

Mistley Kids Club

Extremism and Radicalisation (Prevent Duty)

Mistley Kids Club is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all children. This includes protecting them from the risks of extremism and radicalisation, in line with the statutory Prevent Duty.

Definition of Radicalisation

Radicalisation refers to the process by which an individual comes to support extremist ideologies, which may lead to involvement in extremist or terrorist activities. All childcare settings have a legal responsibility to safeguard children from these risks. Children may be vulnerable to radicalisation due to a range of factors, including:-

- Feelings of isolation or loneliness
- A desire for identity, belonging or purpose
- Mental health issues such as depression or low self esteem
- A desire for excitement, adventure or to be a part of a larger cause
- Association with individuals or groups holding extremist views

Signs of Radicalisation

Staff should remain vigilant for indicators that a child may be at risk, including:-

- Noticeable changes in behaviour (e.g. withdrawal or aggression)
- Expressing views that justify violence or extremist actions
- Accessing or engaging with extremist content online
- Possessing or sharing extremist materials
- Being overly secretive, mainly over online viewing habits
- Displaying an “us and them” mentality

Any concerns must be taken seriously and acted upon promptly.

Definition of Terrorism

Terrorism is defined in the Terrorism Act 2000 as:

The use or threat of action designed to influence the Government or to intimidate the public or a section of the public, made for the purpose of advancing a political, religious, racial or ideological cause. This includes actions that:-

- Involve serious violence against a person
- Involve serious damage to property
- Endanger a person's life
- Create a serious risk to public health and safety
- Are designed to seriously interfere with or disrupt an electronic system

Recording and Reporting concerns

If a member of staff suspects that a child may be at risk of radicalisation, they must:-

- Record all relevant information and observations on an incident form
- Report the concern immediately to the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)

All concerns, disclosures or observations must be recorded as soon as possible. Records should include:-

- Date of incident, disclosure or observation
- Date and time the record was made
- Child's full name and date of birth
- A clear, factual account of what occurred (using the child's own words)
- Name, signature and role of the person completing the record

The DSL will review the information and determine the appropriate course of action.

Referral Process

The DSL will take appropriate action depending on the level of concern:

- For safeguarding concerns, Social Care will be contacted immediately in line with local procedures
- Referrals will be followed up in writing within 48 hours
- If a staff member believes a concern has not been addressed properly, they may escalate directly to Social Care

For concerns relating specifically to radicalisation:

- Minor concerns: referral to the Prevent Team or relevant local authority services
- Serious concerns: contact the police via 101 or the Anti-Terrorism Hotline 0800 789 321
- Urgent concerns: contact emergency services (999)

Allegations against staff

If an allegation is made against a member of staff:

- The allegation must be recorded on an incident form
- Witnesses must sign and date their accounts
- The Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) must be informed immediately
- Ofsted will be notified as required
- Any telephone referrals will be confirmed in writing within 48 hours
- The staff member may be suspended pending investigation, following LADO advice
- A referral to the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) will be made where appropriate

Staff Awareness and Training

Mistley Kids Club is committed to ensuring all staff are aware of safeguarding responsibilities, including the risks of radicalisation. The club ensures that:-

- Designated Safeguarding Leads are appropriately trained in safeguarding and the Prevent Duty
- DSL training is refreshed every 2-3 years
- All staff receive safeguarding training, including Prevent Duty awareness
- Staff understand how to recognise and respond to concerns at the earliest opportunity
- Staff are aware of their statutory responsibilities regarding child protection

- Safe recruitment practices are followed at all times
- Staff understand whistleblowing procedures and feel confident raising concerns
- All staff have access to and understand safeguarding and radicalisation policies
- Procedures are in line with key guidance, including:
 - Working Together to Safeguard Children (2023)
 - What To Do If You're Worried a Child Is Being Abused (2015)

Prevent Referrals

A Prevent referral can be made through the following channels:

- Local Authority Prevent Lead
- Prevent Referral Form (via Gov.uk Website)
- Regional Police Prevent/Channel Lead
- Local Police (101)
- Anti Terrorism Hotline (0800 789 321)

Policy Review

This policy will be reviewed annually or sooner if legislation or guidance changes.