

Alfreton Park Community Special School
Learning Together for Personal Success
Promoting Fundamental British Values and Preventing Radicalisation and Extremism

Context:

The Department of Education have recently reinforced the need *“to create and enforce a clear and rigorous expectation on all schools to promote the fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs.”* The Government set out its definition of British values in the 2011 Prevent Strategy, and these values have been reiterated by the Prime Minister.

In addition, the Governing Body of Alfreton Park has a **zero tolerance** approach to radicalisation of and extremist behaviour for all school community members. These terms are increasingly being used and are defined accordingly:

Radicalisation is defined as the act or process of making a person more radical or favouring of extreme or fundamental changes in political, economic or social conditions, institutions or habits of the mind.

Extremism is defined as the holding of extreme political or religious views.

Although serious incidents involving radicalisation have not occurred at Alfreton Park to date, it is important for us to be constantly vigilant and remain fully informed about the issues which affect the region in which we teach. Staff are reminded to suspend any professional disbelief that instances of radicalisation ‘could not happen here’ and to refer any concerns through the Child Protection/ Safeguarding Lead Teachers.

Actively promoting the values means challenging opinions or behaviours in school that are contrary to fundamental British values. Attempts to promote systems that undermine fundamental British values would be completely at odds with schools’ duty to provide SMSC. The Teachers’ Standards expect teachers to uphold public trust in the profession and maintain high standards of ethics and behaviour, within and outside school. This includes not undermining fundamental British values.

We rely on our strong values and ethos to steer our work and ensure the pastoral care of our children protects them from exposure to negative influences. Alfreton Park is fully committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all its children. As a school we recognise that safeguarding against radicalisation is no different from safeguarding against any other vulnerability. All staff are expected to uphold and promote the fundamental principles of British values, including **democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect, and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs.**

At Alfreton Park Community Special School these values are reinforced regularly and in the following ways:

Democracy – Making decisions together

- Staff should encourage children to see their role in the bigger picture, encouraging children to know their views count, value each other’s views and values and talk about their feelings, for example when they do or do not need help. When appropriate staff should demonstrate democracy in action, for example, children sharing views on what the theme of their role play area could be with a show of hands.
- Staff should support the decisions that children make and provide activities that involve turn-taking, sharing and collaboration. Children should be given opportunities to develop enquiring minds in an atmosphere where questions are valued.
- Children are actively encouraged to have a voice and share their views and opinions regularly. Our active **school council** is one such example.
- Every child also contributes their ideas to the composition of their own **class rules** every year. This sets ground rules for classroom conduct and establishes the standards of behaviour children can expect from each other over the year ahead.
- Governors also talk regularly to children to establish their views as a way of ensuring that school self-evaluation is robust and accurate, and therefore effective in moving the school forward.

The Rule of Law – Understanding that rules matter

- Staff should ensure that children understand their own and others’ behaviour and its consequences, and enable them to learn to distinguish right from wrong.
- Staff should collaborate with children to create the rules and the codes of behaviour, for example, to agree the rules about tidying up and ensure that all children understand rules apply to everyone.

- The importance of laws, whether they be those that govern the class, the school, or the country, are consistently reinforced throughout the school day, as well as when dealing with misconduct and through school assemblies.
- Children are taught the value and reasons behind laws, that they govern and protect us, the responsibilities that this involves and the consequences when laws are broken.
- Our schools rules, which are displayed all around school, are referred to regularly and consistently upheld, are a practical example of this.
- Visits from authorities such as the Police and Fire Service help reinforce this message.
- In RE lessons, the difference between religious law and the law of the country are discussed.

Individual Liberty – Freedom for all

- Children should develop a positive sense of themselves.
- Staff should provide opportunities for children to develop their self-knowledge, self-esteem and increase their confidence in their own abilities, for example through allowing children to take risks on an obstacle course, mixing colours, talking about their experiences and learning.
- Staff should encourage a range of experiences that allow children to explore the language of feelings and responsibility, reflect on their differences and understand we are free to have different opinions, for example in a small group discuss what they feel about transferring into a new class.
- Children are actively encouraged to make decisions and choices, knowing that they are in a safe and supportive environment.
- As a school we educate and provide boundaries for young children to take risks and make choices safely.
- Children are encouraged to know, understand and exercise their rights and personal freedoms and advised how to exercise these safely, for example through our E-Safety and PSHE lessons.
- Whether it be through choice of learning challenge, how they record their learning, participation in one of our extra-curricular clubs and opportunities, children are given the freedom to make choices and decisions.

Mutual Respect and Tolerance – treat others as you want to be treated

- Staff should create an ethos of inclusivity and tolerance where views, faiths, cultures and races are valued and children are engaged with the wider community.
- Staff should enable pupils to acquire a tolerance and appreciation of and respect for their own and other cultures; know about similarities and differences between themselves and others and among families, faiths, communities, cultures and traditions and share and discuss practices, celebrations and experiences.
- Staff should encourage and explain the importance of tolerant behaviours such as sharing and respecting other's opinions.
- Staff should promote diverse attitudes and challenge stereotypes, for example, sharing stories that reflect and value the diversity of children's experiences and providing resources and activities that challenge gender, cultural and racial stereotyping.
- Staff need to recognise that Alfreton Park is situated in an area which is not very culturally diverse and it is therefore important we explore diversity with pupils, so they are more than just tolerate people who are different to themselves, but are respectful.
- Assemblies are regularly planned to address this issue either directly or through the inclusion of stories and celebrations from a variety of beliefs, countries, faiths and cultures beyond our children's experiences.
- Our RE and PSHE teaching reinforces this.

What is not acceptable is:

- Actively promoting intolerance of other faiths, cultures and races
- Failure to challenge gender stereotypes and routinely segregate girls and boys
- Isolating children from their wider community
- Failure to challenge behaviours (whether of staff, children or parents) that are not in line with the fundamental British values of democracy, rule of law, individual liberty, mutual respect and tolerance for those with different faiths and beliefs

We will actively challenge children, staff or parents expressing opinions contrary to fundamental British Values, including those expressing extremist and radical views.