PREVENT POLICY

Introduction

The threat of international terrorism in the UK is substantial.

In line with guidance from the Department for Education (DfE), Kingshurst Caterpillars Playgroup has a zero tolerance of extremist behaviour and ensures that our care, guidance and curriculum will help the children in our care to reject violence or extremist behaviour.

Whilst it is very rare for pre-school children to be involved in extremist activity, young children can be exposed to extremist influences or prejudiced views, including via the internet, from a very early age. Early intervention and prevention of exposure are preferable ways of tackling extremism.

What is the Prevent Duty

The aim of the government's Counter Terrorism Strategy is to reduce the risk from terrorism to the UK and its interests overseas. The duty is known as the Prevent Duty. The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) describes the clear duties that Early Years providers have to keep children safe and promote their welfare. It makes clear that to protect children in their care, providers must be alert to any safeguarding and child protection issues in the child's life at home or elsewhere. The Ofsted Common Inspection Framework implemented in 2015 includes reference to 'providers promoting children's welfare and preventing radicalism and extremism'.

Definitions

The Department for Children Families and Schools (DFCS) document 'Learning together to be safe: a toolkit to help schools contribute to the prevention of violent extremism' (DCFS, 2008) outlines the following principles:

- **Raise awareness** amongst staff of the threat from violent, extremist groups and the risks to young people.
- **Provide information** about what can cause violent extremism, about preventative actions taking place locally and nationally and where to get additional information and advice.
- **Help schools to understand the positive contribution they can make** to empower young people to create communities that are more resilient to extremism and to protecting the wellbeing of particular pupils or groups who may be vulnerable to being drawn into violent extremist activity.
- **Provide advice on managing risks** and responding to incidents locally, national or internationally that might have an impact on the school community.

As an Early Years setting, Kingshurst Caterpillars has the following responsibilities:

- To keep children safe and promote their welfare.
- To be alert to any safeguarding and child protection issues in the child's life at home or elsewhere.
- To make sure that staff, volunteers and students have sufficient training to give them the knowledge and confidence to recognise vulnerability and be aware of what action to take in response.
- To demonstrate that staff, volunteers, trustees and students are protecting children from being drawn into terrorism by having clear procedures for protecting children at risk of radicalisation.
- To assess the risk of children being drawn into terrorism.
- To understand when to make referrals to the Multi-agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH).
- To focus on children's personal, social and emotional development.
- To ensure that children learn right from wrong, mix and share with other children and value others' views.
- To ensure that children learn about similarities and differences between themselves and others and that negative attitudes and stereotypes are challenged in an age-appropriate way.

To do this, practitioners will:

- listen to children;
- share appropriate information with parents;
- listen to parents;
- report concerns;
- challenge negative behaviour;
- focus on what children need;
- support children's personal, social and emotional development.

Making a referral

There may be occasions when staff have serious concerns and believe that a child is at risk. In this case the designated member of staff will contact Solihull Local Children Board on the:

Multi-agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) – 0121 788 4325

Out of hours – 0121 605 6060

A chart on 'How to make a referral' is displayed on the playgroup's notice board.

The designated member of staff for Safeguarding issues is the manager, Kerie Drinkwater. In her absence, the deputy manager, Alison Kelly will take her place.

Staff Training

All members of staff and volunteers have training to ensure that they are aware of:

- the threats, risks and vulnerabilities that are linked to radicalisation;
- the process of radicalisation and how this might be identified early;
- ways that we can provide support to help families and children to be resilient and able to resist involvement in radical or extreme activities.

Adopted: September 2018

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