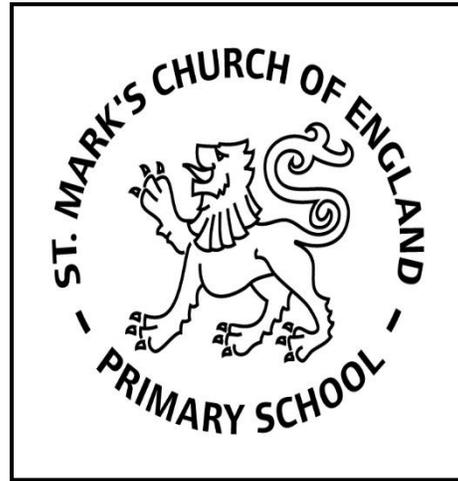
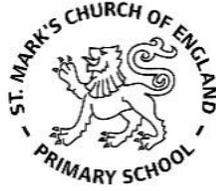


**Safeguarding children who are  
vulnerable to extremism and  
radicalization policy**



*'Thy Word is a Lamp to my Feet  
and a Light to my Path'  
Psalm 119 v 105*

*"Every Child, Every Chance, Every Day"*



Every Child, Every Chance, Every Day

## **St Mark's C of E Primary School** **Policy for Safeguarding Children who are vulnerable to** **Extremism and Radicalisation**

Governors and staff are committed to delivering the very best for our children. Our Vision is fundamental to our role as a Church of England School with its roots coming from the original blessing and verse presented to our school on its official opening in 1955.

***Thy word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.***

*Psalm 119 Vs 105*

***The following five components describe the desired outcomes we offer through it.***

- *Together, we will prepare you for life and learning*
- *Together, we will teach you to live within the values of God's word*
- *Together, we will safely lead you on your journey*
- *Together, we will guide you to a fulfilling future*
- *Together, we will forever help you to grow in confidence*

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. There have been several occasions both locally and nationally in which extremist groups have attempted to radicalise vulnerable children 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.

St Mark's CE Primary School values freedom of speech and the expression of beliefs / ideology as fundamental rights underpinning our society's values. Both children 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.

The current threat from terrorism in the United Kingdom may include the exploitation of vulnerable people, to involve them in terrorism or in activity in support of terrorism. The normalisation of extreme views may also make children and young people vulnerable to future manipulation and exploitation. Our school is clear that this exploitation and radicalisation should be viewed as a safeguarding concern.

St Mark's CE Primary School seeks to protect children and young people against the messages of all violent extremism including, but not restricted to, those linked to Islamist ideology, or to Far Right / Neo Nazi / White Supremacist ideology, Irish Nationalist and Loyalist paramilitary groups, and extremist Animal Rights movements.

### **Risk Reduction**

The school governors, the Headteacher and the Designated Safeguarding Lead will assess the level of risk within the school and put actions in place to reduce that risk. Risk assessment may include consideration of the school's RE curriculum, SEND policy, Collective Worship policy, the use of school premises by external agencies, integration of pupils by gender and SEN, anti-bullying policy and other issues specific to the school's profile, community and philosophy.

### **Response**

Our school, like all others, is required to identify a Prevent Single Point of Contact (SPOC) who will be the lead within the organisation for safeguarding in relation to protecting individuals from radicalisation and involvement in terrorism: this will normally be the Designated Safeguarding Lead. The SPOC for St Mark's CE Primary School is Martha Braithwaite, Headteacher. The responsibilities of the SPOC are described below.

When any member of staff has concerns that a pupil may be at risk of radicalisation or involvement in terrorism, they should speak with the SPOC and to the Designated Safeguarding Lead if this is not the same person.

Numerous factors can contribute to and influence the range of behaviours that are defined as violent extremism, but most young people do not become involved in extremist action. For this reason the appropriate interventions in any particular case may not have any specific connection to the threat of radicalisation, for example they may address mental health, relationship or drug/alcohol issues.

## **INDICATORS OF VULNERABILITY TO RADICALISATION**

1. Radicalisation refers to the process by which a person comes to support terrorism and forms of extremism leading to terrorism.
2. Extremism is defined by the Government in the Prevent Strategy as:  
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.
3. Extremism is defined by the Crown Prosecution Service as:  
The demonstration of unacceptable behaviour by using any means or medium to express views which:

- Encourage, justify or glorify terrorist violence in furtherance of particular beliefs;
- Seek to provoke others to terrorist acts;
- Encourage other serious criminal activity or seek to provoke others to serious criminal acts;  
or
- Foster hatred which might lead to inter-community violence in the UK.

4. There is no such thing as a “typical extremist”: those who become involved in extremist actions come from a range of backgrounds and experiences, and most individuals, even those who hold radical views, do not become involved in violent extremist activity.
5. Children may become susceptible to radicalisation through a range of social, personal and environmental factors - it is known that violent extremists exploit vulnerabilities in individuals to drive a wedge between them and their families and communities. It is vital that school staff are able to recognise those vulnerabilities.
6. Indicators of vulnerability include:
  - Identity Crisis – the child is distanced from their cultural / religious heritage and experiences discomfort about their place in society;
  - Personal Crisis – the child may be experiencing family tensions; a sense of isolation; and low self-esteem; they may have dissociated from their existing friendship group and become involved with a new and different group of friends; they may be searching for answers to questions about identity, faith and belonging;
  - Personal Circumstances – migration; local community tensions; and events affecting the child’s country or region of origin may contribute to a sense of grievance that is triggered by personal experience of racism or discrimination or aspects of Government policy;
  - Unmet Aspirations – the child may have perceptions of injustice; a feeling of failure; rejection of civic life;
  - Experiences of Criminality – which may include involvement with criminal groups, imprisonment, and poor resettlement / reintegration;
  - Special Educational Need – children may experience difficulties with social interaction, empathy with others, understanding the consequences of their actions and awareness of the motivations of others.
7. However, this list is not exhaustive, nor does it mean that all children experiencing the above are at risk of radicalisation for the purposes of violent extremism.
8. More critical risk factors could include:
  - Being in contact with extremist recruiters;
  - Accessing violent extremist websites, especially those with a social networking element;
  - Possessing or accessing violent extremist literature;

- Using extremist narratives and a global ideology to explain personal disadvantage;
- Justifying the use of violence to solve societal issues;
- Joining or seeking to join extremist organisations; and
- Significant changes to appearance and / or behaviour;
- Experiencing a high level of social isolation resulting in issues of identity crisis and / or personal crisis.

**PREVENTING VIOLENT EXTREMISM**  
**ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE SINGLE POINT OF CONTACT (SPOC)**

The SPOC for St Mark's CE Primary School is Martha Braithwaite, who is responsible for:

- Ensuring that staff of the school are aware who the SPOC is in relation to protecting children from radicalisation and involvement in terrorism;
- Maintaining and applying a good understanding of the relevant guidance in relation to preventing children from becoming involved in terrorism, and protecting them from radicalisation by those who support terrorism or forms of extremism which lead to terrorism;
- Raising awareness about the role and responsibilities of St Mark's CE Primary School in relation to protecting children from radicalisation and involvement in terrorism;
- Monitoring the effect in practice of the school's RE curriculum and assembly policy to ensure that they are used to promote community cohesion and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs;
- Raising awareness within the school about the safeguarding processes relating to protecting children from radicalisation and involvement in terrorism;
- Acting as the first point of contact within the school for case discussions relating to children who may be at risk of radicalisation or involved in terrorism;
- Collating relevant information in relation to referrals of vulnerable children and liaising with local authority safeguarding children's board as necessary;
- attending local authority safeguarding children's board meetings in relation to preventing extremism and radicalisation as necessary and carrying out any actions as agreed;
- Reporting progress on actions to the local authority safeguarding children's; and
- Sharing any relevant additional information in a timely manner.

In view of this additional responsibility on schools, LGfL has drawn on the expertise of officers within the LGfL e-safety community, and worked in partnership with Sara Khan from counter-extremism and women's rights organisation Inspire, to create a new video-based resource: **Counter-Extremism – narratives and conversations**.

The resource is primarily aimed at school staff, but may be deemed appropriate for use in Citizenship and PSHE lessons.

For further details: <http://www.lgfl.net/esafety/Pages/counter-extremism.aspx>

To access the resource: [www.counterextremism.lgfl.net](http://www.counterextremism.lgfl.net)

Reviewed and ratified by Governing body	Spring Term 2021		
Next Revision (Please highlight as appropriate)	<b>Annual</b>	<b>Biennial</b>	Tri-annual
To be reviewed	Spring Term 2023		