



# **Preventing Extremism and Radicalisation Policy**

March 2026

## **Introduction**

Beechcroft Infants School is committed to providing a secure environment for pupils, where children feel safe and are kept safe. All adults at Beechcroft Infants 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 aligns with the statutory requirements set out in Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE) 2025, which came into force on 1 September 2025.

The school is also preparing for expected changes within the draft KCSIE 2026 guidance, published for consultation by the Department for Education on 12 February 2026. This policy is also informed by the Prevent Duty statutory guidance (2023, in force from 31 December 2023) and the Channel Duty guidance (2023). These set out our duties to identify, assess and refer individuals who may be susceptible to radicalisation, and to cooperate with local multi-agency Channel panels where appropriate

In adhering to this policy, and the procedures therein, staff and visitors will contribute to Beechcroft Infants School's delivery of the outcomes to all children, as set out in s10 (2) of the Children Act 2004. 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 at s175 of the Education Act 2002.

## **School Ethos and Practice**

When operating this policy Beechcroft Infants School uses the following accepted Governmental definition of extremism which is:

*'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 – 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.

Therefore, at Beechcroft Infants School we 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.

Furthermore at Beechcroft Infants School we are aware 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.

In line with KCSIE 2025 and the proposed KCSIE 2026 revisions, staff must remain alert to risks arising from online platforms, social media algorithms, encrypted communication channels, gaming environments, and AI-generated extremist content that may expose pupils to radicalising influences. Staff play an active role in teaching pupils how to recognise, question and report extremist material encountered online. The school's approach to filtering and monitoring is overseen by the DSL and governors and is reviewed at least annually to ensure it remains effective and proportionate.

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 Policy for pupils and the Code of Conduct for staff. Where misconduct by a member of staff is proven the matter may be dealt with through the school's disciplinary procedures.

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
- Graffiti symbols, writing or art work promoting extremist messages or images
- Pupils accessing extremist material online, including through social networking sites
- Pupils being exposed to AI-generated extremist content, extremist gaming forums, or livestreamed propaganda, reflecting the enhanced online safety requirements set out in KCSIE 2025 and the draft 2026 guidance.
- Parental reports of changes in behaviour, friendship or actions and requests for assistance
- Neighbouring 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

### **Teaching Approaches**

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 and assemblies.

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. Teaching approaches will continue to reflect the strengthened focus on early help and contextual safeguarding outlined in KCSIE

2025 and proposed further in the KCSIE 2026 draft. Staff must be confident in recognising early signs of vulnerability to radicalisation and understand when concerns should be escalated through the school's safeguarding processes. The school's approach to filtering and monitoring is overseen by the DSL and governors and is reviewed at least annually to ensure it remains effective and proportionate.

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.

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 school's 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 and circle times 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 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 support. Additionally in such instances our school will seek external support from appropriate local services working to prevent extremism.

At Beechcroft Infants School we will promote 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 globally.

### **Use of External Agencies and Speakers**

At Beechcroft Infants School we encourage 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.

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.

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 matched to the needs of pupils
- Activities are carefully evaluated by schools to ensure that they are effective

In accordance with KCSIE 2025, all external agencies, speakers or providers must comply with updated safer recruitment expectations and information-security requirements. This includes appropriate identity checks, clarity on the purpose and content of any visit, and ensuring materials shared align with school safeguarding policies and British values.

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. 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.

### **Whistleblowing**

Where there are concerns of extremism or radicalisation Pupils and Staff will be encouraged to make use of our internal systems to Whistle Blow or raise any issue in confidence. Please refer to the school's Whistle Blowing Policy for further information.

The school follows the updated procedures set out in Part 4 of KCSIE 2025 relating to allegations or safeguarding concerns about staff, volunteers or contractors, including those involving extremist views or behaviours. The school's approach to filtering and monitoring is overseen by the DSL and governors and is reviewed at least annually to ensure it remains effective and proportionate. Where concerns indicate susceptibility to radicalisation, staff will follow the school's Prevent pathway, including referral to the local Channel process where appropriate.

### **Child Protection**

Please refer to our Safeguarding Policy for the full procedural framework on our Child Protection and Safeguarding duties, including our reporting arrangements.

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 influenced by extremist materials or influences we will ensure that pupil is offered mentoring. In such instances our school will seek external support from appropriate services working to prevent extremism.

However, staff at Beechcroft Infants 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).

Therefore all adults working in Beechcroft Infants School, (including visiting staff, volunteers, contractors and students on placement) are required to report instances where they believe a child may be at risk of harm or neglect to the Designated Safeguarding Lead/ Headteacher, including any harm through extremism or radicalisation.

### **Role of the Designated Safeguarding Lead**

The Designated Safeguarding Lead is: Jo-Anne Rutt, Headteacher

The Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads are: Liz Hancock, Deputy Headteacher and Luisa Rutherford, Children's Champion.

The role of the Designated Safeguarding Lead reflects the expanded responsibilities introduced in KCSIE 2025 and the proposed KCSIE 2026 updates. These include strengthened oversight of online safety, early help pathways, contextual safeguarding, and

sensitive case management relating to gender-questioning children, ensuring parental involvement except where this poses a specific safeguarding risk.

The Designated Safeguarding Lead works in line with the responsibilities as set out in Keeping Children Safe in Education.

The Designated Safeguarding Lead 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 Beechcroft Infants School the role of the Designated Safeguarding Lead will be extended, at the appropriate time, to include the responsibilities of the PREVENT strand of the Government's counter-terrorism strategy.

### **Training**

Whole school in-service training on Safeguarding and Child Protection will be organised for staff at least every two years and will comply with the prevailing arrangements agreed by the local Safeguarding Partnership and will, in part, include training on extremism and radicalisation and its safeguarding implications.

Whole-school safeguarding training will additionally cover updated areas including online safety, AI-related risks, contextual safeguarding, safer recruitment changes and the management of cases involving gender-questioning pupils, in line with KCSIE 2025 and the proposed KCSIE 2026 revisions.

The Designated Safeguarding Lead will attend training courses as necessary and the appropriate inter-agency training organised by the local Safeguarding Partnership at least every two years, again this will include training on extremism and radicalisation and its safeguarding implications.

### **Recruitment**

The arrangements for recruiting all staff, permanent and volunteers, to our school will follow safer recruitment best practice in education settings, including, but not limited to, ensuring that DBS checks are always made at the appropriate level, that disqualification by association declaration forms are completed and checked, that references are always safeguarding board 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.

Recruitment processes will reflect revised safer recruitment requirements from KCSIE 2025, including strengthened expectations around the Single Central Record and identity verification. Daily monitoring will ensure compliance with any additional requirements introduced in the finalised KCSIE 2026 guidance

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.

### **Role of Governing Body**

The Governing Body 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 Governing Body 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 Recommendation 13 of Peter Clarke's report details of our Governing Body will be published on our school website to promote transparency.

In line with the provisions set out in the DfE guidance 'Keeping Children Safe in Education, 2025' the governing body will challenge the school's senior leadership team on the delivery of this policy and monitor its effectiveness.

The Governing Body will ensure compliance with updated oversight duties from KCSIE 2025, including scrutiny of online-safety arrangements, information-security processes and the school's early help and contextual safeguarding practices. These areas are strengthened further within the proposed KCSIE 2026 changes.

Governors will review this policy regularly every two years and may amend and adopt it 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.

### **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 2025 guidance 'Keeping Children Safe in Education'

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

In Beechcroft Infants School 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.