



Butterknowle Primary School

Prevent Policy

INTRODUCTION

The threat to the UK from international terrorism is substantial. The terrorist threats that we now face are more diverse than ever before, dispersed across a wider geographical area and often in countries without effective governance. We therefore face an unpredictable situation! Dealing with violent extremism is nothing new. Throughout history there have been groups prepared to use violence to achieve their aims. A small minority of these seek to radicalise young people with an ideology which justifies the use of violence through a distorted interpretation of a set of values (often associated with a religion).

In line with guidance from the Department for Education (DfE), Butterknowle Primary School has a zero tolerance acceptance of extremist behaviour and ensures that our care, guidance and curriculum empower young people to reject violent or extremist behaviour. Whilst it remains very rare for school age children to become involved in extremist activity, young people can be exposed to extremist influences or prejudiced views, including via the internet, from an early age. Early intervention is a preferable way of tackling extremism.

DEFINITION

Extremism can be defined as “holding of extreme opinions: the holding of extreme political or religious views or the taking of extreme actions on the basis of those views”.

STRATEGIES FOR PREVENTING EXTREMISM

The Office for Security & Counter Terrorism works to counter the threat from terrorism and their work is detailed in the counter terrorism strategy CONTEST. This strategy is based on four areas of work:

- Pursue - to stop terrorist attacks
- Prevent - to stop people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism
- Protect - to strengthen our protection against a terrorist attack
- Prepare - to mitigate the impact of a terrorist attack

Our role, as a school, is outlined more specifically in the DCSF document 'Learning together to be safe: A toolkit to help schools contribute to the prevention of violent extremism.'

AIMS

At Butterknowle Primary School we follow the principles outlined in the DCSF toolkit which seeks to:

- Raise awareness within school of the threat from violent extremist groups and the risks for young people.
- Provide information about what can cause violent extremism, about preventative actions taking place locally and nationally and where we can get additional information and advice.
- Help schools understand the positive contribution they can make to empower young people to create communities that are more resilient to extremism and protecting the wellbeing of particular pupils or groups who may be vulnerable to being drawn into violent extremist activity.
- Provide advice on managing risks and responding to incidents locally, nationally or internationally that might have an impact on the school community.

The school will use these principles to guide our work in all areas including building on our work in:

- Promoting Every Child Matters (ECM) outcomes for all pupils
- Promoting pupil wellbeing, equalities and community cohesion
- Building the resilience of the school, working with partners, to prevent pupils becoming the victims or causes of harm
- Working with other agencies and parents to build community networks of support for the school The toolkit forms the body of this policy and is available to download from: www.communitycohesionncc.org.uk/docs/280.pdf