

## WESTBOURNE ACADEMY PREVENT POLICY

### STATEMENT

Westbourne Academy understands its responsibilities under the Counter Terrorism & Security Act 2015 to prevent people of all ages being radicalised or drawn into terrorism and seeks to meet its obligations in the ways shown below, after setting the context.

### CONTEXT

Westbourne Academy accepts students aged 14 years and older all year round from all over the world. In its busiest weeks it may have 320 students, 25 staff and work with 170 homestay providers. The school has always promoted a multi-cultural environment where respect for and tolerance of others' beliefs is required. Westbourne Academy is located in a suburb of Bournemouth with a predominantly Caucasian population.

### LEADERSHIP

Responsibility for ensuring that the Prevent Duty is met lies with Mr Mark Halls, Principal.

### WORKING WITH LOCAL PARTNERS

- make and maintain contact with the local police Safer Neighbourhood Team
- develop local area Prevent links with other similar organisations e.g. International Education Association and Regional Accredited Language Schools Association
- share information with all local organisations as appropriate.

### UNDERSTANDING TERMINOLOGY

- **Radicalisation:** the act or process of making a person more radical or favouring of extreme or fundamental changes in political, economic or social conditions, institutions or habits of mind.
- **Extremism:** holding extreme political or religious views which may deny rights to any group or individual.

Extremism can refer to a range of views including:

- racism
- homophobia
- right-wing ideology
- religious extremism

Extremism can be expressed in vocal or active opposition to Core British values including:

- democracy
- the rule of law
- individual liberty
- respectful tolerance of different faiths or beliefs

### UNDERSTANDING RISK OF EXTREMISM

Staff, students and other adults e.g. group leaders or homestay providers may arrive at Westbourne Academy already holding extremist views. Alternatively, whilst attending Westbourne Academy they may be influenced by a range of factors:

- global events
- peer pressure
- media
- family views
- extremist materials
- inspirational speakers
- friends
- relatives being harmed
- social networks and more

Vulnerable people are more likely to be influenced. Vulnerability stems from a range of causes:

- loss of identity
- loss of sense of belonging
- isolation
- exclusion
- mental health problems
- sense of injustice
- personal crisis
- victim of hate crime
- victim of discrimination
- bereavement

## **COUNTERACTING RISKS OF EXTREMISM**

- promote a safe and supportive international environment via clear expectations of accepted behaviours and those, including radicalisation and extremism, that will not be tolerated
- promote core British values through documents given to students, notices around Westbourne Academy, via stand-alone classes on British culture and traditions on arrival and via curriculum
- develop critical awareness and thought to counter acceptance of extremism
- be ready to react when world or local events e.g. Paris attacks cause upset and likelihood of conflicting feelings being expressed
- ensure that extremist visitors do not attempt to use premises, expound views nor distribute materials
- encourage staff and homestays to get to know their students and their friendship groups making it easier to spot changes in behaviour

## **TRAINING**

Generic online training is available through the Education and Training Foundation at [www.foundationonline.org.uk/course/index.php?categoryid=14](http://www.foundationonline.org.uk/course/index.php?categoryid=14). The aim of training is to ensure understanding of the policy including:

- context and expectations of Prevent
- staff duty to implement the policy
- terminology and risks associated with radicalisation and extremism
- how to identify and support vulnerable students
- ways Westbourne Academy will counteract the risks
- signs to notice that may cause concern
- knowledge of the lead Prevent person and procedures for communicating concerns
- staff knowledge of the importance of their own behaviour and professionalism in:
  - being exemplars of British values
  - not discussing inflammatory subjects with students

Students and group leaders must be made aware of key parts of the policy:

- importance of maintaining a supportive and tolerant society in Westbourne Academy
- what core British values are
- any changes to rules particularly regarding IT
- that they must report concerns and understand reporting procedures

## **SIGNS THAT MAY CAUSE CONCERN**

- students talking about exposure to extremist views or literature outside Westbourne Academy
- changes in behaviour e.g. becoming isolated
- fall in standard of work, poor attendance, disengagement
- changes in attitude e.g. intolerance of differences, having a closed mind
- asking questions about topics which are connected to extremism
- offering opinions that appear to have come from extremist ideologies
- attempts to impose own views or beliefs on others
- use of extremist vocabulary to exclude others or incite violence
- accessing extremist material online or via social network sites
- overt new religious practices
- drawings or posters e.g. in accommodation showing extremist ideology, views or symbols
- students voicing concerns about anyone

## **HOW AND WHEN TO REACT TO CONCERNS**

- everyone given name of who to contact and how to contact them
- confidentiality assured for the person reporting a concern
- reassurance that all will be dealt with sensitively and carefully