

The Crabtree Academy Trust

Crabtree Lane, Harpenden, Herts. AL5 5PU



Crabtree Junior School
Headteacher Mr Ian Pattrick

Prevent Policy

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The Board of Directors shall conduct the Trust with a view to promoting high standards of learning, attainment and care.

Crabtree Academy Trust is committed to eliminating discrimination, advancing equality of opportunity and fostering good relations between different groups. These factors were considered in the formation and review of this policy and will be adhered to in its implementation and application across the whole school community.

The Crabtree Schools will promote the fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs and will actively challenge any member of the school community expressing opinions contrary to fundamental British Values, including 'extremist' views.

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INTRODUCTION

The threat to the UK from international terrorism is substantial. The terrorist threats that we now face are more diverse than ever before, dispersed across a wider geographical area and often in countries without effective governance. We therefore face an unpredictable situation. Dealing with violent extremism is nothing new. Throughout history there have been groups prepared to use violence to achieve their aims. A small minority of these seek to radicalise young people with an ideology which justifies the use of violence through a distorted interpretation of a set of values (often associated with a religion). In line with guidance from the Department for Education (DfE), Crabtree Junior School has a zero tolerance acceptance of extremist behavior and ensures that our care, guidance and curriculum empowers young people to reject violent or extremist behaviour. Whilst it remains very rare for school age children to become involved in extremist activity, young people can be exposed to extremist influences or prejudiced views, including via the internet, from an early age. Early intervention is a preferable way of tackling extremism.

DEFINITION

Extremism can be defined as “holding of extreme opinions: the holding of extreme political or religious views or the taking of extreme actions on the basis of those views”.

STRATEGIES FOR PREVENTING EXTREMISM

The Office for Security & Counter Terrorism works to counter the threat from terrorism and their work is detailed in the counter terrorism strategy CONTEST. This strategy is based on four areas of work:

- Pursue

To stop terrorist attacks

- Prevent

To stop people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism

- Protect

To strengthen our protection against a terrorist attack

- Prepare

To mitigate the impact of a terrorist attack

AIMS

At Crabtree Junior School, we follow the principles outlined in the DCSF toolkit which seeks to:

- **Raise awareness** within school of the threat from violent extremist groups and the risks for young people.
- Provide **information** about what can cause violent extremism, about preventative actions taking place locally and nationally and where we can get additional information and advice.

- Help schools understand the **positive contribution** they can make to empower young people to create communities that are more resilient to extremism, and **protecting the wellbeing** of particular pupils or groups who may be vulnerable to being drawn into violent extremist activity.
- Provide advice on **managing risks** and responding to incidents locally, nationally or internationally that might have an impact on the school community.

The school will use these principles to guide our work in all areas including building on our work in:

- Promoting Every Child Matters (ECM) outcomes for all pupils
- Promoting pupil wellbeing, equalities and community cohesion
- Building the resilience of the school, working with partners, to prevent pupils becoming the victims or causes of harm
- Working with other agencies and parents to build community networks of support for the school

STAFF TRAINING

In order to fulfil the requirements of the Prevent Duty, Crabtree Junior School will:

- Ensure the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) undertakes Prevent awareness training and is able to provide advice and support to all members of staff on protecting children from the risk of radicalisation. Prevent training is also part of the induction process for any new members of staff.
- Ensure staff are trained to be vigilant in spotting signs of extremist views and behaviours and that they always report anything to the DSL which may suggest a pupil, another staff member or a visitor is expressing opinions which may cause concern. Staff should follow the usual reporting procedures as for any other safeguarding concern as laid out in the School's Safeguarding (Child Protection) Policy.
- Ensure staff understand the importance of monitoring pupil absences and promptly address concerns about irregular absence with parents and / or carers.
- Ensure staff and governors are aware of to identify and respond to risks to children from extreme or radical views.

CURRICULUM

Crabtree Junior School ensures its pupils are offered a broad and balanced curriculum delivered by skilled teachers that aims to prepare them for life, encouraging them to be inquisitive learners who are enriched, understand and become tolerant of difference and diversity, whilst also ensuring that they thrive, feel valued and are not marginalized. Classroom practices include:

- developing questioning techniques to open up safe debate
- building confidence to promote honesty about a plurality of views
- ensuring freedom of expression and freedom from threat
- debating fundamental moral and human rights principles
- promoting open respectful dialogue
- affirming multiple identities

Personal, Social, Health and Citizenship lessons are an effective way of providing pupils with time to explore sensitive or controversial issues, and equipping them with the knowledge and skills to understand and manage difficult situations. However, Crabtree Junior School ensures that embedded within the curriculum are opportunities for pupils to build resilience to extremism and enabling them to develop a positive sense of identity through the development of critical thinking skills. This is achieved through our delivery of our “Jigsaw Scheme” across all years. Crabtree Junior School values freedom of speech and the expression of beliefs / ideology as fundamental rights underpinning society’s values. Pupils regularly participate in discussion, with speaking and listening being embedded in all subjects. Pupils and teachers speak freely and voice their opinions. However, there is an understanding that 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.

Curriculum content includes:

- promoting knowledge, skills and understanding to build the resilience of learners
- exploring controversial issues where appropriate
- recognising local needs
- challenging extremist narrative
- promoting universal rights
- promoting critical analysis
- promoting pro-social values

VISITORS TO SCHOOL

In order to safeguard pupils from visitors to the School who may have extreme or radical views the School will:

- Ensure all visitors to the School are carefully vetted and take immediate action if any individual or group is perceived to be attempting to influence members of the School community, either physically or electronically.
- Open source“ check any organisations which wish to have relationships with the School, particularly those in the voluntary sector.

RISK ASSESSMENTS

The DSL is responsible for carrying out regular risk assessments to assess the risks of pupils being drawn into terrorism, including support for extremist ideas which are part of terrorist ideology. The DSL will also use regular risk assessments to demonstrate his / her understanding of the risks and how to identify pupils who may be at risk of radicalisation.

HIRING & LETTINGS

Any organisations or individuals wishing to hire the school will be checked to confirm that they do not have any extreme or radical views. This requirement will also be included in any Letting Agreements.

MANAGING REFERRALS & WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP

Any pupil who is deemed to be at risk of being radicalised or extremism will be referred by the DSL as appropriate through the Local Authority Channel Referral and Intervention processes. The School will then work in partnership with the relevant agencies to seek advice, support and guidance drawing on multi-agency expertise, to support pupils at risk of harm.

The toolkit forms the body of this policy and is available to download from:

www.communitycohesioncc.org.uk/docs/280.pdf