

Community Risk Assessment (taking account of Prevent duties)



School name North Bridge House Senior Hampstead
Date 24/08/21
Completed by Julia Devlin

Introduction

The Education (Independent Schools Standards) Regulations require schools to undertake a risk assessment linked to the demography of the school and also to identify risks linked to extremism and radicalisation. This document outlines the school's analysis.

Since 2010, when the Government published the Prevent Strategy, there has been an awareness of the specific need to safeguard children, young people and families from violent extremism. There have been several occasions, both locally and nationally, in which extremist groups have attempted to radicalise vulnerable children and young people to hold extreme views, including views justifying political, religious, sexist or racist violence, or to steer them into a rigid and narrow ideology that is intolerant of diversity and leaves them vulnerable to future radicalisation.

Our school values freedom of speech and the expression of beliefs / ideology as fundamental rights underpinning our society's values. Both students and teachers have the right to speak freely and voice their opinions. However, freedom comes with responsibility and free speech that is designed to manipulate the vulnerable or that leads to violence and harm of others goes against the moral principles in which freedom of speech is valued. Free speech is not an unqualified privilege; it is subject to laws and policies governing equality, human rights, community safety and community cohesion.

Our school is committed to providing a secure environment for pupils, where children and young people 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.

This 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 at S157/S175 of the Education Act 2002.

Our school's approach to preventing extremism and radicalisation also draws upon the guidance produced in 'Keeping Children Safe in Education', HM government document 'Prevent strategy: A guide for local partners in England' and the 'Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015'.

The Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 contains a duty on specified authorities, which includes all schools to have due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism. The new legislation will be measured through school inspection.

The Department for Education has set up a helpline for teachers who have questions and/or concerns about extremism.

Teachers can call: 0207 340 7264 or email: counter.extremism@education.gsi.gov.uk

What are the distinctive features of your school community?	Are there any risks or concerns linked to this?	As a result, what do you put in place?
<p>North Bridge House Hampstead is located in Camden. We are a multi-faith school with a significant proportion of international students.</p> <p>Our students live in a number of boroughs and travel to school using a variety of local transport options.</p>	<p>Children exposed to a wide variety of faiths and nationalities.</p> <p>Inner-city living means that pupils may be aware of and /or exposed to gang culture.</p> <p>There is an increased risk of terrorist attack due to the high number of major transport hubs in Camden including St Pancras International and Kings Cross railway stations.</p> <p>Lockdown has posed an increased risk as pupils are spending more time on their computers at home and social media platforms can be a concern if not monitored.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote British Values throughout the school – PSHEE, assemblies etc. • Preventing radicalisation topics on the PSE curriculum • Visiting Speaker Policy in place to carry out background checks on adults speaking at the school. • Strong links with local police who come into school to give advice and support on safety for pupils when out of school • Ensure staff are aware of CSE and CCE and that they can understand what the signs of abuse could be – including being drawn into gangs. • Strong pastoral system with Form Teachers seeing their forms twice a day – Heads of Year have visible presence and know the pupils as well. Head of Pastoral Care available to pupils during the day in case they need support. • Information sent to parents to support online safety and to make them aware of support - Thinkuknow; CEOPS • Parents given online awareness safety training at start of academic year within the parent information evenings (September 2021)

Date information obtained from local Prevent Officer: 24/08/21

Name of Officer: Jane Murphy 020 7974 1008

Information provided: The Camden Prevent team review their guidance annually in October/November and the new guidance will be shared with NBH then. Until that time, the guidance shared in October 2020 is listed below:

The risk of an attack in the UK remains severe meaning that an attack is highly likely. Camden has been identified as an attractive target for an attack due to crowds, transport hubs, key location and businesses which would increase the impact of an attack. A local attack would have an impact on children within our borough either directly or as a result of feelings of insecurity and fear resulting from the proximity of a traumatic event.

Due to our transport links, universities, large number of venues and everyday footfall, Camden is also a popular location for meetings, speakers, leafleting, poster and sticker campaigns. We have also had incidents of active recruitment. Children in Camden therefore have easy access to diverse voices, often from outside of our borough, including the voices of extremists, putting them at risk of being radicalised and recruited into terrorist groups.

Over the last year Camden has had concerns raised relating to individuals, events and promotional materials from a spectrum of ideologies including those termed Islamist, Far Right and mixed ideologies, glorifying violence and mass attacks. We have seen an increased number of concerns raised by education professionals in relation to Far Right extremism. We have also seen an increase in concerns where a grievance or paranoia is present but the ideology behind it is unclear. Concerns have also been raised in relation to extreme and divisive rhetoric. This may result in hate speech/crime or lead to grievances which could be exploited by radicalisers. In Camden we have a prevalence of incidents relating to Islamophobia, Anti-Semitism, Trans, Bi and Homophobia.

We continue to the 11 to 24 age group as the most vulnerable and referrals or concerns raised by schools as one of the highest.

There are high levels of vulnerability within our Authority to other harms; such as children missing education, criminal exploitation and gang and county lines activity, substance misuse, domestic abuse. All of these factors increase young people's vulnerability and lower their resistance to a range of other harms including exploitation, recruitment and grooming into terrorist groups.

*Although we have made much progress in recent years the **level of exploitation in our borough remains high**. Children have been groomed into criminal activity particularly in relation to drugs but also other activity. This increases the vulnerability to violence and other types of exploitation.*

Social Media has been cited as a key channel for the distribution of terrorist material and recruitment into terrorist groups or ideology. In Camden children have accessed inappropriate material either deliberately or inadvertently. There have been reported incidents of children sharing inappropriate material which can be considered a crime as it is supporting/glorifying terrorism. This increases vulnerability to radicalisation.

In Camden we have recognised and are now starting to see evidence of the impact of Covid 19 on young people and their vulnerability to radicalisation. Over lockdown many children spent much more time online and were exposed to extremist content. Services which could have supported were reduced and some extremist groups adapted their approach to target children. We know that any child can be groomed so this year we need to review our procedures and make sure we are confident that all staff will notice signs and ask for support. We also need to make sure that we are promoting a strong safe and fair Camden/school in all our interactions and work.

Not able to evidence	Evidence of some but not all	Evidence of all and more
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1. LEADERSHIP: structures are in place and visible throughout the school

Evidence	RAG	Next steps (and target date)
The Senior Leadership Team are aware of the Prevent Strategy and its objectives.	G	<p>JDE – Prevent Lead undertook training with the Camden Safeguarding Partnership</p> <p><i>Counter extremism and WRAP – September 2020</i></p> <p>Visiting Speaker Policy in place to vet external visitors.</p> <p>Referral to Prevent Officer made July 2021 regarding a concerning social media post. Police also informed and checks were put in place for a former pupil.</p> <p>Staff are aware how to raise concerns and that they should do so immediately – annual safeguarding awareness and regular safeguarding bulletins reinforce training.</p>
The Head and DSL understands their duties if concerns were raised.	G	
Supporting young people vulnerable to radicalisation is embedded within Safeguarding Policies and Procedures.	G	
The Head and DSL know who to contact if radical or extremist concerns are raised (including making a referral to the Channel programme).	G	
Staff understand to report concerns immediately.	G	

2. CAPABILITIES: staff and governors adequately trained on Prevent Duty

Evidence	RAG	Next steps (and target date)
Staff have been trained/briefed on their responsibilities linked to the Prevent Duty and know how to recognise and refer children who may be vulnerable.	G	<p>Safeguarding bulleting on the Prevent Duty to be sent to all staff at the beginning of term. (September 2021)</p> <p>HM Gov Preventing Terrorism - Departmental advice for schools and childcare providers June 2015 is available in the policy folder online and also printed out and placed on the wall in the staff hub.</p> <p>Staff training on Prevent is updated every two years.</p> <p><i>All staff completed training Autumn term 2020.</i></p> <p><i>Online Training to be allocated to new staff joining (September 2021)</i></p>
There is appropriate staff guidance and literature available to staff on the Prevent agenda.	G	

3. RISK ASSESSMENT: risks around extremism are understood and appropriate referral process is in place

Evidence	RAG	Next steps (and target date)
Key staff show understanding of risks affecting children and how to support individual children who may be at risk.	G	Staff are trained annually – safeguarding awareness half-day – this training includes recognising signs that children may be at risk. (next training 31/8/21) Staff report via Cause for Concern forms – these are kept securely by DSL. Files are reviewed by DSL and DDSL to see where lessons can be learned.
An audit trail for notification reports/referrals exists.	G	
A process is in place to identify and develop 'lessons learnt'.	G	

4. WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP: develop multi-agency approaches to address safeguarding issues and deliver quality curriculums

Evidence	RAG	Next steps (and target date)
Partner agency communication channels have been developed – Local Authority and Police are first port of call when outside agencies need to be consulted or for making a Channel referral.	G	Links with Camden Safeguarding partnership – Jane Murphy, Education Prevent officer is helpful and available for support. Jane Murphy shared her update on the Prevent Duty (October 2020).
The single point of contact is identified in Children’s Services to liaise on a range of safeguarding issues.	G	