



Queenswood School

The 'Prevent Duty' and British Values: Keeping our Children Safe in our Modern Society

There has been a great deal in the media recently regarding schools and their duties to protect children from being drawn into terrorism. In the light of international concerns in this matter, it is essential to keep our children safe in every way.

Whilst it is highly unlikely that anyone connected with Queenswood School should ever be involved or drawn into terrorism, we are nevertheless trained to deal with this very serious issue in accordance with the DfE document known as the Prevent Duty'. In order for schools to fulfil the 'Prevent Duty', it is essential that staff are able to identify children who may be vulnerable to radicalisation, and know what to do when they are identified. Protecting children from the risk of radicalisation is similar in nature to protecting children from other harms (e.g. drugs, gangs, neglect, sexual exploitation), whether these come from within their family or are the product of outside influences. Schools also build pupils' resilience to radicalisation by promoting fundamental British values and enabling them to challenge extremist views. It is important to emphasise that the 'Prevent duty' is not intended to stop pupils debating controversial issues. On the contrary, we continue to provide a safe space in which children and staff can understand the risks associated with terrorism and develop the knowledge and skills to be able to challenge extremist arguments.

The guidance on the 'Prevent Duty' summarises the requirements on schools in terms of risk assessment, working in partnership, staff training, IT policies and also requires schools to build up pupils' resilience to being drawn into radicalisation:

Risk Assessment: We have robust policies and risk assessments regarding the use of the internet and agreements exist between school, pupils and parents for that usage. There are very powerful narratives, programmes and networks that young people can come across online or through social media so involvement with particular groups may not be outwardly apparent and those at risk may be encouraged not to draw attention to themselves. Even very young children may be vulnerable to radicalisation by others, whether in the family or outside, and display concerning behaviour. Vigilance is required and all members of the school community must work together to protect our children. However, the 'Prevent' duty does not require teachers to carry out unnecessary intrusion into family life but as with any other safeguarding risk, the school would take action if any concerning behaviour is observed. Clear procedures are in place for protecting children at risk of radicalisation. General safeguarding principles apply to keeping children safe from the risk of radicalisation as set out in the relevant DfE statutory guidance, 'Working together to safeguard children' and 'Keeping children safe in education'.

Working in Partnership: The 'Prevent Duty' builds on existing local partnership arrangements. The Leeds Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) is responsible for co-ordinating what is done by local agencies for the purposes of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in their local area. Safeguarding arrangements at Queenswood School take into account the policies and procedures of the Leeds LSCB.

Staff training: The Home Office has developed a core training product for this purpose – 'Workshop to Raise Awareness of Prevent' (WRAP) which is delivered in conjunction with the LSCB. The Head and Deputy Head have undertaken this training and all staff



have a general understanding concerning the risks affecting children in safeguarding and a specific understanding of how to identify individual children who may be at risk of radicalisation and what to do to support them.

IT policies: What is good practice for safeguarding in other fields is good practice for vulnerability to extremism. There are two factors which will impact upon online safeguarding: user-behaviour and network security. At Queenswood School we have very close supervision of children using ICT to ensure that they are not viewing anything inappropriate. We enforce acceptable use strategies for all users and a Netiquette Agreement for KS2 pupils and parents. These facilitate safe strategies which include access to private email on the network; ensuring web connected computers are in public areas, and monitoring browsing history. We ensure that pupils, parents and staff know what to do should they become concerned about something or who to contact.

Measures to develop pupils' resilience: Queenswood School promotes the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils and, within this, fundamental British values. Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE) is an effective way of providing pupils with time to explore sensitive or controversial issues, and equipping them with the knowledge and skills to understand and manage difficult situations. Our assembly programme explores the strands of fundamental British Values (which we define as Democracy, the Rule of Law, Individual Liberty, Mutual Respect and Tolerance of those from different Faiths and Beliefs) and the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.



In addition:

- We teach pupils to recognise and manage risk, make safer choices, and recognise when pressure from others threatens their personal safety and wellbeing. They also develop effective ways of resisting pressures, including knowing when, where and how to get help.
- We encourage our pupils to develop positive character traits through PSHE, such as resilience, determination, self-esteem, and confidence. Our work in the Unicef 'Rights Respecting Award' is a valuable scaffold for these debates and awareness. Our Behaviour programme promotes and celebrates positive achievements. In addition, we offer many activities which promote community cohesion with opportunities for channelling positive engagement e.g. charities / community work. Our children reflect on their behaviour and how this impacts on others.
- We provide our pupils with the knowledge, skills and understanding to prepare them to play a full and active part in society. Queenswood equips pupils to explore political and social issues critically, to weigh evidence, to debate, and to make reasoned arguments. Our pupils learn about democracy, government and how laws are made and upheld. The school council promotes the pupil voice in school and allows our children to realise that their opinions are valued and taken seriously. Children experience the diverse national, regional, religious and ethnic identities in the United Kingdom and recognise the need for mutual respect and understanding. Through various projects, the school community celebrates the enrichment that our culturally diverse society offers.

E-Safety at Queenswood School: a guide for parents

ICT at Queenswood School supports children's learning in all subjects, including:

- **Word processing** to write poems or letters
- **Spreadsheets** to create tables and graphs
- **Multimedia presentations** to present pictures, text and sound
- **Drawing programs** to create pictures and designs
- **Internet and CD-ROMs** to find information
- **Databases** to record information e.g. minibeasts
- **Email** to communicate with other children
- **Digital cameras/videos** to record what they have done in class
- **Controllable robots** to give instructions to devices

We recognise that ICT is not just about using a computer: it includes the use of controllable toys, digital cameras; video cameras; DVD players, etc. It is vitally important that school and home ensure that every child is safe, at all times. The internet is a valuable and powerful educational tool which the children use frequently during lessons or at home to search for information, play on games and learn how to send emails as well as many other things.

Using the Internet safely at home: whilst many Internet Service Providers offer filtering systems to help you safeguard your child at home, it is still relatively easy for children to access inappropriate material online. However, it is really important not to deny your child the opportunity to learn from the wide variety of material and games available on the Internet. Instead set some simple rules for keeping them safe and make sure they understand their importance.

- Simple rules for keeping your child safe at home:
- ask permission before using the internet
- only use websites you have chosen together or a child friendly search engine
- only email people they know and always ask permission before opening an email sent by someone they don't know
- not use internet chat rooms (subscribe to a safe one - superclubsplus.com)
- not use their real name when using games on the Internet (create a nick name)
- never give out a home address or phone number
- never tell someone they don't know where they go to school
- never arrange to meet someone they have 'met' on the internet
- only use a webcam with people they know
- tell you immediately if they see anything they are unhappy with.

We suggest that you log onto the following sites for more advice:

- CEOP: www.ceop.gov.uk
- Think U Know: www.thinkuknow.co.uk or Childnet: www.childnet-int.org

When searching the Internet use one of these child-friendly search engines:

- Ask Jeeves for kids at www.askforkids.com or Yahoo! Kids at www.kids.yahoo.com
- CBBC Search at www.bbc.co.uk/cbbc/search