

Springboard Sunderland Trust

Springboard Nursery

Prevent Policy



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Prevent Policy	
Category:	Springboard Nursery
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Policy Statement

The threat of International terrorism in the UK is substantial (03/08/2022). In line with guidance from the Department for Education (DfE), Springboard Nursery has a zero-tolerance acceptance of extremist behaviour and ensures that our care, guidance and curriculum empower our young children to reject violent or extremist behaviour. Whilst it remains very rare for nursery age children to be involved in extremist activity, young children can be exposed to extremist influences or prejudiced views, including via the internet from an early age.

Early intervention and prevention of exposure are preferable ways of tackling extremism and radicalisation. Springboard Nursery is fully committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all children in their care. Every member of staff recognises that safeguarding against radicalisation and extremism is no different to safeguarding against any other vulnerability in today's society.

Aims and Principles

Springboard Nursery Prevent Policy is intended to provide a framework for dealing with issues relating to vulnerability, radicalisation and exposure to extreme views. We recognise that we are well placed to be able to identify safeguarding issues and this policy clearly sets out how the setting will deal with such incidents and identifies how the curriculum and ethos underpins our actions.

The objectives are that:

- All staff will have an understanding of what radicalisation and extremism is and why we need to remain vigilant.
- All staff will know what the policy is on tackling extremism and radicalisation and will follow the policy guidance swiftly when issues arise.
- Staff will support children to develop an understanding of the dangers of radicalisation and exposure to extremist views; building resilience against these and knowing what to do if they experience them.
- All parents/carers and children will know that the setting has policies in place to keep children safe from harm and that the setting regularly reviews its systems to ensure they are appropriate and effective.

The main aims of this policy are to ensure that staff are fully engaged in being vigilant about radicalisation; that they overcome professional disbelief that such issues will not happen here and ensure that we work alongside other professional bodies and agencies to ensure that our children are safe from harm.

Responsibilities

As part of wider safeguarding responsibilities our staff will be alert to:

- Disclosures by beneficiaries and learners of their exposure to the extremist actions Graffiti symbols, writing or artwork promoting extremist messages or images.
- Learners accessing extremist material online, including through social networking sites.
- Changes in behaviour, friendship or actions and requests for assistance
- Partner organisations, local authority services, and police reports of issues affecting beneficiaries and learners in other settings
- Learners voicing opinions drawn from extremist ideologies and narratives
- Use of extremist or ‘hate’ terms to exclude others or incite violence
- Intolerance of difference, whether secular or religious or, in line with our Equalities policy
- Attempts to impose extremist views or practices on others

Procedures for referrals

Although serious incidents involving radicalisation have not occurred at Springboard Nursery to date, 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 aware of suspending 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.

We believe that it is possible to intervene to protect people who are vulnerable. Early intervention is vital and staff must be aware of the established processes for front line professionals to refer concerns about individuals and/or groups. We must have the confidence to challenge, the confidence to intervene and ensure that we have strong safeguarding practices based on the most up-to-date guidance and best practise.

Chief Executive, leaders and managers are trained appropriately as Designated Safeguarding Leads and will deal swiftly with any referrals made by staff or with concerns reported by staff.

The Chief Executive / Manager will discuss the most appropriate course of action on a case-by-case basis and will decide when a referral to external agencies is needed.

As with any child protection referral, staff must be made aware that if they do not agree with a decision not to refer, they can make the referral themselves.

Leaders, Staff, Managers and Chief Executive

Chief Executive, leaders and managers are the leaders for referrals relating to extremism and radicalisation. In the unlikely event that Chief Executive / Manager are not available, all staff should know the channels by which to make referrals. Staff understand that this PREVENT policy links to the whistleblowing policy.

Staff will be fully briefed about what to do if they are concerned about the possibility of radicalisation relating to an individual, or if they need to discuss specific children whom they consider to be vulnerable to radicalisation or extremist views.

What is the Prevent Duty?

The aim of the Government's Counter Terrorism Strategy is to reduce the risk to the UK and its interests overseas from terrorism. The duty is known as the Prevent Duty. 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".

Early Years Settings have a critical role in the Prevent Duty. The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) describes clear duties that Early Years Providers have to keep children safe and promote their welfare. It makes it clear that to protect children in their care, providers must be alert to any safeguarding and child protection issues in the child's life at home or elsewhere. Providers must have and implement a policy, and procedures, to safeguard children. These should be in line with the guidance and procedures of the relevant local safeguarding partners (LSP) (paragraph 3.4).

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

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 or 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.

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. The 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 terrorist attack.

Prepare - To mitigate the impact of a terrorist attack.

Channel

Channel is a key element of the Prevent strategy. It is a multi-agency approach to protect people at risk from radicalisation. Channel uses existing collaboration between local authorities, statutory partners (such as the education and health sectors, social services, children's and youth services and offender management services), the police and the local community to:

- Identify individuals at risk of being drawn into terrorism
- Assess the nature and extent of that risk
- Develop the most appropriate support plan for the individuals concerned.

Channel is about safeguarding children and adults from being drawn into committing terrorist-related activity. It is about early intervention to protect and divert people away from the risk they face before illegality occurs.

Channel is one tactical option employed by Prevent and has recently been placed on a statutory footing.

To understand more about the Channel Programme further information can be found here –

- www.gov.uk/government/publications/channel-guidance
- Channel vulnerability assessment - Publications - GOV.UK

All our Staff complete the online training package that covers Prevent and Channel which can be found here –

- http://course.ncalt.com/Channel_General_Awareness

Training for our staff ensures:

Through opportunities in the setting and external training, we will ensure all staff are fully aware of the threats, risks and vulnerabilities that are linked to radicalisation, are aware of the process of radicalisation and how this might be identified early on and how we can provide support as a setting to ensure our families and children are resilient and able to resist involvement in radical or extreme activities.

Our Designated Safeguard Lead (DSL) and Deputy DSL attend regular training and network Safeguarding meetings.

The role of the curriculum

Our curriculum promotes Fundamental British values through teaching children respect, tolerance and diversity. Children are encouraged to share their views and recognise that they are entitled to have their own different beliefs which should not be used to influence others.

Personal, social and emotional development is embedded across the curriculum. It is recognised that children with low aspirations are more vulnerable to radicalisation and therefore we strive to equip children with confidence, self-belief, respect and tolerance as well as setting high standards and expectations for themselves.

Children are regularly taught about how to stay safe when using the internet and are encouraged to recognise that people are not always who they say they are online. They are taught to seek adult help if they are upset or concerned about anything they read or see on the internet.

As an Early Years setting Springboard Nursery has the responsibility to meet the following criteria:

- Keep children safe and promote their welfare
- Be alert to any safeguarding and child protection issues in the child's life at home or elsewhere
- Make sure that staff have sufficient training that gives them knowledge and confidence to recognise the vulnerability and be aware of what action to take in response
- Demonstrate that they are protecting children and young people from being drawn into terrorism by having clear procedures for protecting children at risk of radicalisation
- Ensure their safeguarding arrangements take into account the policies and procedures of the Local safeguarding Children's Board
- Assess the risk of children being drawn into terrorism
- Understand when to make referrals into "Channel" process and where to get additional advice and support i.e Local Authority Prevent Lead
- Focus on children's personal, social and emotional development
- Ensure children learn right from wrong, mix and share with other children and value others' views
- Ensure children know about similarities and differences between themselves and others, and challenge negative attitudes and stereotypes (in an age appropriate way)

To do this practitioners will:

- Listen to children
- Share appropriate information with parents
- Listen to parents
- Report concerns
- Challenge negative behaviour
- Focus on what children need
- Support children's personal, social and emotional development
- Staff Training

Visitors and the use of the premises

Upon arriving at the setting, all visitors including contractors, will be made aware of safeguarding procedures and be made aware of who the Designated Safeguarding leads are and how to report any concerns which they may experience.

If any agreement is made to allow non-school groups or organisations to use the premises, appropriate checks will be made before agreeing the contract. Usage will be monitored and in the event of any behaviour not in-keeping with the Prevent Policy, the Nursery will contact the police and terminate the contract.

Social media

Learners, beneficiaries and staff access to our internet connection, regardless of location, is heavily restricted and monitored. All use of our internet connection is logged and can be reviewed on request. Use of our internet connection is actively monitored for any customer, learner or staff member on request.

Collaboration

We will work with local partners, wider stakeholders and communities in our efforts to ensure our organisation understands and embraces our local context and values in challenging extremist views and to assist in the broadening of our participant's experiences and horizons. We will help support those who may be vulnerable to such influences as part of our wider safeguarding responsibilities and where we believe any learner or customer is being directly affected by extremist materials or influences we will ensure that they are offered support. Additionally in such instances we will seek external support from the Local Authority and/or local partnership structures working to prevent extremism.

Whistle Blowing

Where there are concerns of extremism or radicalisation beneficiaries, learners, partners and staff will be encouraged to make use of our internal systems to Whistle Blow or raise any issue in confidence.

Signposting safeguarding concerns related to radicalisation and extremism

In the first instance, any concerns should be referred to the designated person, if they believe that the child, customer or learner is involved in radicalisation or extremist activities then they will refer the matter to the police.

Springboard Safeguarding Group

We have a Springboard wide Safeguarding Group which reports on all safeguarding issues (including those related to Preventing Extremism and Radicalisation). This group will review policy and practice in this area regularly and submits a report to the charity's Trustees at each of their meetings.

Reference documents

A number of relevant reference documents were utilised in the development of this policy. The full Government Prevent Strategy can be viewed at:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/97976/prevent-strategy-review.pdf

This policy was adopted by

Springboard Nursery

Date:

09/11/2022

Date to be reviewed:

01/08/2024

Signed by the manager (Marie Hunter)

M.Hunter

Signed by the signatory

SCReay

Name of signatory

Steve Reay

Role of signatory

Chief Executive
