

Prevent Strategy at Colne Valley High School

Colne Valley High School is committed to providing a secure environment for students, where children feel safe and are kept safe. All adults in 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.

This Preventing Extremism and Radicalisation Safeguarding statement 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.

The full Government Prevent Strategy can be viewed at https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/97976/prevent-strategy-review.pdf

There is no place for extremist views of any kind in our school. Our students see our school as a safe place of learning for them to develop to their full potential. As a school 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 for the school.

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 we will provide a broad and balanced curriculum, delivered by skilled professionals, so that our students are enriched, understand and become tolerant of difference and diversity and also to ensure that they thrive, feel valued and not marginalized.

We are also 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. In our society the internet and social networking sites are playing a significant part of the radicalisation of young people. It is extremely important the school is supported by parents in ensuring that they are aware of their son's/daughter's activities on the internet and social networking to ensure the safety of their children. It is also the responsibility of communities beyond the school to ensure that our young people are given the skills and understanding to identify extremist influences and prejudiced views. Any prejudice, discrimination or extremist views, including derogatory language, displayed by students or staff will always be challenged and where appropriate dealt with in line with our Behaviour and Discipline Policy for students and the Code of Conduct for staff.

All staff should treat disclosures or wider concerns about Prevent issues as Safeguarding issues and make immediate referrals to the Designated Senior Lead using the established safeguarding referral process. The school aims 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. In our school this will be achieved by high quality teaching, not only through our Integrated Studies programmes but also through other programmes, assemblies and curriculum provision. We will ensure that all of our teaching approaches help our students build resilience to extremism and give students a positive sense of identity through the development of critical thinking skills. We will ensure that all of our staff are equipped to recognise extremism and are skilled and confident enough to challenge it. Our goal is to

build mutual respect and understanding and to promote the use of dialogue not violence as a form of conflict resolution.

At our school we will promote the values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, mutual respect and tolerance for those with different faiths and beliefs. We will teach and encourage students 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 students safe and prepare them for life in modern multi-cultural Britain and globally.