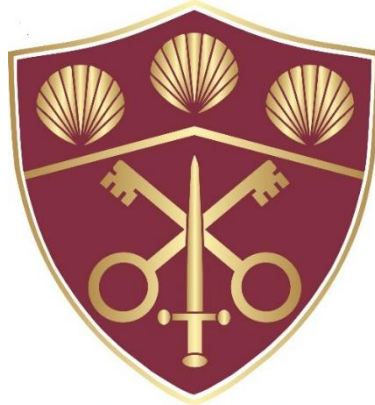


Ad Gloriam Dei et Servitium Omnium

Policy Statement on Extremism and Anti-Radicalisation

The Palmer Catholic Academy

MISSION STATEMENT



Ad Gloriam Dei et Servitium Omnium

The Academy's Mission promotes the academic and personal development of each member of its community, both students and staff alike.

We serve Christ in each other to the Glory of God and Service of all.



Adoption by Governing Body of The Palmer Catholic Academy:

Date of Implementation: November 2025

Signature of Chair of Governors:

Signature of Headteacher:

Review Date: When required

Policy Statement on Extremism and Anti-Radicalisation

This statement is to be read in conjunction with these related academy documents:

- Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy
- Statement of British Values and Our Catholic Ethos

INTRODUCTION

From 1 July 2015 all schools are subject to a duty under section 26 of the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015, in the exercise of their functions, to have “due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism”. This duty is known as the Prevent duty.

In order for schools and childcare providers to fulfil the Prevent duty, it is essential that staff are able to identify children who may be vulnerable to radicalisation, and know what to do when they are identified. Protecting children from the risk of radicalisation should be seen as part of schools’ and childcare providers’ wider safeguarding duties, and is similar in nature to protecting children from other harms (e.g. drugs, gangs, neglect, sexual exploitation), whether these come from within their family or are the product of outside influences. Schools and childcare providers can also build students’ resilience to radicalisation by promoting fundamental British values and enabling them to challenge extremist views. It is important to emphasise that the Prevent duty is not intended to stop students debating controversial issues. On the contrary, schools should provide a safe space in which children, young people and staff can understand the risks associated with terrorism and develop the knowledge and skills to be able to challenge extremist arguments.

(The Prevent duty Departmental advice for schools and childcare providers June 2015 DFE)

AIMS AND PRINCIPLES

This policy statement aims to ensure all staff, students, governors, parents and wider stakeholder groups are fully engaged in the academy’s efforts to fulfil the Prevent duty and protect children from the risk of radicalisation and build their resilience.

The objectives are that:

- All governors, staff and students have an understanding of what radicalisation is, the potential indicators and how to report concerns.
- All parents/ carers, students and wider stakeholder groups are aware that the academy has a policy in place which identifies our approach to educate, safeguard and uphold the Prevent duty.

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.

There are a number of behaviours which may indicate a child is at risk of being radicalised or exposed to extreme views. These include;

- Spending increasing time in the company of other suspected extremists.
- Changing their style of dress or personal appearance to accord with the group.
- Day-to-day behaviour becoming increasingly centred on an extremist ideology, group or cause.
- Loss of interest in other friends and activities not associated with the extremist ideology, group or cause.
- Possession of materials or symbols associated with an extremist cause.
- Attempts to recruit others to the group/cause.
- Communications with others that suggests identification with a group, cause or ideology.
- Using insulting to derogatory names for another group.
- Increase in prejudice-related incidents committed by that person – these may include;
 - physical or verbal assault
 - provocative behaviour
 - damage to property
 - derogatory name calling
 - possession of prejudice-related materials
 - prejudice related ridicule or name calling
 - inappropriate forms of address
 - refusal to co-operate
 - attempts to recruit to prejudice-related organisations
 - condoning or supporting violence towards others.

THE ROLE OF THE ACADEMY

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

Risk assessment

Our academy has clear procedures in place for protecting children at risk of radicalisation. These procedures are set out in our existing safeguarding policies. Staff are trained to have an understanding of the signs and indicators of a young person being at risk of radicalisation and our expected procedure to share any observations. The Senior Leadership Team and governing body have completed an academy-wide risk assessment, as provided by the Local Safeguarding Board (LSB), to ensure measures are in place to safeguard and protect all within the academy.

Working in Partnership

The academy works collaboratively with the Local Safeguarding Board and Prevent lead officers to ensure our safeguarding arrangements follow the recommended policies and procedures of the LSB. Our staff receive regular training, guidance and resources from our Redbridge Prevent lead officers and embed these into our daily actions and curriculum. The academy will continue to work in partnership with relevant organisations to uphold our commitment to Keeping Children Safe in Education.

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

Staff at The Palmer Catholic Academy undertake an online annual certificate in Prevent Duty in Secondary Schools via the National College. Staff can also seek further advice from our Designated Safeguarding Lead.

ICT Policies

The academy equips children and young people to stay safe online, both in school and outside. Internet safety is integral to our ICT curriculum and can also be embedded in PSHE curriculum. Students are safe from terrorist and extremist material when accessing the internet through suitable filtering being in place.

BUILDING STUDENTS RESILIENCE TO RADICALISATION

Our broad and balanced curriculum build students' resilience to radicalisation by providing a safe environment for debating controversial issues and helping them to understand how they can influence and participate in decision-making. The academy promotes the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of students and, within this, fundamental British values (see separate statement for further information).

Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE) lessons provide students with time to explore sensitive or controversial issues, and equipping them with the knowledge and skills to understand and manage difficult situations. Students are encouraged to recognise and manage risk, make safer choices, and recognise when pressure from others threatens their personal safety and wellbeing.

Assemblies and 'themes of the week' give special regard to the Prevent duty and Fundamental British Values.

PROCEDURES FOR REFERRALS

At the academy, it is important for us to be constantly vigilant and remain fully informed about the issues which affect the local area, city and society in which we teach. Staff are reminded to suspend any 'professional disbelief' that instances of radicalisation 'could not happen here' and to be 'professionally inquisitive' where concerns arise, referring any concerns through the appropriate channels. Any concerns can be discussed and reported to the Designated Safeguarding Lead. All staff must have the confidence to challenge, the confidence to intervene and to ensure we maintain effective safeguarding practices.

The Designated Safeguarding Lead will deal swiftly with any referral made or concerns reported by staff, parents or other stakeholders, by referring to the Channel Panel and LBR Prevent Team where appropriate.

All staff are reminded that under the terms of 'Keeping Children Safe in Education', ***if, at any point, there is a risk of immediate serious harm to a child a referral should be made to children's social care immediately. Anybody can make a referral.***