

## Prevent Statement 2024 – Ashfield Junior School



### **Ashfield Junior School Prevent Policy**

Ashfield Junior School is fully committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all its pupils. Every member of staff recognises that safeguarding against radicalisation and extremism is no different from safeguarding against any other vulnerability in today's society.

Understanding local risks and vulnerabilities to extremism, as outlined in the Cumbria assessment, is crucial. All partners, including schools, must be aware of these risks to inform decision-making.

### **Promoting Values and Safety:**

We promote the spiritual, moral, social, and cultural (SMSC) development of all our pupils. Our curriculum promotes the fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs. Children are regularly taught about internet safety and are encouraged to recognise that people are not always who they say they are online. They are taught to seek adult help if they are upset or concerned about anything they read or see on the internet.

### **Local Demographics and Vulnerabilities:**

Cumbria has specific demographic details, including deprived communities and identified hotspots for extremism. Despite a reduction in Prevent referrals, maintaining vigilance is essential.

### **Curriculum and Awareness:**

Through assemblies, themed days, and the wider curriculum, we prepare pupils for potential risks. Teachers are aware of the risks posed by the online activity of extremist and terrorist groups and ensure children are aware and safe from these risks when accessing the internet in school. Our curriculum is broad and balanced; it promotes respect, tolerance, and diversity. Children are encouraged to share their views and recognize that they are entitled to have their own beliefs, which should not be used to influence others. Our PSHE provision is embedded across the curriculum and underpins the ethos of our school. We

strive to equip our pupils with confidence, self-belief, respect, and tolerance, as well as setting high standards and expectations for themselves.

### **Commitment to Prevention:**

Our school is committed to prevention strategies and procedures that protect vulnerable individuals from being radicalised or exposed to extremist views. If we identify a pupil who is or may be at risk, advice will be sought from Cumbria Police (dial 101) or in an emergency/immediate threat or risk (dial 999). Cumbria's Prevent Officer is Ross Woods (ross.woods@cumbria.police.uk). Referral forms or emails with full details are sent to: prevent@cumbria.police.uk.

### **Community Tensions and Extremist Activity:**

At Ashfield Junior School, we strive to be mindful of the potential for community tensions related to immigration and the presence of asylum seekers. We believe it is important to monitor any instances of hate crimes and community tensions, and to address any issues that arise within our school community.

### **Good Practice and Training:**

The aims of our good practice Prevent statement are to ensure that staff are fully engaged in being vigilant about radicalisation, that they overcome professional disbelief that such issues will happen here, and that we work alongside other professional bodies and agencies to ensure that our pupils are safe from harm. All staff/governors in Ashfield Junior School have undertaken the Prevent, Channel Basic Awareness Training. We ensure that safeguarding policies include measures to address vulnerability and susceptibility to radicalisation, and that staff are appropriately trained with cyclical training on counter-terrorism threats, vulnerabilities, and referral pathways.

### **Collaboration with Local Authorities and Agencies:**

Ashfield Junior School collaborate with local authorities, police, and community organisations, when necessary, to ensure a coordinated approach to Prevent. We participate in local Prevent Delivery Partnerships and Community Safety Partnerships to stay informed and involved in local efforts.

### **The Designated Safeguarding Leads/Safeguarding Team in this school are:**

- Sue Frost (Headteacher)
- Designated Safeguarding Lead: Sandra Stainton
- Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead: Sue Frost
- Safeguarding Team: Caroline Gibson, Richard Bishop, Sarah Layzell (governor)

Links to Other Policies: This Prevent statement and leaflet link to the following policies in Ashfield Junior School:

- Anti-Bullying Policy
- E-Safety Policy
- Lettings & Premises Policy
- Safer Recruitment Policy
- Safer Working Practice/Code of Conduct

National Guidelines: This statement aligns with national guidelines, including those from the Department for Education (DfE, Sept 2016).

Overview of the Prevent Policy: The Prevent policy is part of the UK's counter-terrorism strategy, known as CONTEST. Its primary aim is to stop people from becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism. Here are the key components of the Prevent policy:

- Early Intervention: The policy focuses on identifying individuals at risk of radicalisation early and supporting them to prevent them from being drawn into terrorism.
- Training and Awareness: Staff in specified authorities, such as schools, healthcare, and local government, receive training to recognise signs of radicalisation and know how to respond appropriately.
- Safeguarding: Prevent is integrated into existing safeguarding frameworks, ensuring that concerns about radicalisation are handled in a similar way to other safeguarding issues.
- Community Engagement: The policy encourages building strong relationships with communities to promote understanding and cooperation in preventing radicalisation.
- Support and Rehabilitation: It also includes measures to support individuals who have already been radicalised to disengage from extremist activities and reintegrate into society.
- Legal Framework: The Prevent duty is a statutory requirement under the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015, which places a duty on specified authorities to have due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism.