

Procedures Manual

04.62.01 **BRITISH VALUES & CHALLENGING RADICALISATION, EXTREMISM AND TERRORISM**

PURPOSE

To support British Values and promote these with our learners and staff and to challenge radicalisation, extremism and terrorism within our College

SCOPE

Whole College Community

RESPONSIBILITY

Whole College Community

PROCEDURE

Introduction

West Suffolk College is committed to providing a secure environment for learners, where they feel safe and are kept safe. All staff at West Suffolk College recognise that safeguarding is everyone's responsibility irrespective of the role they undertake or whether their role has direct contact or responsibility for learners or not.

In adhering to this policy, and the procedures therein, staff and visitors will contribute to West Suffolk College's delivery of the outcomes to all learners, as set out in s10 (2) of the Children's Act 2004. This Preventing Extremism and Radicalisation Safeguarding Policy, is one element within our overall College arrangements to Safeguard and Promote the Welfare of all Learners in line with our statutory duties set out at s175 of the Education Act 2002.

Our College's British Values & Challenging Radicalisation, Extremism and Terrorism and Safeguarding Policy also draws upon the guidance contained in DfE Guidance "Keeping Learners 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 Clarkes Report of July 2014 and include:

- *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.*

College Ethos and Practice

When operating this policy West Suffolk College uses the following accepted Governmental definition of extremism which is: *'Vocal or active opposition to*

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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 college, whether from internal sources – learners, staff or governors, or external sources - college community, external agencies or individuals. Our learners see our College 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 a college we recognise that extremism and exposure to extremist materials and influences can lead to innocent individuals / groups being targeted, harmed and in extreme cases killed. We also recognise that if we fail to challenge extremist views we are failing to protect our learners. Therefore our staff will be receiving specialist training from the Home Office in WRAP (Workshop to Raise Awareness of Prevent (WRAP). PREVENT is part of the Government counter-terrorism strategy. It's designed to tackle the problem of terrorism at its roots, preventing people from supporting terrorism or becoming terrorists themselves. When staff are concerned about an individual or group the MASH will be contacted and they may choose to send any relevant information to Channel. - "Channel is a multi-agency partnership that evaluates referrals of individuals at risk of being drawn into terrorism, working alongside safeguarding partnerships and crime reduction panels." (Prevent Strategy, Home Office, 2011)

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 West Suffolk College we will provide a broad and balanced tutorial programme, delivered by skilled Personal Support Tutors, so that our learners are enriched, understand and become tolerant of difference and diversity and also to ensure that they thrive, feel valued and not marginalized.

Furthermore at West Suffolk College 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 learners 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 learners or staff will always be challenged and where appropriate dealt with in line with our Disciplinary Policy for learners and the Code of Behaviour for staff.

As part of wider safeguarding responsibilities college staff will be alert to:

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- Disclosures by learners of their exposure to the extremist actions, views or materials of others outside of college, such as in their homes or community groups, especially where learners have not actively sought these out;
- Graffiti symbols, writing or art work promoting extremist messages or images;
- Learners accessing extremist material online, including through social networking sites;
- Parental reports of changes in behaviour, friendship or actions and requests for assistance;
- Partner colleges, local authority services, and police reports of issues affecting learners in other colleges or settings;
- Learners voicing opinions drawn from extremist ideologies and narratives;
- Use of extremist or hate crime 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 college will closely follow any locally agreed procedure as set out by the Local Authority and/or Suffolk's Safeguarding Children's Board's agreed processes and criteria for safeguarding individuals vulnerable to extremism and radicalisation. We also have a Regional Prevent Strategy Co-ordinator who we can contact Direct Dial: 01582 546231 Mobile Number: 07860 593 636

Email: peter.martin@luton.gcsx.gov.uk

Local Safeguarding Board Protocol -

<http://www.suffolkscb.org.uk/assets/files/2013/2013-05-29QG9Vulnerabletoradicalisation.pdf>

<http://www.suffolkscb.org.uk/assets/files/2014/Suffolk-VTR-Protocol-May-2013.rtf>

Ethos and approach

We will all strive to eradicate the myths and assumptions that can lead to some young people becoming alienated and disempowered, especially where the narrow approaches learners may experience elsewhere may make it harder for them to challenge or question these radical influences, this guidance and support be delivered in tutorials.

We will ensure that all of our support and approaches will help our learners build resilience to extremism and give them a positive sense of identity through the development of critical thinking skills. We will develop strategies and staff training to

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ensure that all of our staff are equipped to recognise extremism and are skilled and confident enough to challenge it.

Therefore this approach will be embedded within the ethos of our college so that learners know and understand what safe and acceptable behaviour is in the context of extremism and radicalisation. This will work in conjunction with our colleges approach to the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of learners.

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 an approach that includes:

- Citizenship programmes;
- Open discussion and debate;
- Work on anti-violence and a restorative approach to conflict resolution;
- Targeted programmes.

We will also work with local partners, families and communities in our efforts to ensure our college understands and embraces our local context and values in challenging extremist views and to assist in the broadening of our learner's experiences and horizons. We will help support learners who may be vulnerable to such influences as part of our wider safeguarding responsibilities and where we believe a learner is being directly affected by extremist materials or influences we will ensure that the learner is offered mentoring. Additionally in such instances our college will seek external support from the Local Authority and/or local partnership structures working to prevent extremism.

At West Suffolk College 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 learners 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 learners safe and prepare them for life in modern multi-cultural Britain and globally.

Use of External Agencies and Speakers

At West Suffolk College we encourage the use of external agencies or speakers to enrich the experiences of our learners; however we will positively vet those external agencies, individuals or speakers who we engage to provide such learning opportunities or experiences for our learners. These speakers form part of our enrichment programme, which ranges from an annual fresher's event to talks and information stands from a whole range of organisations including – Suffolk Young Adult Carers, The Gideon Bible Society, Terrence Higgin's Trust, The Volunteer Centre, Suffolk Police, and the Samaritans. We will also be organising talks for students with our Regional Prevent Co-ordinator.

Such vetting is to ensure that we do not unwittingly use agencies that contradict each other with their messages or that are inconsistent with, or are in competition opposition

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to, the Colleges 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 college curriculum so we need to ensure that this work is of benefit to learners.

Our college will assess the suitability and effectiveness of input from external agencies or individuals to ensure that:

- Any messages communicated to learners are consistent with the ethos of the college 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 learners through extreme or narrow views of faith, religion or culture or other ideologies;
- Activities are matched to the needs of learners;
- Activities are carefully evaluated by colleges to ensure that they are effective.

We recognise, however, that the ethos of our college is to encourage learners to understand opposing views and ideologies, appropriate to their age, understanding and abilities, and to 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 tutorial programme, augmented by the use of external sources where appropriate, we will strive to ensure our learners recognise risk and build resilience to manage any such risk themselves where appropriate to their age and ability but also to help learners develop the critical thinking skills needed to engage in informed debate.

Whistle Blowing

Where there are concerns of extremism or radicalisation learners and staff will be encouraged to make use of our internal systems to 'Whistle Blow' or raise any issue in confidence.

Staff can raise issues with the designated senior manager under the College's 'Whistleblowing' procedure.

Safeguarding

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

Readiness for Life in Modern Britain (British Values)

- Enable learners to develop their self-knowledge, self-esteem and self-confidence;
- Enable learners to distinguish right from wrong and to respect the civil and criminal law of England;
- Encourage learners to accept responsibility for their behaviour, show initiative, and to understand how they can contribute positively to the lives of those living and working in the locality of the College and to society more widely; Enable learners to acquire a broad general knowledge of and respect for public institutions and services in England;

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- Further tolerance and harmony between different cultural traditions by enabling learners to acquire an appreciation of and respect for their own and other cultures;
- Encourage respect for other people, and
- Encourage respect for democracy and support for participation in the democratic processes, including respect for the basis on which the law is made and applied in England.

Examples of how will achieve these are:

- Provide materials on the strengths, advantages and disadvantages of democracy, and how democracy and the law works in Britain, compared to other forms of government in other countries;
- Ensure all learners within the College have a voice that is listened to, and demonstrate how democracy works by actively promoting democratic processes such as a Student Council whose members are voted for by the learners and also Student Governor elections;
- Use opportunities such as general or local elections to hold mock elections to promote fundamental British values and provide learners with the opportunity to learn how to argue and defend points of view;
- Consider the role of extra-curricular activity, including any run directly by learners, in promoting fundamental British values;
- Arrange talks with our regional prevent Coordinator Peter Martin;
- Continue to provide a programme of Enrichment which includes a Fresher's Event, class talks, annual Student Rep Conference which will be based on British Values for the 2015-16 academic year;
- Prepare our students for work by requiring them to wear College Membership cards and to encourage them to challenge others who are not wearing cards, therefore taking responsibility to keep our College family safe;
- All Staff are required to tackle poor student behaviour and are offered training in assertiveness and de-escalation to support this.

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