




Preventing Extremism and Radicalisation Policy

Title	Author	Doc No	Version	Checked/Amended	Review	Page
Preventing Extremism and Radicalisation Policy	SC	SAPP027	2.0	01/08/2025	01/08/2026	1

Policy Approval

Approval Required:	Please Check		Annual Review Required:	Please Check	
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Approval Panel:	Shane Carter				
Approved By:	Name		Signature		Date
	Shane Carter				01/09/2025
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Policy Writer/s:	Shane Carter				

Policy Statement

Shape Academy is committed to providing a secure environment for learners and stakeholders, where learners feel safe and are kept safe. Shape Academy recognises 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.

'Safeguarding vulnerable people from radicalisation is no different from safeguarding them from other forms of harm' (Home Office, Prevent Strategy)

Shape Academy 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 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.

Shape Academy Preventing Extremism and Radicalisation Safeguarding Policy also draws upon the guidance contained in the DfE publication "Keeping Learners safe in Education, 2014", 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", Peter Clarke's Report (July 2014), "Keeping Children Safe in Education" (March 2015), the "Counter – Terrorism and Security Act" (2015) and the "Prevent Duty" (June 2015).

We recognise that the governing body has a responsibility to pay 'due respect to the need to prevent people being drawn into terrorism' (Counter Terrorism and Security Act, 2015) and ensure the Academy has a 'clear approach to implementing the Prevent duty and keeping children and learners safe from the dangers of radicalisation and extremism'.

Links to other policies

The Preventing Extremism and Radicalisation Policy links to the following Academy policies.

- Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy
- Staff safer working practices policy
- Equal Opportunity Policy
- Anti – bullying Policy
- Getting It Right Policy
- E – Safety Policy

Objectives

The Preventing Radicalisation and Extremism Policy is intended to provide a framework for dealing with issues relating to vulnerability, radicalisation and exposure to extreme views. There are different forms of extremist organisations in the UK and the world, ie – ISIL (Islamic State), AL – Qaeda, Boko Haram, British Defence League, Animal Rights extremist groups such as SPEAK, Irish Republican Army (IRA), Anti – Abortion Groups, to name a few.

We recognise that we are well placed to be able to identify safeguarding issues linked to the dangers of extremist views and this policy clearly sets out how the Academy will deal with such incidents and identifies how the curriculum and ethos underpins our actions.

The objectives are that:

- All staff including – teachers, teaching assistants and non – teaching staff will have an understanding of what radicalisation and extremism are and why we need to be vigilant in Shape Academy.

Title	Author	Doc No	Version	Checked/Amended	Review	Page
Preventing Extremism and Radicalisation Policy	SC	SAPP027	2.0	01/08/2025	01/08/2026	3

- All staff, teachers, teaching assistants and non – teaching staff will know what the Shape Academy policy is on tackling extremism and radicalisation and will follow the policy guidance swiftly when issues arise.
- All members of staff are able to identify learners who may be vulnerable to radicalisation and respond by following whole colleague safeguarding procedures with immediate effect.
- All learners will understand the dangers of radicalisation and exposure to extremist views; learning about key British values to build resilience against these views and knowing what to do if they experience them.
- All parents/carers and pupils will know that Shape Academy has policies in place to keep Learners safe from harm and that Shape Academy regularly reviews its systems to ensure they are appropriate and effective.

Definitions

When operating this policy Shape Academy uses the following accepted Governmental definition of radicalisation and extremism which is:

Radicalisation – ‘the process by which a person comes to support terrorism or forms of extremism leading to terrorism’ (Prevent Strategy)

Extremism – ‘vocal or active opposition to fundamental British values, including democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, and mutual respect tolerance of different faith and beliefs; and/or calls for the death of members in our armed forces, whether in this country or overseas’ (Prevent)

Ethos and Practice

There is no place for extremist views of any kind in Shape Academy, whether from internal sources – learners, staff or governors, or external sources – Shape Academy community, external agencies or individuals. Our learners see Shape Academy as a safe place where they can explore controversial issues safely and where our teachers encourage and facilitate this – we have a duty to ensure this happens.

Shape Academy we recognise that extremism and exposure to extremist materials and influences can lead to poor outcomes for learners and so should be addressed as a safeguarding concern as set out in this policy. We also recognise that if we fail to challenge extremist views, we are failing to protect our learners, staff and other visitors to Shape Academy.

Extremists of all persuasions aim to develop destructive relationships between different communities by promoting division, 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, adults and others with the knowledge, skills and critical thinking to challenge and debate in an informed way. Therefore, at Shape Academy we will provide a broad and balanced curriculum so that our pupils are enriched, understand and become tolerant of difference and diversity and also to ensure that they thrive, feel valued and not marginalised.

Furthermore, at Shape Academy we are aware that learners 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 pupils themselves reflect or display views that may be discriminatory, prejudices or extremist, including using derogatory language. As part of our whole Shape Academy e – safety policy we highlight the potential risks learners may face in relation to on – line radicalisation and encourage students to report any concerns they may have for themselves or other learners either to their tutor or learner engagement officer.

Title	Author	Doc No	Version	Checked/Amended	Review	Page
Preventing Extremism and Radicalisation Policy	SC	SAPP027	2.0	01/08/2025	01/08/2026	4

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 Getting it Right system and the Code of Behaviour for staff.

There is no single way of identifying a learner who is likely to be susceptible to terrorist ideology. As part of wider safeguarding responsibilities staff will be alert to:

- Disclosures by learners of their exposure to extremist actions, views or materials of others outside of Academy such as in their homes or community groups, especially where pupils have not actively sought this out.
- Graffiti symbols, writing or art work promoting extremist messages or images.
- Pupils accessing extremist materials online, including through social networking sites.
- Distributing extremist literature and documentation.
- Parental reports of changes in behaviour, friendship or actions and requests for assistance.
- Partner Shape Academy, local authority services and police reports of issues affecting pupils in other Shape Academy or settings.
- Pupils voicing opinions drawn from extremist ideologies and narratives.
- Changes in behaviour which could indicate that they are in need of help or protection.
- Use of extremist or 'hate' terms to exclude others or incite violence
- Intolerance of difference, whether secular or religious or, in line within 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.
- Use of extremist language.

'Dawlah' – term used by ISIL to refer to the 'Islamic state'

'Jihad' – means 'struggle' or 'violence'

'Caliphate' – ISIL supporters describe the territory they control in Iraq/Syria

'Mujahid' – someone who wants to fight as part of the 'Jihad'

'Shahada' – refers to someone considered to be a martyr.

'Kuffar' – a term used by ISIL to describe non – Muslims

'Ummah' – the phrase is used by ISIL to refer to the 'world community of Muslims'

'Rafidha' – word is used by ISIL to refer to those who refuse to accept the Islamic state.

We recognise that learners in vulnerable social and domestic situations (mental health issues, single parent families, involvement in gangs) may be at greater risk of radicalisation than other pupils. Through weekly safeguarding meetings information is shared on targeted pupils and appropriate external support accessed as necessary. In conclusion we will closely follow any locally agreed procedure as set out by the Local Authority and criteria for safeguarding individuals vulnerable to extremism and radicalisation.

Ethos and Approach

We will all strive to eradicate the myths and assumptions that can lead to some learners 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 will be delivered through the whole Shape Academy curriculum, form programme and PSD coverage. 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 ensure that all our staff are equipped to recognise extremism and are skilled and confident enough to challenge it.

Title	Author	Doc No	Version	Checked/Amended	Review	Page
Preventing Extremism and Radicalisation Policy	SC	SAPP027	2.0	01/08/2025	01/08/2026	5