Statement on preventing radicalisation: June 2015

Cotham School embraces and upholds the values of ambition, creativity, inclusion, respect and confidence. These values support all staff in actively promoting the fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs.

In March 2015 the Counter Terrorism and Security Act (2015) placed new statutory duties on schools to prevent young people being drawn into extremism. As a community, at Cotham we strive together to uphold a strong, shared culture of tolerance and respect. This statement expresses our commitment to these values, as well as the overall safety and wellbeing of our learners. The statement includes:

7   The level of potential risk at Cotham School.
7   Actions taken to address that risk.
7   Planned actions to maintain appropriate levels of awareness amongst staff and students.

Potential Risk

The current threat from extremism and radicalisation in the UK can include the exploitation of vulnerable people to sympathise with violent ideology, on both the extreme left and right of the political spectrum. The exposure to extreme views may also make children and young people vulnerable to future manipulation and exploitation. Cotham School is clear that this exploitation and radicalisation should be viewed as a safeguarding concern and that staff and governors have a duty to protect young people from the negative influence of extremist groups and individuals. As a school, we are committed to complete dismissal of an "it won't happen here" complacency, to ensure that we always fully safeguard and support our young people.

The School seeks to protect young people against all messages of violent extremism using any means or medium to express views that:

·   encourage, justify or glorify political, religious, sexist or racist violence,
·   subscribe to narrow mindsets that are intolerant to diversity,
·   foster hatred which might lead to inter-community violence,
·   seek to provoke others to violent acts,
·   encourage other criminal activity.

Cotham School will continue to assess potential threats to inform the development of relevant policies and procedures. This risk assessment will include consideration of student led activities, arrangements for the use of premises by external groups, use of ICT, school policies on safeguarding and behaviour and the taught curriculum (including RE, PSHE and Citizenship)

Actions taken to date

A number of activities have been undertaken to raise awareness with staff and students and to ensure that the school community understands what to do and who to go to if they have any concerns around the potential radicalisation of a member of the school community. These include

- Weekly or fortnightly PSHEE lessons for all students. A full summary of learning in all year groups is available here (document attached for linking).
- FROG page for PSHEE developed to provide links to community groups that promote cohesion, tolerance and respect e.g. 'Integrate Bristol', SARI, EACH, Pinkstinks and more.
- Hosting of the Workshop Raising Awareness of Prevent (WRAP) delivered by the Avon and Somerset Prevent team to all teaching and associate staff.
- Active involvement with officers from Avon and Somerset's Prevent team, including resource sharing.
- Workshops and activities for all year groups to encourage open and challenging dialogue around British values, these include: performance poetry workshops, Post 16 wellbeing seminars, assemblies and tutor activities.
- Member of senior team appointed Prevent and Channel representative, with associated training.
- Advice to families available on our website including *Advice to Parents and Carers on Keeping Children and Young People Safe Against Radicalisation and Extremism* (issued by Tower Hamlets LA, Bristol update still being put together, will switch when published − document attached for linking).
- Updates to the school's safeguarding policy to reflect concerns about extremism and radicalisation.
- Implementation of up to date ICT filtering systems.

Planned actions

- Ongoing assessment of risk.
- Work with community groups and parents' associations to provide information and awareness raising to parents and families.
- Actively engage with key stakeholders such as other schools, the Local Authority, Avon and Somerset Police and the Department for Education to develop shared approaches at a local and national level.