
Ark BURLINGTON DANES ACADEMY

PREVENTION of EXTREMISM and RADICALISATION POLICY

September 2017

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Ark Burlington Danes Academy is committed to:

- Forbidding extremist views of any kind in the academy, whether from internal sources –pupils, staff or governors, or external sources - school community, external agencies or individuals. The academy is against the messages of all violent extremism including, but not restricted to, those linked to Islamist ideology, or to Far Right / Neo Nazi / White Supremacist ideology, Irish Nationalist and Loyalist paramilitary groups, anti-Semitism, pro-life and extremist Animal Rights movements. Our pupils see our academy as a safe place where they can explore controversial issues safely and where our teachers encourage and facilitate this – teachers have a duty to ensure this happens.
- Actively promoting the fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs.
- Recognising that extremism and exposure to extremist materials and influences can lead to poor outcomes/risk for children and so should therefore 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 pupils.
- Community cohesion. 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.
- Challenging prejudice, discrimination or extremist views, including derogatory language, displayed by pupils or staff and where appropriate dealt with in line with our Behaviour Policy for pupils and the Code of Conduct for staff.
- Making it clear that violent extremism is not part of the Islamic faith; make pupils aware of extreme views and of those who hold them and why these are Islamically wrong, There is no place for extremists in the school including expression of extremist views, vocal or active, which are opposed to fundamental British values
- Protecting all pupils from harm and to ensure that they are taught in a way that is consistent with the law and the British values of tolerance, democracy and liberty.
- Enabling pupils to explore issues like terrorism and the use of violence in a considered and informed way, facilitating understanding of wider issues within the context of learning about the values on which our society is founded and our

system of democratic government.

Ark Burlington Danes Academy uses the government's definition of extremism:

'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'.

PRACTICE & GUIDANCE

Radicalisation is defined as the process by which people come to support terrorism and extremism and, in some cases, to then participate in terrorist groups.

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. We also include in our definition of extremism calls for the death of members of our armed forces, whether in this country or overseas (HM Government Prevent Strategy 2011).

Equality, Diversity and Community Cohesion The academy aims to teach pupils to understand others, to promote common values and to value diversity, to promote awareness of human rights and of the responsibility to uphold and defend them, and to develop the skills of participation and responsible action. We take extremely seriously our key role in preparing all our young people for life in modern Britain. The AIP defines the pupil we aspire to develop. The academy is founded on Christian values.

We aim to encourage working towards a society in with a common vision and sense of belonging by all; a society in which the diversity of people's backgrounds and circumstances is appreciated and valued; a society in which similar life opportunities are available to all; and a society in which strong and positive relationships exist and continue to be developed in the workplace, in schools and in the wider community.

The Ark BDA **PREVENTION of EXTREMISM and RADICALISATION POLICY** is based on 5 concepts:

Monitor | Report | Educate | Reform | Eradicate

Monitor

Pupil's Personal circumstances, e.g. local community tensions; events affecting country or region of origin; alienation from UK values; having a sense of grievance/being withdrawn from peers that is triggered by personal experience of racism or discrimination or aspects of Government policy, language, behavior, reading materials, disclosure by other pupils, perceptions of injustice; feeling of failure; rejection of civic life and access to extremist influences.

The Muslim Prayer Room/ all visiting speakers who will talk about moral / religious issues will be monitored by A Whitlock/RE department.

Other risk factors are:

- Experiences, Behaviours and Influences
- Experience of peer, social, family or faith group rejection.
- International events in areas of conflict and civil unrest had a personal impact on the young person resulting in a noticeable change in behaviour
- Verbal or written support of terrorist attacks
- First-hand experience of racial or religious hate crime
- Extended periods of travel to international locations known to be associated with extremism
- Evidence of fraudulent identity/use of documents to support this
- Experience of disadvantage, discrimination or social exclusion
- History of criminal activity
- Pending a decision on their immigration/national status

More critical risk factors include:

- Being in contact with extremist recruiters
- Articulating support for extremist causes or leaders
- Accessing extremist websites, especially those with a social networking element /use of closed network groups via electronic media for the purpose of extremist activity.
- Possessing extremist literature other media material likely to incite racial/religious hatred or acts of violence
- Justifying the use of violence to solve societal issues
- Joining extremist organisations
- Significant changes to appearance/behaviour

Report

Any concerns are relayed immediately to:

The academy child protection officer is Mr. Mark Pritchard, deputised by Ms Kathleen O'Connor who will work with Mr. Adam Whitlock, Senior Leader, on matters of radicalisation or concerns about extremist views.

Where a young person is thought to be in need/or at risk of significant harm, and/or where investigations need to be carried out (even though parental consent may be withheld), a referral to Social Services should be made in line with the academy Child Protection Policy.

However, it should be recognised that concerns of this nature, in relation to violent extremism, are most likely to require a police investigation. Some concerns which are identified may have a security dimension to them. For this reason, it is important that liaison with the police forms an early part of all investigations.

Parents and Visitors to the school: ArkBDA does not tolerate any extremist views expressed by any visitors to the school, including parents. If a staff member hears such views then they must refuse any further dialogue with that person and inform a member of the SLT immediately.

Educate

Curriculum - We combat extremism through tutor time, RE Lessons, collective worship and a range of specific assemblies delivered throughout the year. Staff induction and INSET includes a presentation on Preventing Extremism, Exposing the Perpetrators of Radicalisation & Identifying Prevention Strategies.

Teaching Staff - All members of staff are made aware through the process of Performance Management of their fundamental responsibilities in this area. The Performance Management reviewers evaluate their reviewees against the Standards for Teachers, including these elements in Part 2 of the Standards:

'showing tolerance of and respect for the rights of others'

'not undermining fundamental British values, including democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and respect, and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs'

'ensuring that personal beliefs are not expressed in ways which exploit pupils' vulnerability or might lead them to break the law'

The academy will strive to eradicate the myths and assumptions that can lead to some pupils becoming alienated and disempowered, especially where the narrow approaches pupils may experience elsewhere may make it harder for them to challenge or question these radical influences.

At Ark BDA this will be achieved by outstanding teaching, primarily but not exclusively via collective worship, PSHE & RE; but also by adopting the methods outlined in the Government's guidance 'Teaching approaches that help build resilience to extremism among young people' DfE 2011. We ALWAYS challenge racism, misconception or views that seek to justify the innocent killing of another.

Ark BDA will ensure that all of our teaching approaches help our students build resilience to extremism and give pupils a positive sense of identity through the development of

critical thinking skills. Ark BDA will ensure that all staff are equipped to recognise extremism and are skilled and confident enough to challenge it.

Ark BDA will adapt teaching approaches, as appropriate, so as to address specific issues so as to become even more relevant to the current issues of extremism and radicalisation. We do not shy away from discussing world events in tutor time, making a connection with pupils through encouraging a sense of community, good teaching and a pupil centred approach; facilitating a 'safe space' for dialogue, and equipping our pupils with the appropriate skills, knowledge, understanding and awareness for resilience.

Reform

At the point of referral agencies such as PREVENT (part of the government's counter-terrorism strategy) may be involved.

ARK BDA runs a 'Being British, Being Muslim' course once a year for identified pupils led by Mr. Whitlock

Eradicate

ARK BDA is committed to providing a safe and harmonious school in which to learn together.

The Principal will contact the network lead for safeguarding (paul.brereton@arkonline.org) and the communications team alex.bigham@arkonline.org 07930 183 484/ 020 3116 1715 or deborah.hermer@arkonline.org /07572 178 533. As well as helping to respond, we can monitor media / social media.

POLICY OVERSEEN BY: Adam Whitlock NEXT REVIEWED: November 2018
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Appendix:

Ark Guidance to the network

Crisis Management – combating extremism

Recent events have reminded us of the need to be extremely vigilant to the threat of one or more of our students being targeted by extremists. The following is intended as a guide if you do receive information that a student has travelled to join IS or has been radicalised. It broadly follows the procedure you would use in any 'crisis' situation. Please note this covers what you need to do in terms of communications / media handling, it does not replace other protocols around operational or safeguarding matters.

Steps for managing a crisis

Preparation:

- You should already be familiar with the updated safeguarding policy so this complements the advice in that. As well as safeguarding training which covers combatting extremism, you may want to ensure that staff are aware of the most up to date advice from the Prevent strategy – see links in appendix or contact Paul Brereton for further information (paul.brereton@arkonline.org) Your LA may also have a dedicated officer who covers radicalisation.

- As with any similar situation, you will need to have an up to date set of contact details for key stakeholders (police, LADO etc.) and a robust notification system for informing staff and parents.

When you find out:

- Do not be rushed into commenting, either to the media or third parties. It is perfectly acceptable to say "I will call you back when I know more." When speaking to a journalist please check their contact details and deadline for publication.

- Organise for a small team to manage the incident. No-one else should be commenting on the incident. You should advise staff and pupils to avoid commenting on social media.

- Contact the network lead for safeguarding (paul.brereton@arkonline.org) and the communications team alex.bigham@arkonline.org 07930 183 484 / 020 3116 1715 or deborah.hermer@arkonline.org /07572 178 533. As well as helping to respond, we can monitor media / social media.

- Discuss with the communications team how to respond to messages and enquiries on social media. Refer to the social media guidelines and the 'how to talk to journalists' documents for more information. These are available from the communications team.

Next Steps

- Ensure that you have all the key facts and a clear timeline and that this is written down. If possible, ensure this is cross-checked with more than one person.