

Roseberry Primary School

R P S



Policy for Preventing Radicalisation Online

Approved by the Governing Body:	May 2016
Interim Review:	September 2017
Review Date:	September 2018
Head teacher:	Maggie Fearnley

Preventing Radicalisation Online

The Counter-Terrorism and Security Act, which came into force on 1 July 2015, says that schools have a duty to "have due regard to the need to prevent people being drawn into terrorism". This is known as the 'Prevent duty'.

An updated version of the Department for Education's (DfE's) statutory guidance on safeguarding published in July 2015 refers to the Prevent duty on pages 15-17. On page 17, it says that schools must:

... ensure that children are safe from terrorist and extremist material when accessing the internet in schools. Schools should ensure that suitable filtering is in place. It is also important that schools teach pupils about online safety more generally.

The Internet provides children and young people with access to a wide-range of content, some of which is harmful. Extremists use the Internet, including social media, to share their messages. The filtering systems used in our school, blocks inappropriate content, including extremist content. We also filter out social media, such as Facebook. Searches and web addresses are monitored and the IT technicians at ONEITSS will alert the Headteacher or Computing Lead where there are concerns and prevent further access when new sites that are unblocked are found. Where staff, children or visitors find unblocked extremist content they must report it to the Computing Lead.

At Roseberry, we are aware that children may have access to unfiltered content when using the Internet at home and, therefore, we aim to educate our children on how to recognise and report Internet content that is inappropriate or of concern.

When using the Internet, children are at risk of meeting people online or visiting websites that could lead them to adopting what we consider to be extremist views, and becoming radicalised. In addition, curiosity could lead a child to seek out these people, or they could be befriended and encouraged to adopt beliefs or be persuaded to join groups whose views and actions would be considered extreme.

How could a child become radicalised?

Children and young people may be vulnerable to a range of risks as they pass through adolescence. They may be exposed to new influences and potentially risky behaviours, influence from peers, influence from older people or the Internet as they may begin to explore ideas and issues from their identity.

There is no single driver of radicalisation, not is there a single journey to becoming radicalised. The Internet creates more opportunities to become radicalised since it is a worldwide 24 hour a day, 365 days a year medium that allows people to meet others who share and will reinforce opinions.

Why should social networking be of concern?

A child could actively search for content that is considered radical or they could be persuaded to do so by other. Therefore, social media sites such as Facebook and Twitter may be used by extremists looking to identify, target and contact children and young people. It's easy to pretend to someone on the Internet so children may hold conversations with people whose real identities they may not know and who may encourage them to embrace extreme views and beliefs. Sometimes children do not realise that their beliefs have been shaped by others and think that the person is their friend and has their best interests at heart.

What are the signs that we should look out for?

There are a number of signs to be aware of. Increased instances of the following could be an indicator that a child or young person is being radicalised:

- A conviction that their religion, culture or beliefs are under threat and treated unjustly
- A tendency to look for conspiracy theories and distrust of mainstream media
- The need for identity and belonging
- Being secretive about who they've been talking to online and what sites they visit
- Switching screens/closing pages when an adult approaches when using a device connected to the Internet
- Possessing items – electronic devices or phones – not bought for or known to by parents
- Becoming emotionally volatile

What can lead young children to become radicalised?

Political and religious groups can provide a sense of family or support that children and young people feel is lacking in their lives. This desire for security could also be due to poverty, unemployment, social isolation or feelings of rejection by their own faith, family or social circle. In some cases, the trigger may be an event, either global or personal, such as being a victim or witness to a race or religious hate crime. Young people may also join these groups as a result of peer pressure and the desire to 'fit in' with their social circle. However, it should also be remembered that not all young people that experience these factors adopt radical views.

At Roseberry, we aim to prevent extremism and radicalisation by:

- **Providing a safe online environment**
The School has strong filters in place to block pupil access to violent or otherwise inappropriate materials. Pupils are required to sign up to an Acceptable Use of IT policy that specifically prohibits them from seeking to access such sites. Internet usage is monitored on a weekly basis and pastoral and/or disciplinary responses may follow if a pupil's usage breaches our rules or raises concerns. The School will also seek to block specific sites and search terms too if they appear to pose a risk to our pupils. Furthermore, pupils receive advice and instruction from teaching and non-teaching staff on safe Internet usage.
- **Assessment of Pupil Behaviours**
The pastoral monitoring systems of the School have a vital role to play in preventing radicalisation of pupils. Pupils are monitored closely by their class teachers, teaching assistants and lunchtime supervisors and issues of concern are discussed at the weekly 'Child Spot' meeting and whole staff meeting on Tuesdays at 3:15pm. Miss Grieveson, our PSA, supports our work with parents and families and where, a pastoral intervention or even counselling may be provided. The School will also seek advice and support from the local authority when concerns regarding pupil radicalisation arise.
- **Staff Training and Information**
The School recognises that it has a responsibility to provide INSET to staff on the issue of radicalisation to ensure that they remain vigilant and informed on the issue. It will also ensure staff are aware of how to respond appropriately if concerned about the possible radicalisation of a pupil.
- **Promoting Fundamental Values**
We vigorously promote fundamental values such as fairness, democracy, tolerance and the rule of law through assemblies, teaching of PSHE and the curriculum, and all other daily interactions between pupils and staff.

Referral Process

All staff and visitors of Roseberry Primary School must refer all concerns about pupils who show signs of vulnerability or radicalisation to Mrs Maggie Fearnley – Designated Safeguarding Lead using the agreed methods for reporting safeguarding concerns.

When there are significant concerns about a pupil, the Designated Safeguarding Lead will make a referral to Stockton Police through the Single Point of Contact for the **Channel Panel**

This policy should be read in conjunction with other Roseberry Primary School policies, including:

- E-Safety Policy
- Acceptable Use Agreements
- Safeguarding Policies

Further government advice to schools on this issue can be accessed here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/preventing-extremism-in-schools-and-childrens-services>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/protecting-children-from-radicalisation-the-prevent-duty>

The Government also provides contact details for alerting authorities to suspected terrorist activity. These include the DfE dedicated telephone helpline and mailbox for non-emergency advice for staff and governors: 020 7340 7264 and counter-extremism@education.gsi.gov.uk in addition to the local police and 101.