

Preventing Extremism Policy

Statement

STAR Exeter understands its responsibilities under the Counter Terrorism & Security Act 2015 to prevent people of all ages being radicalised or drawn into terrorism and seeks to meet its obligations in the ways shown below.

Context

STAR Exeter accepts students aged 16 and over all year, and students aged 10 to 16 in the summer for short courses, from around the world. In the summer there may be up to 120 adult students, 140 junior students, 25 staff and 80 homestay providers. STAR has always promoted a multi-cultural environment where respect for and tolerance of others' beliefs is expected. The adult school is located in the centre of Exeter, a city with a mostly British local population, but well-represented by many nationalities due to the proximity of Exeter University. The junior school is located on the campus of University of Exeter.

Responsibilities

Prevent Lead: Andrew Darke, Principal. The Prevent Lead will

- take part in training in accordance with government advice;
- be responsible for the maintenance of the Preventing Extremism Risk Assessment;
- ensure delivery of effective action as outlined in this Policy and in the Risk Assessment;
- ensure that staff and homestay providers are suitably trained;
- ensure that students and group leaders are given information in a suitable format about the prevention of extremism (e.g. Code of Behaviour; promotion of British Core values in class lessons).

Prevent Deputies: Caz Potten, School Manager; Tim Fawcett, Academic Manager.

The Deputies will carry out day-to-day management of Prevent duties, and deputise for the Prevent Lead.

Local Partners

STAR Exeter will have contact with the local police department and the Prevent coordinator, PC John Heath, Telephone No. 01392 45290 or 01392 452555. The Southwest Coordinator is Salam Katbi, email:

salam.katbi@avonandsomerset.police.uk. There may be a need to share information with other local organisations.

Terminology

Radicalisation: 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 mind.

Extremism: holding extreme political or religious views which may deny rights to any group or individual. Can be expressed in vocal or active opposition to Core British Values.

Core British Values: including i) democracy; ii) the rule of law; iii) individual liberty; iv) respectful tolerance of different faiths or beliefs.

Understanding the Risks of Extremism

Staff need to be made aware of the possibility that adults coming to STAR Exeter (staff, students, homestay providers, group leaders) may already hold extremist views. Or while at STAR Exeter they may develop extremist views. Many factors may influence these views developing, including: global events, peer pressure, the media, family views, extremist materials, inspirational speakers, friends or relatives being harmed, social networks and other online sources. Personal circumstances may lead to people being more vulnerable to extremist views, including: loss of identity or sense of belonging, isolation, exclusion, mental health problems, sense of injustice, personal crisis, victim of hate crime or discrimination, bereavement.

Signs that may cause concern

- Students talking about exposure to extremist materials or views outside STAR Exeter
- Changes in behaviour, e.g. becoming isolated
- Fall in standard of work, poor attendance, disengagement
- Changes in attitude, e.g. intolerant of differences
- Offering opinions that appear to come from extremist ideologies
- Attempts to impose own views on others
- Use of extremist vocabulary to exclude others or incite violence
- Accessing extremist material online or via social media

Ways to counteract Risks

At STAR Exeter, we are committed to:

- Promoting a safe and supportive international environment by clear expectations of accepted behaviours (**Code of Good Behaviour**).
- Promoting Core British Values through example, first day induction, and explanation in lessons. Our approach is to educate students, while allowing that values may be different in different cultures.
- Promoting critical thinking skills, through example and class lessons.
- Challenging radical or extremist views through the procedures outlined below (**Procedures for dealing with extremism**)
- Having filters on IT equipment and clear rules on accessing extremist websites or using social media to exchange extremist views.
- Encouraging staff and homestay providers to get to know students well, and to note any circumstances or changes in behaviour that may make students more vulnerable (**Understanding the Risks**)

Training

Regular training and awareness-raising is important to provide information and to give confidence. Training should be a combination of professional (online and face-to-face) and in-house provision.

Prevent Lead: will receive professional training, e.g. WRAP Workshop Raising Awareness of Prevent (police/local authority course), and is responsible for in-house training of staff, homestay providers, students and group leaders.

Prevent Deputy: will receive training as suitable to carry out day-to-day management of policy procedures; will prepare materials suitable for teachers to use in lessons about Core British Values.

Staff: will receive in-house training on this Policy, including terminology, risks, identifying concerns and vulnerable students, reporting procedures; teachers will include examples of Core British Values in lessons.

Homestay providers: will receive guidance on our Prevent procedures, including identifying concerns and vulnerable students, and reporting procedures.

Students: will be made aware of the risks of extremism, will be encouraged to be supportive and tolerant through lessons on Core British Values, will be informed who to speak to if they have concerns.

Group Leaders: will receive guidance on our Prevent procedures as appropriate.

Procedures for dealing with extremism

Staff, Homestay Providers and Group Leaders:

Concern of a vulnerable student:

- a) Report your concern to the Prevent Lead or Deputy, who will decide on any follow-up action.
- b) Maintain confidentiality.

Challenging extremist views:

- a) If it is appropriate to speak to the person who has expressed extremist views, explain calmly and tactfully that these views are not acceptable in an international setting, and we promote respect for and tolerance of different opinions.
- b) Encourage students to question the validity of any websites/sources of 'news'.
- c) Report the incident to the Prevent Lead or Deputy, who will decide on any follow-up action.
- d) Maintain confidentiality.

Prevent Lead and Deputy:

- a) Take complete notes on any concerns or incidents reported.
- b) Take further action as appropriate, including passing on information to police/local authorities.
- c) Maintain confidentiality.

If the concerns relate to a person under 18 years of age, this is a safeguarding issue and must be dealt with according to our **Safeguarding Policy**.