

Rowan Learning Trust Prevent Strategy

The Rowan Learning Trust Prevent Strategy has been written in response to, and in line with, government guidance and forms part of the governments counter terrorism strategy, which seeks to:

- ✚ Respond to the ideological challenge of terrorism and aspects of extremism, and the threat faced from those who promote these views.
- ✚ Provide practical help to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism and ensure they are given appropriate advice and support.
- ✚ Work with a wide range of sectors where there are risks of radicalisation which needs to be addressed, including education, criminal justice, faith, charities, the internet and health.

The government's definition of extremism in its "Prevent Strategy" 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."

The Rowan Learning Trust Prevent Strategy intends to safeguard all members of our school community against violent extremism and terrorist activity. It draws upon guidance from the following documents:

- ✚ Counter Terrorism and Security Act (2015)
- ✚ "The Prevent Duty" (2015)
- ✚ Channel: Vulnerability and Assessment Framework
- ✚ "Keeping Children Safe in Education" (2015)
- ✚ "Learning Together to be Safe"
- ✚ "Prevent Duty Guidance – England and Wales"

As a trust we recognise that extremism, exposure to extremist materials and influences can lead to poor outcomes for our students and therefore is addressed as a safeguarding concern. If we fail to challenge extremist views we are failing to protect our children.

There is no place for extremist views of any kind within the trust, whether from internal sources, students, staff, governors, or external sources – school community, external agencies or individuals. Our students see our schools 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.

We are aware that children can be exposed to extremist influences or prejudiced views from early childhood through a variety of sources and media, and that they may at times reflect or display views which may be discriminatory, prejudiced or extremist, or use offensive language. Any discrimination, prejudice or extremist views, including offensive language

shown by students or staff will be dealt with in line with our Behaviour Policy and Staff Code of Practice, and will always be addressed.

As part of a wider safeguarding responsibilities school staff will be alert to:

- ✚ Disclosures by students of their exposure to the extremist actions, views or materials of others outside of school, such as in their homes or community groups, especially where students have not actively sought these out.
- ✚ Graffiti symbols, writing or art work promoting extremist messages or images.
- ✚ Students accessing extremist material online, including through social networking sites.
- ✚ Parental reports of changes in behaviour, friendship or actions and request for assistance.
- ✚ Partner schools, local authority services, and police reports of issues affecting students in other schools or settings.
- ✚ Students voicing opinions drawn from extremist ideologies and narratives.
- ✚ Use of extremist or “hate” terms to exclude others or incite violence.
- ✚ Intolerance of difference, whether secular or religious or 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.

By “Promoting Fundamental British Values,” valuing the rule of law and individual liberty, mutual respect and tolerance to those of other faiths, backgrounds and beliefs and teaching all our students to respect each other and tolerance difference, we intend to the build resilience of our students by giving them safe places to discuss controversial issues and be given the knowledge to and confidence to challenge extremist beliefs and ideologies.

