

# Safeguarding Newsletter



Spring Term 2021

Welcome to this term's Safeguarding Newsletter. The aim of this newsletter is to communicate key information to parents concerning safeguarding and how as a school we aim to keep you informed to actively promote the safeguarding and welfare of all our pupils. This term, we want to give parents and carers information on how to identify and respond if their children are affected by extremism and radicalisation.

With children potentially spending a lot more time online at the current time, this is a good moment to learn about some of the potential dangers they may face now or in the future.

## What is extremism?

"Extremism is the vocal or active opposition to our fundamental values, including democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, and the mutual respect and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs. This includes calling for death of members of the armed forces." Keeping Children Safe In Education 2020

## What is radicalisation?

"Radicalisation refers to the process by which a person comes to support terrorism and extremist ideologies associated with terrorist groups." Keeping Children Safe In Education 2020

## What is terrorism?

"Terrorism is an action that endangers or causes serious violence to a person/people; causes serious damage to property; or seriously interferes or disrupts an electronic system. The use or threat **must** be designed to influence the government or to intimidate the public and is made for the purpose of advancing a political, religious or ideological cause." Keeping Children Safe In Education 2020

## Who do I contact?

If you have any concerns that a child or young person may be at risk of radicalisation or involvement in terrorism, please speak to **Martin Higgs, Headteacher**, as the **Single Point of Contact (SPOC)**. Your concerns may be passed on to the Cornwall Prevent Team who will assess the seriousness of the potential risk.

The Designated **Prevent Governor for Alverton School** is **Anna George**.

The **Cornwall Prevent Lead** is **Steve Rowell** who can be contacted on **01736 336587** or at [steve.rowell@cornwall.gcsx.gov.uk](mailto:steve.rowell@cornwall.gcsx.gov.uk) or [prevent@cornwall.gov.uk](mailto:prevent@cornwall.gov.uk)

You can also contact your **local police force** or dial **101** (the non-emergency number). They can talk to you in confidence about your concerns and help you gain access to support and advice.

The **Channel Police Coordinator** for Devon and Cornwall Police can be contacted at [prevent@devonandcornwall.pnn.police.uk](mailto:prevent@devonandcornwall.pnn.police.uk) .

The **Department for Education** has **dedicated a telephone helpline (020 7340 7264)** to enable staff and governors to raise concerns relating to extremism directly. Concerns can also be raised by **email** to [counter.extremism@education.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:counter.extremism@education.gsi.gov.uk).

Please note that the helpline is not intended for use in emergency situations, such as a child being at immediate risk of harm or a security incident, in which case the normal emergency procedures should be followed.

## Spotting the Signs

Children who are at risk of radicalisation may have low self-esteem, or be victims of bullying or discrimination. Extremists might target them and tell them they can be part of something special, later brainwashing them into cutting themselves off from their friends and family.

*Signs that indicate a child may be being radicalised include:*

- isolating themselves from friends and family
- unwillingness to discuss their views
- increased levels of anger
- talking as if from a scripted speech
- a sudden disrespectful attitude towards others
- increased secretiveness, especially around internet use

## Talking about Terrorism with your Child

Children are exposed to news in lots of different forms and what they see can worry them in lots of different ways. Here are some tips that can help you have some conversations with your child.

- Listen carefully to their fears and worries
- Offer reassurance and comfort
- Avoid complicated and worrying explanations that could be frightening and confusing
- Help them find advice and support for distressing events and feelings
- Children can always contact Childline free and confidentially on the phone on 0800 1111 or online at [childline.org.uk](http://childline.org.uk)
- The NSPCC website offers further resources to help parents and carers including videos of parents talking to the children about terrorism: <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/reporting-abuse/dedicated-helplines/protecting-children-from-radicalisation/>

It is important to know that, whilst a person can be radicalised by others, there are some people (including children and young people) who radicalise themselves by seeking out information to support their viewpoint on the internet.

The Prevent Duty Specifies that schools are required to have “due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism”.

You can read about how our school safeguards children on the Prevent page of the Safeguarding section of our website <https://alverton.eschools.co.uk/website/prevent/243594>

Other resources can be found at <https://educateagainsthate.com>

### The Channel Programme

Channel is a multi-agency group who support individuals vulnerable to radicalisation. It may be appropriate for pupils who are vulnerable to being drawn into terrorism. Channel is about ensuring that vulnerable children and adults of any faith, ethnicity or background receive support. Channel partners include Local Authorities, Health Care Providers, Probation, Police and members of the community.

*Who can I talk to if I am worried about a child?*

**If you see it, hear it or know about it - report it!**

**This could be a child being neglected or any other kind of abuse.**

**Remember - safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.**

**Mr Higgs** is the Designated Safeguarding Lead for Alverton School and **Mrs Wicks** is the Deputy DSL. They will always be willing to listen to any concerns you may have.

If they are not available, Mrs Clemens, Mr Dawe, Mrs Daylak, Mrs Hall, Mrs Hughes, Mrs O'Neill and Mrs O'Rourke have all received additional safeguarding training and will be able to help you.

01736 364087

**Cornwall Multi-Agency Referral Unit**  
0300 123 1116

**NSPCC**   
**HELPLINE**  
**0808 800 5000**  
[help@nspcc.org.uk](mailto:help@nspcc.org.uk)

**ChildLine**  
**0800 1111** 