



Prevent Policy  
October 2023

## Preventing Extremism and Radicalisation

Radicalisation is defined as an act or process of making a person more radical or favouring of extreme or fundamental change in political, economic or social conditions, institutes or habits of mind.  
Extremism is defined as the holding of extreme political or religious views...

The Sand Project is fully committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all its Trainees and staff. We all recognise that safeguarding against radicalisation and extremisms are part of safeguarding. The following policy sets out our principles and practice to protect our community from being radicalised or exposed to extremist views.

### Principles:

The Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015 came into force from 1<sup>st</sup> July 2015. As a 'specified authority' as set out in schedule 6 of the Act, The Sand Project's Leaders, staff and Directors must;

- Establish or use existing mechanisms for understanding the risk of extremism.
- Ensure staff understand the risk and build capabilities to deal with it.
- Communicate and promote the importance of the duty.
- Ensure staff implement their duty effectively.
- All Directors and staff will have an understanding of what radicalisation and extremism are and why we need to be vigilant in College.
- All Directors and staff will know what the Colleges policy of on anti- radicalisation and extremism is and will follow the policy should issues arise.

### Practice:

At The Sand Project we will:

- Ensure effective partnership working with other local agencies, e.g. LA, police, health, etc.
- Share appropriate information.
- Maintain appropriate and accurate records.
- Assess local risk of extremism (including Far Right extremism).
- Demonstrate we are protecting the trainees.
- Demonstrate a clear protocol for visiting speakers.
- Ensure our safeguarding policy takes account of LA policies and procedures.
- Train staff to give them knowledge and confidence.
- Ensure there are robust ICT filtering that block extremist materials.

- Ensure that College buildings are not ever used to give a platform to extremists.

## College Curriculum

- At The Sand Project we teach a work-related curriculum focused on the transition into paid employment and independent living which promotes employability of trainees, as well as contributing to their social, mental and emotional development. Trainees are prepared for opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of life, as well as learning how to become contributing members of an inclusive community.
- We will ensure that where appropriate, trainees understand the dangers of radicalisation and exposure to extremist views and that the teaching helps trainees build resilience against such activities and know what to do if they experience them.
- We encourage our trainees to be confident, have self-belief, show respect and tolerance.
- Trainees are taught to be aware of the dangers of society and recognise where there might be dangers.
- Trainees are taught to seek help from an adult if they are upset or concerned about anything they see on any forms of media, or witness.

## Indicators of Vulnerability to Radicalisation or Extremism

- **Identity Crisis** – the trainee is distanced from their cultural / religious heritage and feels uncomfortable about their place in society.
- **Personal Crisis** – the trainee may be experiencing family tensions, a sense of isolation and low self-esteem. They may have dissociated from their existing friendship group and become involved with a new and different group of friends. They may be searching for answers to questions about identity, faith and belonging.
- **Personal Circumstances** – migration, local community tensions and events affecting the trainee's country or region of origin may contribute to a sense of grievance that is triggered by personal experience of racism or discrimination or aspects of Government policy. Equally they may be led to believe that any current disadvantaged circumstances are the "fault" of another group, and that this needs to be rectified.
- **Unmet Aspirations** – the trainee may have perceptions of injustice, a feeling of failure and/or rejection of community life.
- **Experiences of Criminality** – which may include involvement with criminal groups, imprisonment, and poor resettlement / reintegration.
- **Special Educational Need** – trainees may experience difficulties with social interaction, empathy with others, understanding the consequences of their actions and awareness of the motivations of others.

However, this list is not exhaustive, nor does it mean that all young people experiencing the above are at risk of radicalisation for the purposes of violent extremism.

**More critical risk factors could include:**

- Being in contact with extremist recruiters.
- Accessing violent extremist websites, especially those with a social networking element.
- Possessing or accessing violent extremist literature.
- Using extremist narratives and a global ideology to explain personal disadvantage.
- Justifying the use of violence to solve societal issues.
- Joining or seeking to join extremist organisations.
- Significant changes to appearance and / or behaviour.
- Experiencing a high level of social isolation resulting in issues of identity crisis and / or personal crisis.

**Behaviours that may indicate radicalisation or extreme views**

- Spending increasing time in the company of other suspected extremists.
- Changing their style of dress or personal appearance to fit with the group.
- Day-to-day behaviour becoming increasingly centred on an extremist ideology, group or cause.
- Loss of interest in other friends and activities not associated with the extremist ideology, group or cause.
- Possession of materials or symbols associated with an extremist cause.
- Attempts to recruit others to the group/cause.
- Communications with others that suggests identification with a group, cause or ideology.
- Using insulting or derogatory names for another group.
- Increase in prejudice-related incidents committed by that person, these may include;
  - Physical or verbal assault.
  - Provocative behaviour.
  - Damage to property.
  - Derogatory name calling.
  - Possession of prejudice-related materials.
  - Prejudice related ridicule or name calling.
  - Inappropriate forms of address.

- Refusal to co-operate.
- Attempts to recruit to prejudice-related organisations.
- Condoning or supporting violence towards others.

### **Procedures for Referrals**

- It is important to remain vigilant and fully informed about the issues which affect the local area and society in which we teach, we must not succumb to the belief that radicalisation or extremism ‘could not happen here’. Early intervention is essential, and staff must have the confidence to challenge and intervene.
- The Designated Safeguarding Lead(s) will deal swiftly with any referrals made by staff or any concerns reported by staff. They will discuss the most appropriate action on a case-by-case basis and will decide when a referral to external agencies, including Channel, is needed.
- As with any safeguarding referral staff must be made aware that if they do not agree with a decision not to refer they can make the referral themselves and will be given the contact details to do so.

### **Staff Training**

Through training and staff meetings, we will ensure that our staff are fully aware of the threats, risks and vulnerabilities that are linked to radicalisation and extremism, that they remain aware of the process of radicalisation, how this can be identified early on and how we can support Trainees to ensure they are resilient and are able to resist involvement in radical or extreme activities.

The following national guidelines also link to this;

- Prevent Duty Guidance Strategy for England and Wales.
- Keeping Children Safe in Education
- Working Together to Safeguard children.

## **Appendix 1**

### **Prevent Risk Assessment**

We understand that there is not a profile for people prone to radicalisation.

We understand that it “could happen here”.

Protective behaviours that we have in place to prevent radicalisation include:

- Trainees have very close relationships with staff; and it is likely that any move towards radicalisation would be detected.
- The College has a secure e-safety structure.

To continue to keep this risk at a low level:

- Staff will be vigilant in caring for and supporting trainees (as part of the College’s holistic strategy for safety and wellbeing)
- The high standard of teaching and modelling tolerant and acceptable behaviour will be maintained.
- The DCP/safeguarding lead will attend any relevant training and ensure that all staff are aware of the possibility of radicalisation.