



## **Anti-radicalisation policy and staff guidance**

### **January 2016**

*This policy has been written with reference to Keeping Children Safe in Education July 2015*

### ***Principles***

York Steiner School is fully committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all its pupils. 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, mutual respect, and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs.

***The Prevent Lead (Single Point of Contact) is:***

***Maurice Dobie (Safeguarding Lead)***

***Tel: 01904 654983 or 07880 902 309***

***maurice@yorksteinerschool.org***

***If you have immediate and significant concern and the above named person is not available please contact:***

***Jane Mowat (City of York Council Lead)***

***Tel: 01904 555742 or 07984 496 352***

***Jane.mowat@york.gov.uk***

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## ***Aims***

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 pupils are safe from harm.

The objectives are that:

- All trustees, teachers and non-teaching staff will have an understanding of what radicalisation and extremism are and why we need to be vigilant in school.
- All trustees, teachers and non-teaching staff will know what the school policy is on anti-radicalisation and extremism and will follow the policy when issues arise.

## ***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 York Steiner 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 Lead, Maurice Dobie).

## ***The Role of the Curriculum***

Our curriculum promotes 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.

Our PSHE provision is embedded across the curriculum, and underpins the ethos of the school. Children throughout the school learn about a wide variety of religions and beliefs in a respectful and balanced way. Active debate and questioning is promoted in the delivery of lessons.

It is recognised that children with low aspirations are more vulnerable to radicalisation and therefore we strive to equip our pupils 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.

## ***Visiting Speakers***

The school will not allow its premises to be used by any visiting speaker who does not support the Principles of this document.

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## **Staff Guidance**

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We will ensure that our staff are fully aware of this policy and the guidance below. Members of the Safeguarding Team and all Class Teachers will be expected to undertake the government 'Prevent training' in order to provide further background and raise awareness.

### ***Indicators of vulnerability include:***

#### Identity

- the student/pupil is distanced from their cultural /religious heritage and experiences;
- discomfort about their place in society;
- personal Crisis – the student/pupil may be experiencing family tensions;
- a sense of isolation;
- low self-esteem;
- they may have dissociated from their existing friendship group and become involved with a new and different group of friends;
- they may be searching for answers to questions about identity, faith and belonging.

#### Personal Circumstances

- migration;
- local community tensions; and
- events affecting the student/pupil's country or region of origin may contribute to a sense of grievance that is triggered by personal experience of racism or discrimination or aspects of Government policy

#### Unmet Aspirations

- the student/pupil may have perceptions of injustice;
- a feeling of failure;
- rejection of civic life;

## Experiences of Criminality

- involvement with criminal groups
- imprisonment; and
- poor resettlement/reintegration on release

## Special Educational Needs

- social interaction
- empathy with others
- understanding the consequences of their actions; and awareness of the motivations of others

## More critical risk factors could include:

- being in contact with extremist recruiters;
- accessing violent extremist websites, especially those with a social networking element;
- possessing or accessing violent extremist literature;
- using extremist narratives and a global ideology to explain personal disadvantage;
- justifying the use of violence to solve societal issues;
- joining or seeking to join extremist organisations; and
- significant changes to appearance and/or behaviour;
- experiencing a high level of social isolation, resulting in issues of identity crisis and/or
- personal crisis

## ***Raising Concerns – Staff & Trustees***

If any trustee or member of staff has any concerns about a pupil they should refer their concerns immediately to the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSO) in the same way that a child protection concern is referred. This may be a very obvious concern (e.g. a pupil has been seen accessing websites promoting violent extremism) or a less obvious concern (e.g. a pupil matches many of the above warning signs or risk factors: they have become isolated, angry, are experiencing family tensions, have changed friendship groups and have begun to justify the use of violence to resolve injustices).

The Department for Education has set up a telephone helpline (0207 340 7264) to enable people to raise concerns directly. Concerns can also be raised by email to [counter.extremism@education.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:counter.extremism@education.gsi.gov.uk)

## ***Links To Other Policies***

This Anti-Radicalisation policy statement links to the following policies:

- Safeguarding Policy
- Anti-bullying policy

## ***Approval & Review***

This policy has been approved by the Board of Trustees on \_\_\_\_\_

Policy review date:

December 2017