

### Introduction

Azhar Academy Girls School recognises that it has a duty of care towards its pupils and that safeguarding against extreme radicalisation that may leave them vulnerable to violent or any form of extremism is one of those duties.

AAGS uses the Governmental definition of extremism which is:

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; and/or calls for the death of members of our armed forces, whether in this country or overseas’.

There is no place for extremist views of any kind in our school, whether from internal sources – pupils, staff or governors, or external sources - school community, external agencies or individuals. Our pupils see our school 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.

Any prejudice, discrimination or extremist views, including derogatory language, displayed by pupils or staff will always be challenged and where appropriate dealt with in line with our Behaviour and Discipline Policy for pupils and the Code of Conduct for staff.

### What is prevent?

The Government’s National Prevent strategy aim is to stop people from becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism.

This is supported by three specific objectives:

- Respond to the ideological challenge of terrorism and the threat we face from those who promote it
- Prevent people from being drawn into terrorism and ensure they are given appropriate advice and support (individuals)
- Work with a wide range of sectors and institutions (including education, faith, health and criminal) where there are risks of radicalisation which need to address (institution)

This policy aims to:

Make it clear that:

- Violent extremism is not part of the Islamic faith. Islam teaches moderation, tolerance and respect.
- There is no place for extremists in the school including expression of extremist views, vocal or active, which are opposed to fundamental British values
- Protect all pupils from harm and to ensure that they are taught in a way that is consistent with the law and the British values of tolerance, democracy and liberty.
- Address both Awareness of Prevent and the risks it is intended to.
- Enable pupils to explore issues like terrorism and the use of violence in a considered and informed way.
- Facilitate understanding of wider issues within the context of learning about the values on which our society is founded and our system of democratic government.

This policy describes the activities that AAGS will undertake to ensure that pupils attending the school are safeguarded against being influenced by those who hold violent and extreme views:

Ensure a curriculum plan is in place which instils mutual respect and understanding and to promote the use of dialogue not violence as a form of conflict resolution. The curriculum plan will include the following:

- Citizenship programmes
- Open discussion and debate
- Work on anti-violence and a restorative approach addressed throughout curriculum
- Focussed educational programmes
  
- Teach material which emphasis the strengths, weaknesses and of democracy in contrast to other forms of government in other countries and how democracy works in Britain.
- Ensure that all pupils within the school have a voice that is listened to, for example by having democratic processes such as the school council whose members are voted in by the pupils;
- Ensure that all of our teaching approaches help our pupils build resilience to extremism and give pupils a positive sense of identity through the development of critical thinking skills.
- Organise visits to local councils, Parliament and places of worship of other faiths, and encourage contacts with those of other faiths, in political or local office;
- Use opportunities such as general or local elections to hold whole school mock elections whereby pupils can learn how to argue and defend points of view.
- Use teaching resources from a wide variety of sources to help pupils to understand a range of faiths, and beliefs such as atheism and humanism.'
- Work with the local Prevent team to provide adequate awareness training for staff, pupils and parents.

## 2. Staff

The school will:

- Strictly apply its safer recruitment procedures which include DBS checks and references which are in light with 'Keeping children safe in Education (2023).
- Ensure that teachers do not use teaching materials which may encourage intolerance.
- Ensure pupils are not actively encouraged by teachers or visitors to the school to support extremist views of any form.
- Ensure that all our staff members are equipped to recognise extremism and are skilled and confident enough to challenge it.
- Provide regular staff training, including newly appointed staff when undergoing induction on the practice of this policy within the school.
- Regularly monitor staff conduct and where necessary, i.e., in extreme cases where it is felt that the staff is a cause for concern, the school will contact the relevant authorities (central Prevent Team, local Police enforcement, etc) for advice on the matter.
- Host PREVENT projects every academic year.
- Staff are aware of referral pathways and the DSL knows how to escalate a referral.

## OVERVIEW

WHEN	WHERE	ACTIVITY DETAILS	MONITORED BY
Throughout the school life	Teach Islamic values of Forgiveness, Helpfulness, Generosity, Respect, Humility, Neighbourliness	Across the curriculum	SLT/Tarbiyyah Coordinator subject teachers/ visitors and speakers, assemblies, IPSHE programme
Throughout the school life	Teach about Prophet's (saw) love for all humankind giving specific authentic i. Examples of Qur'anic text ii. Examples from Hadith iii. Examples from the life of Sahabas (ra)	Across the curriculum PSHE Assemblies	SLT & Tarbiyyah Coordinator
	Engagement with other faith groups	Interfaith week/programme including visits to places of worship and school twinning, with local schools from other faiths	SLT/RE Teacher
	Teaching of British values	Citizenship / school activities i.e., school council and annual mock general election	SLT/Teachers/& Tarbiyyah Coordinator
	Workshops in PSHE involving the local Prevent unit	Teachers Citizenship Teacher	SLT
	Projects Fund Raising – to instil culture of caring for others  Cross- Curricular Annual Day- to appreciate others' cultures  Living Islam- increase	Various activity days at school  Involve other schools – activity day Student SACRE  Open Day	All staff/SLT & students including parents
	Awareness and remove misconceptions  Feed the homeless  Sponsor orphans across the world	neighbours and local community  Soup kitchens, charity organisations  Sponsorship towards	All Staff & School community

### Safeguarding/Child Protection

This policy is in an integral part of the Safeguarding arrangements of the school. Please refer to our Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy for the full procedural framework on our Child Protection duties.

Staff at AAGS will be alert to the fact that whilst Extremism and Radicalisation is broadly a safeguarding issue there may be some instances where a child or children may be at direct risk of harm or neglect. For example; this could be due to a child displaying risky behaviours in terms of the activities they are involved in or the groups they are associated with, or staff may be aware of information about a child's family that may equally place a child at risk of harm. (These examples are for illustration and are not definitive or exhaustive)

Therefore, all adults (including visiting staff, volunteers' contractors, and students on placement) are required to report instances where they believe a child may be at risk of harm or neglect to the Designated Safeguarding Lead or Headteacher.

At AAGS our Child Protection reporting arrangements are set out fully in our Safeguarding Policy and Child protection policy. Please refer to these policies for recording, reporting and making referrals when concerns arise.

### Freedom of speech

Our school values freedom of speech and the expression of beliefs / ideology as fundamental rights underpinning our society's values. Both pupils and teachers 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.

The Preventing Extremism and Radicalisation Policy is one element within our overall school arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children in line with our statutory duties set out at S157 of the Education Act 2002. We have a duty to prepare our pupils for life in multi-cultural modern Britain and to keep them safe. Everyone in our school has the right to learn and work in safety. We will not tolerate bullying of any kind and will challenge derogatory language and behaviour towards others.

This policy is to be read in conjunction with the following policies:

Safeguarding/Child Protection

Whistleblowing

Community & Social Cohesion

Equality

SMSC