

Anti-Radicalisation Policy

Radicalisation and Extremism

Radicalisation is defined as “a process by which an individual or group comes to adopt increasingly extreme political, social or religious ideals and aspirations that (1) reject or undermine the status quo or (2) reject and /or undermine contemporary ideas and expressions of freedom of choice.”

Extremism is defined as “Vocal, or active opposition to fundamental British Values including democracy, the role of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs.”

Educational settings are the front line agency in any locality. They have the most regular contact with potentially vulnerable people. MDA College recognises this duty and the duty of care it has to students, staff and associates. The potentially most at risk groups associated with MDA College are:

- International students who have potentially been radicalised in their country.
- International students who are alone in the UK (i.e. without immediate family and friends) that risk being exploited by radical groups.
- International students who are isolated from normal support channels that are also at risk of being exploited by radical groups.
- Young people of any nationality who are at risk of grooming.
- Older people that may be targeted by groups due to their access to potentially vulnerable students.

MDA College has the promotion of respect and tolerance for others at the heart of its mission statement and promotes a multi-cultural, multi-faith and diverse setting through all the curriculum, marketing, management, teaching and media it projects. MDA College is a recognised Third Party Hate Incident Reporting Centre and regularly hosts the West Yorkshire Police to raise awareness for staff and students of what is acceptable behaviour and not in the UK.

The challenge for all schools is to be aware of when the natural tendencies of humans, to challenge and to question, develop into extreme views which promote or encourage hate and/or violent actions towards others on the basis of an ideological belief.

Being drawn into terrorism includes not just violent extremism but also non-violent extremism, which can create an atmosphere conducive to terrorism and can popularise views which terrorists exploit.

All schools should be safe spaces in which everyone can understand and discuss sensitive topics, including terrorism and the extremist ideas that are part of terrorist ideology, and learn how to challenge these ideas.

The Prevent duty is not intended to limit discussion of these issues. Schools should, however, be mindful of their existing duties to forbid political indoctrination and secure a balanced presentation of political issues.

Created: 18/02/2019

Last Reviewed: 17/02/2023

To be reviewed: 20/02/2024

Management

All staff should be aware of the issue of radicalisation and extremism and the sensitivities that go with it.

The CEO, Darren Smith, is the PREVENT officer for MDA College.

Safeguarding students and staff against radicalisation and violent extremism

The Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 “places a duty on specified authorities, including local authorities and childcare, education and other students’ service providers to have due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism (the Prevent duty).”

Radicalisation is defined as the process by which people come to support terrorism and extremism and, in some cases, to then participate in terrorist groups. “Extremism 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. We also include in our definition of extremism calls for the death of members of our armed forces, whether in this country or overseas” (HM Government Prevent Strategy 2011). Since the publication of the Prevent Strategy, there has been an awareness of the specific need to safeguard students, young people and families from violent extremism. There have been attempts to radicalise vulnerable students 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.

Keeping students safe from these risks is a safeguarding matter and should be approached in the same way as safeguarding students from other risks. Students should be protected from messages of all violent extremism including, but not restricted to, those linked to extreme Islamist ideology, or to far Right/Neo-Nazi/White Supremacist ideology, Irish Nationalist and Loyalist paramilitary groups, and extremist Animal Rights movements.

Prevent, in the context of counter-terrorism, is intervention before any criminal offence has been committed with the aim of preventing individuals or groups from committing crimes. The current threat to the UK is severe and very likely. The biggest threat is from ISIL but there is a significant growth in Far Right activity in the UK. The groups have a wide appeal and recruit via relationships and social contact. There is not a single profile, but vulnerable students are at a higher risk. At MDA College, all staff are given in-house safeguarding training, and teachers and support staff have been briefed on the MDA Prevent Strategy with supporting documents.

Risks

Students and young people can be drawn into violence or they can be exposed to the messages of extremist groups by many means. These can include through the influence of family members or friends and/or direct contact with extremist groups and organisations or, increasingly, through the Internet. This can put a person at risk of being drawn into criminal activity and has the potential to lead to them suffering significant harm. This may take the form of a “grooming” process where the vulnerabilities of a person are exploited to form an exclusive friendship which draws the person away from other influences that might challenge the radical ideology.

Created: 18/02/2019

Last Reviewed: 17/02/2023

To be reviewed: 20/02/2024

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The risk of radicalisation is the product of a number of factors and identifying this risk requires that practitioners exercise their professional judgement, seeking further advice as necessary. It may be combined with other vulnerabilities or may be the only risk identified. On-line content, in particular social media, may pose a specific risk in normalising radical views and promoting content that is shocking and extreme; students can be trusting and not necessarily appreciate bias that can lead to them being drawn into these groups and adopt their extremist views.

There is some evidence that specific groups such as young Muslim women have been targeted for radicalisation and grooming, leading to attempts to travel to the Middle East and place themselves at risk.

MDA College works in the main with at risk groups and therefore must recognise that vulnerability is not defined by gender, race, nationality, sexual preference, intellectual ability, physical disability, perceived personality traits or status.

Indicators

There is no standard template for radicalisation, but issues that may make an individual vulnerable to radicalisation can include:

- Identity Crisis - Distance from cultural / religious heritage and uncomfortable with their place in the society around them;
- Personal Crisis - Family tensions; sense of isolation; low self-esteem; disassociating from existing friendship group and becoming involved with a new and different group of friends; searching for answers to questions about identity, faith and belonging; growing distance from family or usual support systems; sudden reluctance to discuss personal life;
- Personal Circumstances - Migration; local community tensions; events affecting country or region of origin; alienation from UK values; having a sense of grievance that is triggered by personal experience of racism or discrimination or aspects of Government policy;
- Unmet Aspirations - Perceptions of injustice; feeling of failure; rejection of community values; rejection of others/rejecting those around them;
- Criminality - Experiences of imprisonment; previous involvement with criminal groups.

However, those closest to the individual may first notice the following changes of behaviour:

- Use of inappropriate language;
- Possession of violent extremist literature;
- Behavioural changes;
- The expression of extremist views;
- Advocating violent actions and means;
- Association with known extremists;
- Seeking to recruit others to an extremist ideology.

Created: 18/02/2019

Last Reviewed: 17/02/2023

To be reviewed: 20/02/2024

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It should be borne in mind that someone radicalised over the internet may exhibit little change in behaviour. Practitioners should ensure that assessments examine behaviour and the social context of the person and include information about the person's peer group and conduct and behaviour at school. Holding radical or extreme views is not illegal but inciting a person to commit an act in the name of any belief is in itself an offence. The safeguarding aim should be to engage with the person and, if there is a cause for concern, to ensure that such views are constructively challenged before an offence is committed.

Protection and Action to be taken

Any member of staff identifying concerns about a student should report them to the PREVENT officer named in this document, who will discuss these concerns with the relevant authority. MDA College will not be responsible for any action taken from this point, and involved parties will only be informed at the say of the authorities.

Students who report concerns about classmates will, as far as possible, not be identified outside of the management for their own safety. The same will be for staff or associates that raise any concerns, though any making an accusation may need to be available for police/agency questioning. False accusations of any kind by anyone will be treated very seriously and may result in termination of registration or contract.

Consideration will be given to the possibility that sharing information with parents/family members may increase the risk to the student and therefore may not be appropriate. However, experience has shown that family are key in challenging radical views and extremist behaviour and should be included in interventions unless there are clear reasons why not. Wherever possible, the response will be appropriately and proportionately provided from within the normal range of universal provision of our organisation working with other local agencies and partners. Responses could include curriculum provision, additional tutoring or mentoring, additional pastoral support within and out of school.

All students will be encouraged to participate in the local community and integrate through promotion of local activities and celebration of British culture in order to further promote British values. Students will also be encouraged through classroom personalisation, festival celebrations and promotion of events to share their own culture with other students. This will lead students to an appreciation of other cultures, nationalities and backgrounds.

Referral

This duty includes ensuring that students are trained to understand the risk of terrorism in the local area; to be able to identify when an individual is at risk of radicalisation; and to know what to do once that risk is identified by making a referral through the channel process.

Prevent Referral Forms are kept in Accident and Incident report. Attached is the picture of the forms.

Ring duty and Advice on 0113 3760336 (they will then refer you to the LCC Prevent Team or request you to complete a Referral Form)

You can ring /email the LCC Prevent Team for guidance and support.

Created: 18/02/2019

Last Reviewed: 17/02/2023

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Tel Number: 0113 3785831

E – mail Address: prevent@leeds.gov.uk

All prevent Referral Forms need to be e-mailed directly to the LCC Prevent Team for Validation checks: prevent@leeds.gov.uk

Safer School Officers need to send Referral Forms directly to CTU:
nectu.fimu@westyorkshire.pnn.police.uk

Teachers can contact these two persons at any time if they want to personally contact without informing the Prevent officer:

1. PC Richard Plummer
Phone: 07734983606
Email: richard.plummer@westyorkshire.pnn.police.uk
2. PC Dan Hardt
Phone: 07590356870
Email: daniel.hardt@westyorkshire.pnn.police.uk

Created: 18/02/2019

Last Reviewed: 17/02/2023

To be reviewed: 20/02/2024

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CONFIDENTIAL

PREVENT REFERRAL FORM [CAUSE FOR CONCERN FORM]

Internal use only

Ref No:

ABOUT YOU (REFERRER)			
Name			
Position			
Organisation			
Contact Phone number			
Email			
DETAILS OF THE PERSON YOU ARE CONCERNED ABOUT			
Name			
Gender			
Date of Birth			
Address			
Post Code			
Education Establishment Attended or Place Of Work (If applicable)			
School/FE Year (if applicable)			
Family Details			
Parent/Carer Name			
Contact Telephone Number/s			
E-mail Address			
Siblings			
Name	Date of Birth	Gender	School attended (if applicable)
Other important considerations (if applicable)			
Is there an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) in place	Brief details:		
Is there a history of absence	Brief details:		
Other safeguarding concerns (please list):			

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Section Two

DETAILS OF CONCERN	
a. How and when (date) was the concern raised?	
b. What is the nature of the concern?	
c. What actions have you taken? i.e. detail chronologically any conversations with the person concerned or any other people connected including members of staff	
d. Detail and date any conversations with parents (if applicable)	
e. Any other considerations e.g. internet history, school work, other agency involvement etc.	
f. Please provide a general overview of the person concerned (character, progress at school/work, friends).	

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g. Please detail any support provided to-date or support currently being organised.

Date Submitted	
Signed	

Please complete the referral form with as much detail as possible. Contact the Prevent Team in the first instance so secure email arrangements can be made via Mail Express¹.

prevent@leeds.gcsx.gov.uk

[Do not email any confidential information to this address]

OR

Contact: Leeds Safeguarding Children Board –
Duty & Advice Team
(0113 376 0336)

[Safer Schools Officers - email form direct to nectu.fimu@westyorkshire.pnn.police.uk
Copying in prevent@leeds.gcsx.gov.uk]

¹ An invite will be sent to you from Mail Express to set up an account so you can email the referral safely. You will also be given an email address to return the referral to – which will be a member of the Prevent Team. Do not use the Prevent Email address as Mail Express does not recognise this and we cannot access it.