribution they can make to empower young people to create communities that are more resilient to extremism, and protecting the wellbeing of particular students or groups who may be vulnerable to being drawn into violent extremist activity.
- Provide advice on managing risks and responding to incidents locally, nationally or internationally that might have an impact on the academy community.

The academy will use these principles to guide our work in all areas including building on our work in:

- Promoting Every Child Matters (ECM) outcomes for all students.
- Promoting student wellbeing, equalities and community cohesion.
- Building the resilience of the academy, working with partners, to prevent students becoming the victims or causes of harm.
- Working with other agencies and parents to build community networks of support for the academy.

The toolkit forms the body of this policy and is available to download from:

http://dera.ioe.ac.uk/8396/1/DCSF-Learning%20Together_bkmk.pdf

Useful resources for staff can be found at:

http://www.preventforschools.org/index.php?category_id=83