

1.2a Tackling Extremism & Radicalisation Policy

Policy statement

Filton Park Pre-School Playgroup is fully committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all its children and their families. Every member of staff recognises that safeguarding against radicalisation and extremism is no different to safeguarding against any other vulnerability in today's society. The Tackling Extremism and Radicalisation Policy sets out our beliefs, strategies and procedures to protect vulnerable individuals from being radicalised or exposed to extremist views, by identifying who they are and promptly providing them with support.

Links to other policies

Our Tackling Extremism and Radicalisation Policy links to the following pre-school policies:

- 1.2 Safeguarding children and child protection
- 7.1 Achieving positive behaviour
- 9.1 Valuing diversity and promoting equality

Aims and principles

The Filton Park Pre-School Playgroup Tackling Extremism and Radicalisation Policy is intended to provide a framework for dealing with issues relating to vulnerability, radicalisation and exposure to extreme views. We recognise that we are well placed to be able to identify safeguarding issues and this policy clearly sets out how we will deal with such incidents and identifies how the curriculum and ethos underpin our actions. The objectives are that:

- All staff involved in the setting will have an understanding of what radicalisation and extremism is and why we need to be vigilant
- All staff involved in the setting will know what our policy is on tackling extremism and radicalisation and will follow the policy guidance swiftly if issues arise
- All parents and carers will know that the setting has policies in place to keep children safe from harm and that we regularly review the systems to ensure they are appropriate and effective
- The main aims of this policy are to ensure that staff are fully engaged in being vigilant about radicalisation, that they overcome professional disbelief that such issues will not happen here and ensure that we work alongside other professional bodies and agencies to ensure that our children and their families are safe from harm.

Definitions and indicators

Radicalisation is defined as the 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 the mind.

Extremism is defined as the holding of extreme political or religious views.

There are a number of behaviours which may indicate a person is at risk of being radicalised or exposed to extreme views.

These include:

- Spending increasing time in the company of other suspected extremists
- Changing their style of dress or personal appearance to accord 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 cooperate, attempts to recruit to prejudice-related organisations, condoning or supporting violence towards others etc.

Procedures for referrals

Although serious incidents involving radicalisation have not occurred at Filton Park Pre-School Playgroup to date, it is important for us to be constantly vigilant and remain fully informed about the issues which affect the local area and society in which we work. Staff are reminded to suspend any 'professional disbelief' that instances of radicalisation 'could not happen here' and to be 'professionally inquisitive' where concerns arise, referring any concerns through the appropriate channels. We believe that it is possible to intervene to protect people who are vulnerable. Early intervention is vital and staff must be aware of the established processes for front line professionals to refer concerns about individuals and/or groups. We must have the confidence to challenge, the confidence to intervene and ensure that we have strong safeguarding practices based on the most up-to-date guidance and best practice. The Designated Leaders for Child Protection and Safeguarding (Viv Kidd & Liz Clark) will deal swiftly with any referrals made by staff or with concerns reported by staff. They and the Chair of Committee will discuss the most appropriate course of action on a case-by-case basis and will decide when a referral to external agencies is needed. As with any child protection referral, staff must be made aware that if they do not agree with a decision not to refer, they can make the referral themselves.

Committee, leaders and staff

Viv Kidd and Liz Clark are the leaders for referrals relating to extremism and radicalisation. Filton Park Pre-School Playgroup staff will be fully briefed about what to do if they are concerned about the possibility of radicalisation relating to a child or family, or if they need to discuss specific children whom they consider to be vulnerable to radicalisation or extremist views. The Chair of committee, Viv & Liz and external agencies as appropriate will work together to decide the best course of action to address concerns that arise.

The role of the curriculum

Our curriculum is broad and balanced. It promotes respect, tolerance and diversity. Children are encouraged to share their views and recognise that they are entitled to have their own different beliefs which should not be used to influence others.

This policy was adopted at a meeting of Filton Park Preschool Playgroup *(name of provider)*

Held on _____ *(date)*

Date to be reviewed Sept/Oct 2020 *(date)*

Signed on behalf of the provider

Name of signatory Adrian Reed

Role of signatory (e.g. chair, director or owner) Chair