Prevent policy

Purpose of policy and guiding principles

1.1. At Beyond the Physical LTD the welfare of our staff, learners and their environment is paramount and we fully recognise our responsibilities to protect and safeguard the welfare of all vulnerable people. In accordance with the Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015, the company it has a responsibility to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism. We recognise that safeguarding against radicalisation is no different from safeguarding against any other vulnerability.
1.2. The Government's Prevent Strategy has raised awareness of the specific need to safeguard children, young people and families from violent extremism and terrorism. There have been situations nationally in which extremist groups have attempted to radicalise vulnerable children and young people to hold extreme views including views justifying political, religious, sexist or racist violence, or to steer them into a rigid and narrow ideology that is intolerant of diversity and leaves them vulnerable to future radicalisation.
1.3. All staff are expected to uphold and promote the fundamental principles of British values, including democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect, and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs. Our British Values statement is within our safeguarding policy, which is available on each academy website.
1.4. All our staff should value freedom of speech and the expression of beliefs/ideology as fundamental rights underpinning our society's values. Both staff and learners have the right to speak freely and voice their opinions. However, freedom comes with responsibility and free speech that is designed to manipulate the vulnerable or that leads to violence and harm of others goes against the moral principles in which freedom of speech is valued. Free speech is not an unqualified privilege; it is subject to laws and policies governing equality, human rights, community safety and community cohesion.
1.5. The current threat from terrorism in the United Kingdom may include the exploitation of vulnerable people, to involve them in terrorism or in activity in support of terrorism. The normalisation of extreme views may also make children and young people vulnerable to future manipulation and exploitation.
1.6. Beyond the Physical is clear that this exploitation and radicalisation should be viewed as a safeguarding concern. All staff seek to protect children and young people against the messages of all violent extremism including, but not restricted to, those linked to Islamist ideology, or to Far Right/Neo Nazi/White Supremacist ideology, Irish Nationalist and Loyalist paramilitary groups, and extremist Animal Rights movements.

2. Links with other policies or legislation

2.1. This policy links to legislative duties, as defined by the Education Act 2002, The Children's Act 1989 and 2004, The Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015 and the most recent Keeping Children Safe in Education document (2020).
2.2. This policy links to our Child Protection and Safeguarding policy, Anti-Bullying policy and Behaviour for Learning policies.
2.3. The staff code of conduct refers to expectations and safer working practice guidance.

3. Aims of the policy

3.1. To ensure staff are aware of the Prevent Strategy and are able to protect children and young people who are vulnerable, or at risk, of being radicalised work alongside other professional bodies and agencies to ensure that our students are safe from harm. The principle objectives are that:
• Directors and staff have an understanding of what radicalisation and extremism are and why we need to be vigilant in our company.
• All stakeholders will know that Beyond the Physical has policies in place to keep young people and vulnerable people safe from harm and that the company and reviews its systems, to ensure they are appropriate and effective.
3.2. For clarity the definitions of terms referred to in this policy are:
• Radicalisation refers to the process by which a person comes to support terrorism and extremism leading to terrorism.
• Extremism is defined by the Government in the Prevent Strategy as: vocal or active opposition to fundamental British values, including democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs. Also included in the definition of extremism calls for the death of members of our armed forces.
3.3. This policy has the following objectives:
• To promote social cohesion by supporting inter-faith and inter-cultural dialogue and understanding, and to engage all students in playing a full and active role in wider society engagement.
• To ensure safety and that each setting is free from bullying, harassment and discrimination.
• To provide support for those who may be at risk and appropriate sources of advice and guidance.
• To ensure that learners and staff are aware of their roles and responsibilities in preventing terrorism and radicalisation.

4. Achieving our aims In order to achieve these objectives the strategy will focus on the following areas:

4.1. Leadership and values
To provide an ethos which upholds core values of shared responsibility and wellbeing for all and promote respect, equality and diversity and understanding.
This will be achieved through:
• Building staff and learners' understanding of the issues and confidence to deal with them.
• Deepening engagement with local communities.
• Actively working with local authorities, police and other agencies.
4.2. Learning and teaching
• Use of external programmes (training) or groups to support learning while ensuring that the input supports academy aims and values.
• Encouraging active citizenship and facilitating responsibility for individual behaviour, showing initiative and understanding how they can contribute positively to society.
4.3. Learner support
To ensure that staff are confident to take preventative and responsive steps working with partner professionals, families and communities.
This will be achieved through:
• When working in schools and other organisations being aware of the Designated Safeguarding Lead and processes within the individual organization.
• Listening to what is happening in an external setting and the community - taking action as necessary.
• Implementing anti-bullying strategies and challenging any discriminatory behaviour.
• Referring 'at risk' students through safeguarding and crime prevention processes.
4.4. Managing risks and responding to events
We must be able to demonstrate an awareness and understanding of the risk of radicalisation, appreciating that this can change rapidly.
To ensure that each academy monitors risks and is ready to deal appropriately with issues which arise it will:
• Understand the nature of the threat from violent extremism and how this may impact directly or indirectly on the company.
• Understand and manage potential risks within the company and from external influences.
• Respond appropriately to events in local, national or international news that may impact on staff, learners and our communities.

• Develop effective e-safety and responsible user policies.

5. Procedure for raising concerns

5.1. Prevent strategies are not in isolation, they are part of the wider educational role and safeguarding responsibilities that exist in any school environment.
5.2. Any concerns regarding extremist views or opinions should be risk assessed and escalated where necessary to the Prevent Coordinator, the Safeguarding Lead, the Safeguarding Police or Channel as outlined in our Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy.
5.3. The DSL in each setting will be the Single Point of Contact (SPOC).

6. Training and support for staff

6.1. We will ensure, as part of our commitment to safeguarding training that staff are aware of the threats, risks and vulnerabilities that are linked to radicalisation and understand the signs that someone may be vulnerable to radicalisation.
6.2. This training will be updated regularly.

7. Roles and responsibilities

7.1. The roles and responsibilities of Directors, senior leaders and other staff are outlined in the Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy.

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