

OUR CO-OPERATIVE ACADEMIES TRUST

Preventing Extremism and Radicalisation Policy 2015 - 2016



Origin: Gloucestershire Local Authority

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OUR Co-operative Academies Trust

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1. Introduction

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

This '*Preventing Extremism and Radicalisation Policy*' is one element within our overall Academy 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 (s157 of the Education Act 2002).

Our Academy's 'Preventing Extremism and Radicalisation Policy' also draws upon the guidance contained in DfE Guidance "Keeping Children Safe in Education 2015"; and specifically DCSF Resources "Learning Together to be Safe", "Prevent: Resources Guide", "Tackling Extremism in the UK", DfE's "Teaching Approaches that help Build Resilience to Extremism among Young People" and Peter Clarke's Report of July 2014.

- The physical, mental health and emotional well-being of children; the protection of children from harm and neglect; the education, training and recreation of children; the contribution made by them to society; and their social and economic well-being.

2. School Ethos and Practice

When operating this Policy Beaufort Co-operative Academy 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 Academy, whether from internal sources – students, staff or governors, or external sources – school community, external agencies or individuals. Our students see our Academy as a safe place where they can explore controversial issues safely and where our staff encourage and facilitate this – we have a duty to ensure this happens.

As an Academy, 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 Beaufort Co-operative Academy we will provide a broad and balanced curriculum, delivered by skilled professionals, so that our students are enriched, understand

OUR Co-operative Academies Trust Preventing Extremism and Radicalisation Policy

Date of Review: September 2016

and become tolerant of difference and diversity and also to ensure that they thrive, feel valued and not marginalised.

Furthermore, at Beaufort Co-operative Academy 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 Behaviour Policy for students and the Conduct Policy for staff. Where misconduct by a member of staff is proven, the matter will be referred to the Gloucestershire Safeguarding Children's Board and, thereafter in the case of teachers, the National College for Teaching and Leadership for their consideration as to whether a Prohibition Order is warranted.

As part of wider safeguarding responsibilities Academy 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 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.

Our Academy will closely follow any locally agreed procedure as set out by The Gloucestershire Safeguarding Children Board's agreed processes and criteria for safeguarding individuals vulnerable to extremism and radicalisation.

At Beaufort Co-operative Academy, we have determined "British Values" to be:

- Democracy
- The Rule of Law
- Individual Liberty
- Mutual respect
- Tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs.

OUR Co-operative Academies Trust

Preventing Extremism and Radicalisation Policy

Date of Review: September 2016

As an academy, we aim to develop and nurture these by:

- Promoting the Co-operative values in lessons by staff and other students being role models, in tutor time and through the learning community systems. The Co-operative Values are:
 - Democracy;
 - Social responsibility;
 - Caring for others;
 - Honesty;
 - Self-responsibility;
 - Equality;
 - Openness;
 - Self-help;
 - Equality and solidarity.
- Planning a vibrant, engaging Assembly programme with core ethical values and beliefs as its heart;
- A well-structured Personal, Social, Health and Citizenship education programme which addresses all of the requirements of the programmes of study (looking at Democracy, Freedom, the Rule of Law, Human Rights and responsibilities);
- A strong Religious Studies programme.
- Effective and well-managed School Council enabling students to actively participate in the democratic process;
- A broad and balanced curriculum which addresses many of these core values across a range of subject areas.
- Having a clearly communicated and consistently applied Behaviour Policy so that students understand what is expected of them and the consequences of both meeting and failing to meet these expectations.
- Adopting restorative approaches, where possible, to resolve any difficulties between members of our Academy community.
- Having a rigorous commitment to student safety (for example: trips and visits policy and procedures, Safeguarding procedures, Staff Code of Conduct and Health and Safety procedures).

3. Teaching Approaches

Beaufort Co-operative Academy 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 Academy this will be achieved by good teaching, primarily via Citizenship, but also by adopting the methods outlined in the Government's guidance 'Teaching approaches that help build resilience to extremism among young people' DfE 2011.

Beaufort Co-operative Academy will ensure that all 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.

Beaufort Co-operative Academy 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. In doing so we will apply the 'key

OUR Co-operative Academies Trust Preventing Extremism and Radicalisation Policy

Date of Review: September 2016

ingredients' for success as set out in the Table in Appendix 1 taken from the DfE document above and we will apply the methodologies set out in that document following the three broad categories of:

- 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 Academy 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 Academy's approach to the Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural development of students as defined in Ofsted's School Inspection Handbook and will include the sound use of assemblies to help further promote this rounded development of our students.

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:

- Citizenship programmes
- Open discussion and debate
- Work on anti-violence and a restorative approach addressed throughout curriculum and the behaviour policy.
- Focused educational programmes.

We will also work with local partners, families and communities in our efforts to ensure our Academy 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 student is offered mentoring. Additionally, in such instances our Academy will seek external support from local partnership structures working to prevent extremism.

At Beaufort Co-operative Academy we will promote the values of democracy, the Rule of Law, individual liberty, mutual respect and tolerance for those with different faiths and beliefs. We will teach and encourage students to respect one another and to respect and tolerate difference, especially those of a different faith or no faith. It is indeed our most fundamental responsibility to keep our students safe and prepare them for life in modern multi-cultural Britain and globally.

4. Use of External Agencies and Speakers

At Beaufort Co-operative Academy 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.

OUR Co-operative Academies Trust Preventing Extremism and Radicalisation Policy

Date of Review: September 2016

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 Academy'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 Academy's curriculum so we need to ensure that this work is of benefit to students.

Our Academy 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 Academy 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 to ensure that they are effective.

We recognise, however, that the ethos of our Academy is to encourage students to understand opposing views and ideologies, appropriate to their age, understanding and abilities, and 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.

5. Whistle Blowing

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 Principal straight away (or if it relates to the Principal inform the Chair of Governors).

6. Safeguarding

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

Staff at Beaufort Co-operative Academy 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).

OUR Co-operative Academies Trust

Preventing Extremism and Radicalisation Policy

Date of Review: September 2016

Therefore, all adults working in Beaufort Co-operative Academy (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 Lead.

In Beaufort Co-operative Academy our Safeguarding reporting arrangements are set out fully in our Safeguarding Policy.

The Designated SLT Safeguarding Lead is: Mrs Clare Hankey

Other Designated Safeguarding Leads are: Angela Burns and Karen Greening.

7. Role of Governing Body

The Governing Body of our Academy 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 Academy will support the ethos and values of our Academy and will support the Academy in tackling extremism and radicalisation. Any incidents relating to students displaying radical or extremist tendencies will be reported to the Multi Academy Trust Board.

In line with the provisions set out in the DfE guidance 'Keeping Children Safe in Education, 2015', the governing body will challenge the Academy's Senior Leadership Team on the delivery of this policy and monitor its effectiveness.

Responsibilities

All staff, local governing body, Multi Academy Trust Board

Further References

Safeguarding Policy
Curriculum Statement
Behaviour Policy