

Preventing Extremism & Radicalisation Policy

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DRAFT	November 2021	DW	Draft for consideration @ C&W Committee
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Associated documents
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ MCS Safeguarding & Child Protection Policy ★ MCC Safeguarding Policy ★ Keeping Learners Safe 2022 Keeping Learners Safe ★ Wales Safeguarding Procedures 2019 https://www.safeguarding.wales/ ★ UNCRC https://www.unicef.org.uk/what-we-do/un-convention-child-rights/ ★ WG guidance on Use of Reasonable Force https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2018-03/safe-and-effective-

1. Introduction

Monmouth Comprehensive School is committed to providing a secure environment for students, where children feel safe and are kept safe. All adults at Monmouth Comprehensive School recognise that safeguarding is everyone's responsibility, irrespective of the role they undertake or whether their role has direct contact or responsibility for children or not.

In adhering to this policy, and the procedures therein, staff and visitors will contribute to Monmouth Comprehensive School's delivery of the outcomes to all children, as set out in s10 (2) of the Children Act 2004. This Preventing Extremism and Radicalisation Safeguarding Policy is one element within our overall school arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children in line with our statutory duties set out at s175 of the Education Act 2002.

2. School Ethos and Practice

When operating this policy, Monmouth Comprehensive School uses the following accepted Governmental definition of extremism which 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; and/or calls for the death of members of our armed forces, whether in this country or overseas’.

There is no place for extremist views of any kind in our school, whether from internal sources – students, staff or governors, or external sources – school community, external agencies or individuals. Our students see our school as a safe place where they can explore controversial issues safely and where our teachers encourage and facilitate this – we have a duty to ensure this happens.

As a school we recognise that extremism and exposure to extremist materials and influences can lead to poor outcomes for children and so should be addressed as a safeguarding concern, as set out in this policy. 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 Monmouth Comprehensive School we will provide a broad and balanced curriculum, delivered by skilled professionals, so that our students are enriched, understand and become tolerant of difference and diversity and also to ensure that they thrive, feel valued and not marginalised. Furthermore, at Monmouth Comprehensive School 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 or staff will always be challenged, and where appropriate dealt with in line with our Relationship Policy. Where misconduct by a teacher is proven, the matter will be referred to the ~~GTCW~~ EWC via the ~~Safeguarding Office~~ Designated Safeguarding Person and Headteacher.

As part of a wider safeguarding responsibilities school 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.
- ★ Partner schools, local authority services, police reports of issues affecting students 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 Equality 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.

Our school will closely follow any locally agreed procedure as set out by the Local Authority/~~LSCB~~ South East Wales Children's Safeguarding Board SEWCSB

3. Teaching Approaches

We will 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 school this will be achieved by good teaching, primarily via ~~PSHE~~ RSE and the Wellbeing Curriculum, and by adopting the methods suggested by the Welsh Government.

We will ensure that all of our teaching approaches help our students build resilience to extremism and give students 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.

Monmouth Comprehensive School is committed to:

- ★ Making a connection with young people through good teaching and a student centred approach.
- ★ Facilitating a 'safe space' for dialogue, and
- ★ Equipping our students with the appropriate skills, knowledge, understanding and awareness for resilience.

Therefore, this approach will be embedded within the ethos of our school so that students know and understand what safe and acceptable behaviour is in the context of extremism and radicalisation. Our goal is to build mutual respect and understanding and to promote the use of dialogue, not violence, as a form of conflict resolution. We will achieve this by using a curriculum that includes:

- ★ Equipping our students with the appropriate skills, knowledge, understanding and awareness for resilience.
- ★ Integrated curriculum.
- ★ Open discussion and debate.
- ★ Work on anti-violence and a restorative approach addressed throughout curriculum and the behaviour policy.
- ★ Focussed educational programmes.

We will also work with local partners, families and communities in our efforts to ensure our school understands and embraces our local context and values in challenging extremist views and to assist in the broadening of our students' experiences and horizons. We will help support students who may be vulnerable to such influences as part of our wider safeguarding responsibilities and where we believe a student is being directly affected by extremist materials or influences, we will ensure that the student is offered mentoring.

Additionally, in such instances, our school will seek external support from the Local Authority and/or local partnership structures working to prevent extremism.

We will absolutely not tolerate bullying of any kind at MCS. Please refer to our separate Anti-Bullying Policy that outlines how MCS deals with bullying. Cyber bullying will also not be tolerated and any student who uses equipment to video or take pictures of other students, visitors or staff and then posts them on social media will be dealt with very seriously. MCS will contact the Police and All Wales Partners Prevent Referral Form for further action if the school deems it appropriate.

4. Use of External Agencies and Speakers

At Monmouth Comprehensive School 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 students.

These external agencies will be vetted 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 school curriculum so we need to ensure that this work is of benefit to students.

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

- ★ Any messages communicated to students are consistent with the ethos of the school and do not marginalise any communities, groups or individuals
- ★ Any messages 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
- ★ Activities are carefully evaluated by schools to ensure that they are effective.

We recognise, however, that the ethos of our school 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 and enrichment programme 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.

Where there are concerns of extremism or radicalisation, Students, Staff and Governors will be encouraged to make use of our internal systems to Whistle Blow or raise any issue in confidence.

They must inform the Headteacher straight away (or if it related to the Headteacher, inform the Chair of Governors and the Designated Safeguarding Person ~~Officer~~).

5. Whistleblowing

Prevent Duties

In March 2015, the Counter Terrorism and Security Act received Royal Assent. The Act includes how we need to work together to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism.

Where we become aware of information involving identification of potential instances of extremism and radicalisation we will refer to Adult/Children's Services in the same way as for all safeguarding concerns.

The purpose of these arrangements are to safeguard learners who are, or could be, vulnerable to radicalisation which could in turn lead to their involvement in a range of activities with the potential for harm to themselves and other people.

Please refer to our Safeguarding Policy for the full procedural framework on our Safeguarding and Child Protection duties.

Staff at Monmouth Comprehensive School will be alerted 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 Monmouth Comprehensive School (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 to the Designated Safeguarding Person ~~Lead~~ or Headteacher.

The Designated Safeguarding Person ~~Lead~~ is: Mandy Davies & Rachel Bailey

The Deputy Designated Safeguarding Person ~~Lead~~ is: Jonathan Owen & Alex Rodda

7. Role of the Governing Body

The Governing Body of our School will undertake appropriate training to ensure that they are clear about their role and the parameters of their responsibilities as Governors, including their statutory safeguarding duties.

The Governing Body of our school will support the ethos and values of our school and will support the school in tackling extremism and radicalisation.

In line with the provisions set out in the Welsh Government guidance 'Respect and Resilience 2014' the Governing Body will challenge the school's senior management team on the delivery of this policy and monitor its effectiveness.

8. Review

Governors will review this policy biennially.