

Al-Khair Secondary Schools

Prevent Policy



Approved by: Al Khair School Quasi Governing Board **Date:** Feb 2021
(GB)

Next review date: 31.08.2022

At Al-Khair we

- Ensure our safeguarding procedures are robust and include the risk of radicalisation
- Make sure we have appropriate internet filtering systems in place to ensure pupils aren't exposed to harmful online content
- Carry out an assessment of [risk of pupils being drawn into terrorism](#), based on our local community
- Make sure staff receive training to help them identify pupils at risk, challenge extremist ideas, and know how to act if they have a concern
- Make sure our school is a safe space for pupils to discuss sensitive topics, including terrorism and extremism
- Teach pupils how to recognise and manage risk, think critically, and make reasoned arguments

In order to fulfil the Prevent duty, it is essential that staff identify children who may be vulnerable to radicalisation and know what to do when they are identified. Protecting children from the risk of radicalisation is part of all of our 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.

We can also build pupils' resilience to radicalisation by promoting fundamental British Values, enabling them to challenge extremist views. We do not intend to stop pupils talking about or debating controversial issues. On the contrary, in school, we want to 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.

What is Extremism?

"Extremism" 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. Included in the definition of extremism are calls for the death of members of the armed forces, whether in this country or overseas. Terrorist groups very often draw on extremist ideas developed by extremist organisations.

Risk Assessment

We should be aware of the increased risk of online radicalisation, as terrorist organisations seek to radicalise young people through the use of social media and the internet. 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, we should 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 judgment in identifying children who might be at risk of radicalisation and act proportionately.

Procedures are in place for protecting children at risk of radicalisation. These procedures are set out in existing safeguarding policies. Lettings are vetted and monitored by the school business manager, who is directly line-managed by the Head Teacher, all speakers and their material are checked, and robust internet blocks are in place.

All staff have received PREVENT training as part of their induction. We also do a refresher safeguarding training on our inset day followed by an e-learning course which is comprised of two parts, Part 1 - Safeguarding and child protection: the essentials 2019/20 and Part 2- Preventing radicalisation.

We are also aware that Croydon is contextually a high priority Prevent area for extremist groups, both far right and Islamic and so staff must be vigilant to this.

Building children's resilience to radicalisation

Schools of all kinds can play a role in enabling young people to explore issues like terrorism and the wider use of violence in a considered and informed way. We believe that we can build pupils' 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.

Schools can facilitate understanding of wider issues within the context of learning about the values on which our society is founded and our system of democratic government. These are important for reasons which go far beyond Prevent but they connect to the Prevent agenda.

We promote the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils and, within this, fundamental British values. This is effective in providing pupils with time to explore sensitive or controversial issues and equipping them with the knowledge and skills to understand and manage difficult situations. The subject teaches pupils to recognise and manage risk, make safer choices, and recognise when pressure from others threatens their personal safety and wellbeing. Through a robust tutor system that teaches the key principals of the British Values we encourage our students to exude those ideologies in their day to day life. Finally, we encourage pupils to develop positive character traits through PSHE, such as resilience, determination, self-esteem, and confidence.

What happens if there is a concern?

You may follow the school's normal safeguarding and child protection procedures, including discussing with the school's Designated Safeguarding Leads & deputies. Possible Channel referrals will be discussed by the school Safeguarding Team if appropriate and in accordance with government guidelines

You may contact our local police force or **dial 101 (the non-emergency number)**. They can talk to you in confidence about your concerns and help you gain access to support and advice. The Department for Education has dedicated a telephone helpline **(020 7340 7264)** to enable you to raise concerns relating to extremism directly. Concerns can also be raised by email to **counter.extremism@education.gsi.gov.uk**

Please note that the helpline is not intended for use in emergency situations, such as a child being at immediate risk of harm or a security incident, in which case the normal emergency procedures should be followed.

Equality and Diversity

All developments are intended to ensure that no-one is treated in any way less favourably on the grounds of race, colour, national or ethnic or social origin, race, disability, gender, sexual orientation, gender reassignment, marriage & civil partnership, pregnancy & maternity, age, religion/ belief or political/ other personal beliefs.