

BASINGSTOKE ITEC POLICY FOR PREVENTING EXTREMISM AND RADICALISATION

Originated by: Caroline McColl, Manager and Safeguarding Officer

Created on: July 2015

Last Reviewed: December 16

Reviewed by: Management

Frequency: 18 months (or earlier if legislation changes)

Next Review Due: December 2017

Introduction

Basingstoke ITEC is committed to providing a secure environment for learners, where they feel safe and are kept safe. All at Basingstoke ITEC recognise that safeguarding is everyone's responsibility, irrespective of the role they undertake or whether their role has direct contact or responsibility for learners or not.

Preventing Extremism and Radicalisation is one element within our overall arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of all learners in line with our statutory duties. This policy also draws upon the Government's 'Prevent' agenda and associated briefing sheets.

Our Ethos and Practice

When operating this policy, Basingstoke ITEC uses the following accepted 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'.

Extremists of all persuasions aim to develop destructive relationships between different communities by promoting division, fear and mistrust of others based on ignorance or prejudice and thereby limiting the life chances of young people. Education is a powerful weapon against this; equipping young people with the knowledge, skills and critical thinking, to challenge and debate in an informed way.

Basingstoke ITEC does not tolerate extremist views of any kind whether from internal sources; learners, staff or governors, or external sources, external agencies or individuals.

As a training centre, we recognise that extremism and exposure to extremist materials and influences can lead to poor outcomes for students and so should be addressed as a safeguarding concern as set out in this policy. We also recognise that if we fail to challenge extremist views we are failing to protect our students.

Any prejudice, discrimination or extremist views, including derogatory language, displayed by learners or staff will always be challenged and where appropriate dealt with in accordance with our Learner Disciplinary Policy and the Staff Code of Conduct.

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

- Disclosures by learners, of their exposure to the extremist actions, views or materials of others outside, such as in their homes or community groups, especially where they have not actively sought these out.
- Graffiti symbols, writing or art work promoting extremist messages or images
- Learners accessing extremist material online, including through social networking sites
- Parental feedback of changes in behaviour, friendship or actions and requests for assistance
- Partner colleges, local authority services, and police reports of issues affecting learners in other colleges or settings
- Learners 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, in line with our Equalities Policy, 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

ITEC will closely follow any locally agreed procedure as set out by the Local Authority and/or Hampshire Safeguarding Children's Board's agreed processes and criteria for safeguarding individuals vulnerable to extremism and radicalisation.

We will help support learners who may be vulnerable to such influences as part of our wider safeguarding responsibilities and where we believe a learner is being directly affected by extremist materials or influences we will ensure that the learner is offered mentoring. Additionally in such instances we will seek external support from the Local Authority and/or local prevent officer.

Raising Concerns

Where there are concerns of extremism or radicalisation, learners and staff will be encouraged to discuss them with the Safeguarding officer. The procedure for reporting and referring safeguarding concerns will apply.

Role of Governing Body

The Board of Management of Basingstoke ITEC fully understands this policy and has approved this and the action plan. The Board of Management will support the ethos and values of our centre and will support us in tackling extremism and radicalisation.

Signed: Caroline McColl
Manager/Safeguarding Officer

Signed: Harry Robinson
Chairman of the Board of Management

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