

# **UPPINGHAM COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

## **A Specialist Technology Academy**

### **PREVENT POLICY**

**Review date: October 2017**

#### **Introduction**

Uppingham Community College is committed to providing a secure environment for all of our students, staff and stakeholders.

The current threat from terrorism extremism in the United Kingdom can involve the exploitation of vulnerable people, including children, young people and vulnerable adults to involve them in terrorism or activity in support of terrorism.

Since 2010, when the Government published the Prevent Strategy, there has been an awareness of the specific need to safeguard children, young people and families from violent extremism.

The 2011 Prevent Strategy has three specific objectives:

- \* Respond to the ideological challenge of terrorism and the threat we face from those who promote it;
- \* Prevent people from being drawn into terrorism and ensure they are given appropriate advice and support; and
- \* Work with sectors and institutions where there are risks of radicalisation that we need to address

As of July 1st 2015 there is a statutory duty for schools to report on extremists behaviours or act upon concerns they have related to extremism. Section 26 of the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 places a duty on certain bodies in the exercise of their functions to have “due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism”.

Uppingham Community College values freedom of speech and the expression of beliefs / ideology as fundamental rights underpinning our society’s values. Both students and teachers have the right to speak freely and voice their opinions. However, 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. Free speech is not an unqualified privilege; it is subject to laws and policies governing equality, human rights, community safety and community cohesion.

This Policy also draws upon the guidance contained in the “Prevent Duty Guidance for England and Wales, March 2015”; DfE Guidance “Keeping Children Safe in Education, 2015” and “Working together to safeguard children, March 2015”.

## **College Ethos and Practice**

There is no place for extremist views of any kind in our school, whether from internal sources – students, staff or governors, or external sources – college community, external agencies or individuals.

It is imperative that our students and parents see our college as a safe place where they can discuss and explore controversial issues safely and in an unbiased way and where our teachers encourage and facilitate this.

As a college we recognise that extremism and exposure to extremist materials and influences can lead to poor outcomes for our students. We also recognise that if we fail to challenge extremist views we are failing to protect our students.

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 Uppingham Community College 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 marginalised.

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 students may themselves reflect or display views that may be discriminatory, prejudiced or extremist, including using derogatory language.

Any prejudice, discrimination or extremist views, including derogatory language, displayed by students, staff, visitors or parents will always be challenged and where appropriate dealt with. Where misconduct by a teacher is proven the matter will be referred to the National College for Teaching and Leadership for their consideration as to whether to a Prohibition Order is warranted.

As part of wider safeguarding responsibilities college staff will be alert to:

- \* Disclosures by students 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 students have not actively sought these out.
- \* Graffiti symbols, writing or art work promoting extremist messages or images
- \* Students accessing extremist material online, including through social networking sites.
- \* Parental reports of changes in behaviour, friendship or actions and requests for assistance
- \* Local schools, Local Authority services, and police reports of issues affecting pupils in other schools or settings
- \* Students 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 college this will be achieved by good teaching, primarily during PDC and Citizenship lessons.

We will ensure that all of our teaching approaches help our students 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.

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.

This approach will be embedded within the ethos of our college so that students know and understand what safe and acceptable behaviour is in the context of extremism and radicalisation. This will work in conjunction with our schools approach to the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils as defined in SMSC policy.

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

At Uppingham Community College we encourage the use of external agencies or speakers to enrich the experiences of our students; 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. We must be aware that in some instances the work of external agencies may not directly be connected with the rest of the college curriculum so we need to ensure that this work is of benefit to our students.

Our college will assess the suitability and effectiveness of input from external agencies or individuals to ensure that:

- \* Any messages communicated to students support fundamental British Values
- \* Any messages communicated to students are consistent with the ethos of the college and do not marginalise any communities, groups or individuals

- \* Any messages communicated to students do not seek to glorify criminal activity or violent extremism or seek to radicalise students through extreme or narrow views of faith, religion or culture or other ideologies

- \* Activities are properly embedded in the curriculum and clearly mapped to schemes of work to avoid contradictory messages or duplication.

- \* Activities are matched to the needs of students

We recognise, however, that the ethos of our college is to encourage students to understand opposing views and ideologies, appropriate to their age, understanding and abilities, and to be able to actively engage with them in informed debate, and we may use external agencies or speakers to facilitate and support this.

Therefore by delivering a broad and balanced curriculum, augmented by the use of external sources where appropriate, we will strive to ensure our students recognise risk and build resilience to manage any such risk themselves where appropriate to their age and ability but also to help students develop the critical thinking skills needed to engage in informed debate.

Our school, like all others, is required to identify a Designated Safeguarding Lead who will be the lead within the organisation for safeguarding in relation to protecting individuals from radicalisation and involvement in terrorism. The DSL is the Head of Inclusion.

Staff at Uppingham Community College 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 Uppingham Community College (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 or if they have concerns that a student may be at risk of radicalisation or involvement in terrorism. They should speak with the DSL, or to Assistant Principal. **Disclosures should be reported without delay in line with guidance in our safeguarding policy.**