

PLATANOS COLLEGE

Statement of Intent

We are committed to providing a caring, friendly and safe environment for all of our pupils so that they can learn in a relaxed and secure atmosphere. We believe every pupil should be able to participate in all school activities in an enjoyable and safe environment and be protected from harm. This is the responsibility of every adult employed by, or invited to deliver services at, Platanos College. We recognise our responsibility to safeguard and promote the welfare of all our pupils by protecting them from physical, sexual or emotional abuse, neglect and bullying.



PREVENTING EXTREMISM AND RADICALISATION SAFEGUARDING POLICY

2025 – 2026

This Policy should be read in conjunction with the Safeguarding & Child Protection Policy

Preventing Extremism and Radicalisation Safeguarding Policy

Review procedures

This Policy is to be reviewed annually or as necessary with notification being given to the Board of Trustees on the results of any review.

If any amendments to the Policy are required as a result of a review, then these will be presented to the Board of Trustees for consideration and acceptance of the amendments.

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| Date reviewed: | 29 August 2025 |
| Date of next review: | 28 August 2026 |

Preventing Extremism and Radicalisation Safeguarding Policy

1. Introduction

We are committed to providing a secure environment for pupils, where children feel safe and are kept safe. All adults at the 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.

In adhering to this Policy, and the procedures therein, staff and visitors will contribute to the school's delivery of the outcomes to all children, as set out in s10 (2) of the Children Act 2004¹. This Preventing Extremism and Radicalisation Safeguarding Policy 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 in S157 of the Education Act 2002.

Our school's Preventing Extremism and Radicalisation Safeguarding Policy also draws upon the guidance contained in the "London Child Protection Procedures" and DfE Guidance "Keeping Children Safe in Education"; and specifically DfE 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" and the Education Commissioner (Birmingham) Peter Clarke's report of July 2014.

Schools are subject to a duty under s26 of the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 to have "due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism". This duty is known as the **Prevent** duty.

¹ The physical, mental health and emotional well-being of children; the protection of children from harm and neglect; the education, training and recreation of children; the contribution made by them to society; and their social and economic well-being.

2. School Ethos and Practice

When operating this Policy, the school uses the following accepted government definitions as below.

Extremism:

The promotion or advancement of an ideology based on violence, hatred or intolerance, that aims to:

- 1) negate or destroy the fundamental rights and freedoms of others; or
- 2) undermine, overturn or replace the UK's system of liberal parliamentary democracy and democratic rights; or
- 3) intentionally create a permissive environment for others to achieve the results in (1) or (2) above.

Radicalisation:

Radicalisation refers to the process of a person legitimising support for terrorism, forms of extremism leading to terrorism, or use of terrorist violence.²

² During this process it is possible to intervene to prevent vulnerable people from being drawn into terrorist-related activity.

Terrorism:

‘Terrorism is an action that endangers or causes serious violence to a person/people; causes serious damage to property; or seriously interferes or disrupts an electronic system. The use or threat must be designed to influence the government or to intimidate the public and is made for the purpose of advancing a political, religious or ideological cause.’

There is no place for extremist views of any kind in our school, whether from internal sources – pupils, staff or governors – or external sources – school community, external agencies or individuals. Our pupils see our school as a safe place where they can explore controversial issues safely and where our teachers encourage and facilitate this – we have a duty to ensure this happens.

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 as set out in this Policy. We also recognise that if we fail to challenge extremist views we are failing to protect our pupils.

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.

For these reasons, the school will:

- Provide a broad and balanced curriculum, delivered by skilled professionals, so that our pupils are enriched, understand and become tolerant of difference and diversity and also to ensure that they thrive, feel valued and not marginalized.
- Raise awareness 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, including via the internet, and at times pupils may themselves reflect or display views that may be discriminatory, prejudiced or extremist, including using derogatory language.
- Ensure that network/internet filtering is in place to protect users from inappropriate material.
- Ensure that any prejudice, discrimination or extremist views, including derogatory language, displayed by pupils or staff will always be challenged and where appropriate dealt with in line with our Behaviour and Discipline Policy for pupils and the Code of Conduct for staff. Where misconduct by a teacher is proven the matter will be referred to the National College for Teaching and Leadership for their consideration as to whether to a Prohibition Order is warranted.
- Risk assess to understand the general risks affecting children in the context of locality and to be able to identify specifically vulnerable individuals at risk and the appropriate support.

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

- Disclosures by pupils of their exposure to the extremist actions, views or materials of others outside of school, such as in their homes or community groups, especially where pupils have not actively sought these out.
- Non-violent extremism.
- Graffiti symbols, writing or art work promoting extremist messages or images.
- Pupils accessing extremist material online, including through social networking sites.
- Parental reports of changes in behaviour, friendship or actions and requests for assistance.
- Partner schools, local authority services, and police reports of issues affecting pupils in other schools or settings.
- Pupils 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, views based on, but not exclusive to, gender, disability, homophobia, race, colour or culture.
- Attempts to impose extremist views or practices on others.
- Anti-Western or Anti-British views.
- Reporting procedures: all concerns should be reported immediately to the school's Designated Safeguarding Lead or Headteacher.

Our school will closely follow any locally agreed procedure as set out by the Local Authority and/or the Safeguarding Children Board's agreed processes and criteria for safeguarding individuals vulnerable to extremism and radicalisation.

3. Teaching Approaches

We aim to provide a broad and balanced curriculum which promotes the spiritual, moral, social, cultural, mental and physical development of pupils. We will all strive 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 good teaching, primarily via PSHE; 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 will ensure that all of our teaching approaches help our pupils build resilience to extremism and give pupils 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.

We will be flexible enough to adapt our 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. In doing so we will apply the 'key ingredients' for success as set out in Appendix A, and we will apply the methodologies set out in that document following the three broad categories of:

- Making a connection with young people through good [teaching] design and a pupil centered approach.
- Facilitating a ‘safe space’ for dialogue, and
- Equipping our pupils with the appropriate skills, knowledge, understanding and awareness for resilience.

Therefore this approach will be embedded within the ethos of our school so that pupils know and understand what safe and acceptable behaviour is in the context of extremism and radicalisation. This will work in conjunction with our schools approach to the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils as defined in Ofsted’s School Inspection Handbook and will include the sound use of assemblies to help further promote this rounded development of our pupils.

Our goal is to build mutual respect and understanding and to promote the use of dialogue not violence as a form of conflict resolution. We will achieve this by using a curriculum that includes:

- Citizenship programmes
- Open discussion and debate
- Work on anti-violence and a restorative approach addressed throughout curriculum
- Focused educational programmes

We will also work with local partners, families and communities in our efforts to ensure our school understands and embraces our local context and values in challenging extremist views and to assist in the broadening of our pupil’s experiences and horizons. We will help support pupils who may be vulnerable to such influences as part of our wider safeguarding responsibilities and where we believe a pupil is being directly affected by extremist materials or influences we will ensure that that pupil is offered mentoring. Additionally in such instances our school will seek external support from the Local Authority and/or local partnership structures working to prevent extremism.

The school will promote community cohesion and fundamental British values, 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 pupils 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 pupils safe and prepare them for life in modern multi-cultural Britain and global society.

4. Use of External Agencies and Speakers

The school encourages the use of external agencies or speakers to enrich the experiences of our pupils, however we will positively vet those external agencies, individuals or speakers who we engage to provide such learning opportunities or experiences for our pupils. This includes checking the DBS of all external providers.

Such vetting is to ensure that we do not unwittingly use agencies that contradict each other with their messages or that are inconsistent with, or are in complete opposition to, the school’s values and ethos. We must be aware that in some instances the work of external agencies may not directly be connected with the rest of the school curriculum so we need to ensure that this work is of benefit to pupils.

Our school will assess the suitability and effectiveness of input from external agencies or individuals to ensure that:

- Any messages communicated to pupils are consistent with the ethos of the school and do not marginalise any communities, groups or individuals
- Any messages do not seek to glorify criminal activity or violent extremism or seek to radicalise pupils through extreme or narrow views of faith, religion or culture or other ideologies
- Activities are properly embedded in the curriculum and clearly mapped to schemes of work to avoid contradictory messages or duplication.
- Activities are matched to the needs of pupils
- Activities are carefully evaluated by schools to ensure that they are effective

We recognise, however, that the ethos of our school is to encourage pupils to understand opposing views and ideologies, appropriate to their age, understanding and abilities, and to be able to actively engage with them in informed debate, and we may use external agencies or speakers to facilitate and support this.

Therefore by delivering a broad and balanced curriculum, augmented by the use of external sources where appropriate, we will strive to ensure our pupils recognise risk and build resilience to manage any such risk themselves where appropriate to their age and ability but also to help pupils develop the critical thinking skills needed to engage in informed debate.

5. Reporting and Responsibilities

5.1 Child Protection

Concerns with extremism and radicalisation in relation to pupils will be treated as a safeguarding issue and normal safeguarding procedures should be followed. All concerns should be reported to the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL). Please refer to our Safeguarding Policy for the full procedural framework on our safeguarding/child protection duties.

Staff at the school will be alert to the fact that whilst extremism and radicalisation is broadly a safeguarding issue there may be some instances where a child or children may be at direct risk of harm or neglect. For example, this could be due to a child displaying risky behaviours in terms of the activities they are involved in or the groups they are associated with or staff may be aware of information about a child's family that may equally place a child at risk of harm (these examples are for illustration and are not definitive or exhaustive).

For these reasons, all adults working in the school (including visiting staff, volunteers, contractors, and students on placement) are required to report instances (or concerns) of extremism and radicalisation to the DSL or Headteacher similar to when they believe a child may be at risk of harm or neglect. The DSL will then be responsible for recording, monitoring and reporting where deemed necessary.

Our safeguarding/child protection reporting arrangements are set out fully in our Safeguarding Policy.

5.2 Role of the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)

The Designated Safeguarding Lead is: **Ms T. Williams**

The Deputy DSL is: **Mr D. Schardsmith / Mr R. Edwards**

The DSL works in line with the responsibilities as set out at Annex C of the DfE Guidance 'Keeping Children Safe in Education'.

The DSL is the focus person and local 'expert' for school staff, and others, who may have concerns about an individual child's safety or well-being and is the first point of contact for external agencies

In line with Recommendation 2 of the Education Commissioner (Birmingham) Peter Clarke's report (2014), the role of the DSL will be extended, at the appropriate time, to include the responsibilities of the **PREVENT** strand of the Government's counter-terrorism strategy.

The DSL will be responsible for monitoring, recording, reporting and liaising with all external agencies related to extremism and radicalisation. The DSL will also have responsibility for initiating reporting and interventions or support for the individual.

5.3 Whistleblowing

Where there are concerns of extremism or radicalisation within the organisation, pupils and staff are encouraged to make use of our internal systems to whistle blow or raise any issue in confidence. Please refer to the separate Whistleblowing Policy.

6. Training

Whole school training on Safeguarding and Child Protection will be organised for staff and governors annually (and at least every three years) and will comply with the prevailing arrangements agreed by the Local Authority and the Safeguarding Children Board.

The DSL will attend training courses as necessary and the appropriate inter-agency training organised by the Safeguarding Children Board at least every two years.

Specific training on preventing extremism and radicalisation and its safeguarding implications in partnership with the PREVENT programme is also regularly delivered to staff and governors. Separate training workshops are also delivered to pupils.

7. Recruitment

The arrangements for recruiting all staff, permanent and volunteers, to our school will follow government guidance on 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 pupils 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. Please refer to our separate **Safer Recruitment Policy**.

8. Role of the Board of Trustees

The Board of Trustees 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 Board of our school 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’ the governing body will challenge the school’s senior management team on the delivery of this Policy and monitor its effectiveness.

Governors will review this policy regularly prior to the start of a new academic year (on an annual basis) but may amend and adopt any amendments outside of this timeframe in accordance with any new legislation or guidance or in response to any quality assurance recommendations pertaining to the delivery of this Policy and the overall safeguarding arrangements made.

9. Policy Adoption, Monitoring and Review

This Policy was considered and adopted by the Governing Body in line with their overall duty to safeguard and promote the welfare of children as set out in the DfE guidance ‘Keeping Children Safe in Education’.

Parents/carers will be issued with a hard copy of this Policy on request. This Policy will also be made available to parents/carers via the school’s website.

The Headteacher will actively evaluate the effectiveness of this Policy by monitoring the staff group’s understanding and application of the procedures within this Policy as their overall duty to safeguard children.

Appendix A:

'Key Ingredients' for successful teaching in the context of 'push' and 'pull' factors.

| <p>PUSH FACTORS – factors that push an individual/make an individual vulnerable to extremist messages</p> <p>Lack of excitement, frustration</p> <p>Lack of sense of achievement – seen as significant. 'lack of purpose' // Confidence in the future, life goals.</p> <p>Lack of an outlet for views.</p> <p>Gaps in knowledge or understanding of Islam – both young people and their parents</p> <p>Sense of injustice</p> <p>Actual or perceived humiliating experiences. (including bullying, racial discrimination as well as perceived humiliating experiences. Perhaps linked closely to sense of injustice)</p> <p><i>Exclusion – lack of belonging to peer or community networks, associations etc.</i></p> <p>Below the line: factors that are out of scope of this study</p> | <p>KEY INGREDIENTS</p> <p>Teacher confidence in many cases it will be the use of existing teaching skills and methods which may well be the most effective approach. From prison settings, staff who are more confident in their abilities tend to perform much better even though they have not received specialist training</p> <p>Teacher attitudes and behaviours</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Willingness to admit you don't know •Acknowledging controversial issues exist •Awareness that I have a role to play •Willingness to turn to others for help when you don't know about something <p>Specific knowledge:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Understanding other cultures and religions as well as alternative values and beliefs (whilst being careful to avoid 'othering') •Knowledge of an alternative values framework <p>Teaching practice/pedagogy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Boosting critical thinking (seeing through propaganda, singular messages etc) •Helping to see multiple perspectives •Using multiple resources/methods •Embedding or sustaining dialogue following specialist interventions. •Enabling students to tackle difficult issues. •Linking school work to the wider community •Drawing evidence from across the curriculum •Developing in young people a sense of multiple identities, help young people become aware of, and comfortable with, multiple personal identity <p>Other factors</p> <p>Support from senior leaders</p> <p>Pupil support processes</p> | <p>PULL FACTORS – Factors that draw young people into extremist messages</p> <p>Charismatic/confident individuals (recruiters).</p> <p>Networks/sense of belonging</p> <p>Broader community views which enable or do not oppose extremism.</p> <p>Persuasive, clear messages. Exploiting knowledge gaps</p> <p>Sense of dignity and importance and loyalty</p> <p>Exciting (non-teaching) activities.</p> <p>Sense of purpose in life</p> |
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Source: Teaching approaches that help build resilience to extremism among young people, DfE 2011