

## **Prevent Policy Statement** reviewed 2023

Brighton & Hove Montessori School is fully committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all its children. As a school we recognise that safeguarding against radicalisation is no different from safeguarding against any other vulnerability. All staff are expected to uphold and promote the fundamental principles of British values, including democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect, and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs.

### **Aims and Principles**

The main aims of this policy statement 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. The principle objectives are that:

- All Staff and Governors will have an understanding of what radicalisation and extremism are and why we need to be vigilant in school.
- All Staff and Governors will know what the school policy is on anti-radicalisation and extremism and will follow the policy when issues arise.
- All parents and children will know that the school has policies in place to keep children safe from harm and that the school regularly reviews its systems to ensure they are appropriate and effective.

### **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.

### **Procedures for referrals**

Although serious incidents involving radicalisation have not occurred at Brighton & Hove Montessori School to date, it is important for us to be constantly vigilant and remain fully informed about the issues which affect the region in which we teach. Staff are reminded to suspend any professional disbelief that instances of radicalisation 'could not happen here' and to refer any concerns through the appropriate channels (currently via the Designated Safeguarding Leads, Head Teacher or Safeguarding Governor).

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 practice.

The Designated Lead for Child Protection and Safeguarding and the Headteacher will deal swiftly with any referrals made by staff or with concerns reported by staff.

The DSL, Headteacher or Safeguarding Governor 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.

### **The role of the curriculum**

Our curriculum promotes respect, tolerance and diversity. We are committed to ensuring that our children are offered a broad and balanced curriculum that aims to prepare them for life in modern Britain. 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. Our PSHE (Personal, Social and Health Education) and SMSC (Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural) provision is embedded across the curriculum and underpins the ethos of the school. Teaching the schools' core values alongside the fundamental British values supports quality teaching and learning, whilst making a positive contribution to the development of a fair, just and civil society. 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.

### **Role of Governing Body**

The Governing Body of our School will undertake appropriate training to ensure that they are clear about their role and the parameters of their responsibilities as Governors, including their statutory safeguarding duties. The Governing Body will support the ethos and values of our school and will support the school in tackling extremism and radicalisation. In line with the provisions set out in the DfE guidance 'Keeping Children Safe in Education 2023' the governing body will challenge the school's senior management team on the delivery of this policy and monitor its effectiveness.

### **Recruitment**

The arrangements for recruiting all staff, temporary, permanent and volunteers, to our school will follow BHMS's guidance for safer recruitment best practice in education settings, including, but not limited to, ensuring that DBS checks are always made at the appropriate level, that references are always received and checked and that we complete and maintain a single central record of such vetting checks. We will apply safer recruitment best practice principles and sound employment practice in general and in doing so will deny opportunities

for inappropriate recruitment or advancement. We will be alert to the possibility that persons may seek to gain positions within our school so as to unduly influence our schools character and ethos. We are aware that such persons seek to limit the opportunities for our children thereby rendering them vulnerable to extremist views and radicalisation as a consequence. Therefore, by adhering to safer recruitment best practice techniques and by ensuring that there is an ongoing culture of vigilance within our school and staff team we will minimise the opportunities for extremist views to prevail.

### **Staff Training**

Through INSET opportunities in school, we will ensure that our 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.

Links to other policies:

- Child Protection & Safeguarding Policy
- Anti-bullying policy
- Behaviour policy
- Online Safety policy

Our school's Policy also draws upon the guidance contained in the "London Child Protection Procedures" and DfE Guidance "Keeping Children Safe in Education, 2023"; and specifically DCSF Resources "Learning Together to be Safe", "Prevent: Resources Guide", "Tackling Extremism in the UK", DfE's "Teaching Approaches that help Build Resilience to Extremism among Young People".

### **Procedures for referrals:**

Any colleague with concerns will speak to the Designated Safeguarding Leads (Ben Pearse or Gerry Oliver) or the Headteacher. The concern will be logged and a timeline started.

### **Useful Contact Info/Websites:**

**Channel.Prevent@brighton-hove.gov.uk** or call on (01273) 293926. Consult with the Prevent Officer on Non-emergency police number 101 ask for ext. 550543 or Email: Channel@sussex.pnn.police.uk.

Prevent Duty Guidance: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/prevent-duty-guidance>

Channel Guidance: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/channel-guidance>

### **Advice to Parents and Carers**

DSLs Brighton & Hove Montessori School – Ben Pearse & Gerry Oliver – 01273702485 - [info@brighton-montessori.org.uk](mailto:info@brighton-montessori.org.uk)

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