

1 2 1 Prevent Policy

Albany Montessori School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and expects all staff to share this commitment.

Policy Statement

This policy has been developed in accordance with the Prevent Duty & Promoting British Values. From 1st July 2015 all schools, registered early years childcare providers and registered later years childcare providers are subject to a duty under section 26 of the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015, in the exercise of their functions, to have “due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism”.

This duty is known as the Prevent Duty. To ensure staff are aware of the Prevent Strategy and able to protect children who are vulnerable or at risk of being radicalised. The prevent duty care policy is part of our wider safeguarding duties in keeping children safe from harm, and this new policy reinforces our existing duties by spreading understanding of the prevention of radicalisation.

This Policy is intended to serve as a guidance for practitioners to recognise the signs of those who are at risk and also to inform parents of our legal requirement to put this policy into operation.

Recognising Radicalisation and Extremism

What is Radicalism?

- Radicalism refers to the process by which a person comes to support all forms of extremism.
- Protecting children from the risk of radicalisation is seen as part of our wider safeguarding duties, and is similar in nature to protecting children from other forms of harm and abuse.
- During the process of radicalisation it is possible to intervene to prevent vulnerable people being radicalised.
- There is no single way of identifying an individual who is likely to be susceptible to an extremist ideology, it can happen in many different ways and settings. Specific background factors may contribute to vulnerability which are often combined with specific influences such as family, friends or online, and with specific needs for which an extremist or terrorist group may appear to provide an answer.

What is Extremism?

- Extremism 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, beliefs and ethnicities.

Albany Montessori School will:-

- Provide and make available appropriate training for staff. Part of this training will enable staff to identify children who may be at risk of radicalisation.
- We will build the children's resilience to radicalisation by promoting fundamental British values and enabling them to challenge extremist views (for early years providers the statutory framework for the EYFS sets standards for learning, development and care for children from 0-5, thereby assisting their personal, social and emotional development and understanding of the world).
- We will assess the risk, by means of a formal risk assessment, of children being drawn into support for any extremist ideas.
- We will ensure that our staff understand the risks so that they can respond in an appropriate and proportionate way.
- We will be aware of the online risk of radicalisation through the use of social media and the internet.
- As with managing other safeguarding risks, our staff will be alert to changes in children's behaviour which could indicate that they may be in need of help or protection (children at risk of radicalisation may display different signs or seek to hide their views). The Key Person approach means we already know our key children well and so we will notice any changes in behaviour, demeanour or personality quickly.
- We will not carry out unnecessary intrusion into family life but we will take action when we observe behaviour of concern. The key person approach means that we already have a rapport with our families so we will notice any changes in behaviour, demeanour or personality quickly.
- We will work in partnership with our HCSP (Hertfordshire Children's Safeguarding Partnership) for guidance and support.
- We will build up an effective engagement with parents/carers and families. (This is important as they are in a key position to spot signs of radicalisation).
- We will assist and advise families who raise concerns with us. It is important to assist and advise families who raise concerns and be able to point them to the right support mechanisms

Staff Responsibilities and Risk Assessment

- All practitioners must be able to identify children who may be vulnerable to radicalisation risk of children being drawn into any form of extremism.
- There is no single way of identifying an individual who is likely to be susceptible to an extremist ideology, but staff should be alert to changes in children's behaviour, including even very young children, which could indicate they may be in need of help or protection.
- People from any walks of life can be drawn into radicalisation and not necessarily from a particular religion or ethnicity.
- As with managing other safeguarding risks, staff should be alert to changes in children's behaviour which could indicate that they may be in need of help or protection. Staff should use their professional judgement in identifying children who might be at risk of radicalisation and act proportionately which may include making a referral to the Channel program (see below).

Cultivating British Values

- The best way to help children resist or challenge extremist views is to teach them to think critically and become independent learners, which is fundamental to the Characteristics of Effective Learning and Teaching embedded in the EYFS.
- We endeavour to support our children through the EYFS by providing playful learning opportunities to help them develop positive diverse and communal identities, as well as their well-being, their empathy and emotional literacy, while continuing to take action to eradicate inequalities, bullying, discrimination, exclusion, aggression and violence; all of which fosters and secures children's pro-social behaviours and responsible citizenship and real sense of belonging.

Procedure for Reporting Concerns

- If a member of staff in the nursery has a concern about a particular pupil they should follow the nursery's normal safeguarding procedures, including discussing with the nursery's Designated Persons: Fawzia Topan, Tim Hodgson and Natasha Beaumont.
- The nursery Designated Person can also contact the local police force by dialling 101 (the non-emergency number). They will then talk in confidence about the concerns and help to access support and advice. Also, they can advise if this would be a case for Channel.
- The Department for Education has dedicated a telephone helpline (020 7340 7264) to enable staff to raise concerns relating to extremism directly. Concerns can also be raised by an email to counter.extremism@education.gsi.gov.uk.
- Please note that the helpline is not intended for use in emergency situations: should a child be deemed to be at immediate risk of harm or there is a security incident, the Emergency Services must be called immediately by dialling 999 or 112.

Channel

- Channel is a programme which focuses on providing support at an early stage to people who are identified as being vulnerable to being drawn into any form of extremism. It provides a mechanism for schools to make referrals if they are concerned that an individual might be vulnerable to radicalisation. An individual's engagement with the programme is entirely voluntary at all stages. Local authorities have a duty to ensure Channel panels are in place. The panel must be chaired by the local authority and include the police for the relevant local authority area. Following a referral the panel will assess the extent to which identified individuals are vulnerable to being drawn into extremism, and, where considered appropriate and necessary consent is obtained, arrange for support to be provided to those individuals. Channel is available at:
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/channel-guidance>