

Extremism and Prevent

Extremism is defined as:

'Vocal or active opposition to fundamental British values, including democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs; and/or calls for the death of members of our armed forces, whether in this country or overseas'.

There is no place for extremist views of any kind in our School, whether from internal sources (students, staff or governors) or external sources (community, external agencies or individuals).

Our students 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 students and so should be addressed as a safeguarding concern as set out in policy. We also recognise that if we fail to challenge extremist views we are failing to protect our students. 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. Students learn about this through a broad and balanced tutorial and PSHE programme. Through this course of study, they understand and become tolerant of difference and diversity. The school also aims to ensure that students thrive, feel valued and not marginalised. They also learn how to keep themselves safe and where to go to get help if they need it (in school and in the community). We live in a wonderfully diverse world, with both differences and similarities to celebrate. Exploring religious and different social beliefs, in a peaceful and non-violent way, is part of education and should not be confused with something more sinister. The best way to prevent extremism and radicalisation is by open discussion and increased understanding of each other.

Staff and students raise any concerns they may have with Mr Walker, Mr Penman and Miss Saunders, who will seek advice from outside agencies should the need arise.

Prevent is the UK Government's strategy to safeguard people and communities from the threat of radicalisation and terrorism. Parents/Carers can find more information by clicking the links below:

- www.ltai.info/what-is-prevent
- <https://educateagainsthate.com/>

If you have any concerns that someone you know may be at risk of radicalisation, please contact the local Police on 101. If your concern is of an urgent nature please dial 999 or the Anti-Terrorist Hotline on 0800 789 321. If you have a concern about a student attending this school please contact the Designated Safeguarding Lead as above.