

Excel English Prevent Policy

Statement

Excel English understands its responsibilities under the Counter Terrorism & Security Act 2015 to prevent people of all ages being radicalised or drawn into terrorism and seeks to meet its obligations in the ways shown below.

Context

- Excel English accepts students aged 12+ throughout the year and from many different countries around the world
- In its busiest weeks it may have up to 180 students, 20 staff and work with 80 homestay providers & 1 or 2 residences.
- The school has always promoted a multi-cultural environment where respect for and tolerance of others' beliefs is required.
- The school is located in Muswell Hill in the North of London which has a predominantly Caucasian local population although adjoining geographical areas have a more multicultural population.

Leadership

- Responsibility for ensuring Prevent Duty lies with Judith Loren, Principal.
- Responsibility for the Prevent risk assessment / action plan and policy lies with Kerry Dorling, Director of Studies.
- Their duties are to ensure delivery of an effective risk assessment / action plan and policy as outlined here.

Working with Local Partners

Excel English will -

- Make and maintain contact with the local police/local authority Prevent Coordinator to understand his role and the support available (e.g. via the Channel process).
- Make contact with the local authority to ascertain other useful local agencies.
- Develop local area Prevent links with similar organisations
- Share information with all local organisations as appropriate

Understanding Terminology

- **Radicalisation:** act or process of making a person more radical or favouring of extreme or fundamental changes in political, economic or social conditions, institutions or habits of the mind.
- **Extremism *:** holding extreme political or religious views which may deny rights to any group or individual. Can be expressed in vocal or active opposition to
- **Core British values:** including

*(i) democracy, (ii) the rule of law, (iii) individual liberty
(iv) respectful tolerance of different faiths or beliefs.*

* NB: **extremism** can refer to a range of views, e.g. racism, homophobia, right-wing ideology, as well as any religious extremism.

Understanding the Risk of Extremism

Excel English realises -

- Staff, students & other adults (group leaders, homestays etc) may arrive at school already holding extremist views.
- Whilst part of the school, staff, students & other adults may be influenced by a range of factors: global events, peer pressure, media, family views, extremist materials via hardcopy or online, inspirational speakers, friends or relatives being harmed, social networks.
- People who are vulnerable are more likely to be influenced.
- Their vulnerability could stem from a range of causes: loss of identity or sense of belonging, isolation, exclusion, mental health problems, sense of injustice, personal crisis, victim of hate crime or discrimination and bereavement.

Ways to Counteract Risks

Excel English will -

- Promote a safe and supportive international environment via clear expectations of accepted behaviours and those behaviours, including radicalisation and extremism, which will not be tolerated.
- Promote core British values through documents given to students, notices around school, induction on to British culture & traditions on arrival and via the curriculum. The Excel English approach is to educate our students that this is how things are in the UK and to accept those behaviours although it may be different to their country.
- Where possible, develop critical awareness and thought in our staff & students to counter accepting extremism without question, especially of online material.
- Challenge radical or extremist views in any context (formal or informal) via stated procedures. In most situations this would require an immediate response, referring to the international environment of school, and the tolerance expected, then reporting concerns (see section 10).
- Be ready to react when world or local events (e.g. Paris attacks) cause upset and the likelihood of conflicting feelings being expressed. The Prevent Lead to take initiative in these situations.
- Have strong filters on IT equipment and clear rules on accessing extremist / terrorist websites / uses of social networks to exchange extremist / terrorist views.
- Ensure that extremist speakers do not use premises to distribute material or expound views; have a system for vetting any visiting speakers / presenters.
- Ensure staff and homestays get to know students, their home circumstances and friendship groups. Through knowing students well, it is easier to spot changes in behaviour.

- Encourage staff and homestays to be observant and vigilant in noticing any signs of radical or extremist behaviour.
- Encourage all staff and homestays to work hard supporting any students identified as vulnerable.

Training

- Excel English will supply documents & face to face training to ensure staff understand this policy, i.e.
 - understand context and expectations of Prevent
 - know their duty to implement the policy
 - understand terminology and risks associated with radicalisation and extremism
 - how to identify and support vulnerable students
 - ways the school will counteract the risks
 - signs to notice that may cause concern
 - know the lead Prevent person and procedures for communicating concerns
 - know the importance of their own behaviour and professionalism in (a) being exemplars of British values and (b) not discussing inflammatory subjects with students (Code of Conduct)
- Excel English will adapt training materials to ensure that homestay hosts understand the sections of the policy they need to be aware of.
- Excel English will make students and group leaders aware of key parts of the policy
 - understanding terminology
 - importance of maintaining a supportive and tolerant society within school
 - what core British values are and why they are considered important
 - any changes to school rules, particularly those regarding IT
 - that they must report any concerns / incidents and the procedure to do so.

Signs that may cause concern

- Students talking about exposure to extremist materials or views outside school (in this event, information must be shared with relevant local authorities)
- Changes in behaviour, e.g. becoming isolated
- Fall in standard of work, poor attendance, disengagement
- Changes in attitude, e.g. intolerant of differences / having closed mind
- Asking questions about certain topics (e.g. connected to extremism)
- Offering opinions that appear to have come from extremist ideologies
- Attempts to impose own views / beliefs on others
- Use of extremist vocabulary to exclude others or incite violence
- Accessing extremist material online or via social network sites
- Overt new religious practices
- Drawings or posters (e.g. in accommodation) showing extremist ideology / views / symbols
- Students voicing concerns about anyone

How and when to react to concerns

Excel English will -

- Give everyone the name of who to contact (lead person/persons), how to contact them (email, phone etc) and contact details.
- Assure confidentiality for the person reporting a concern
- Tell everyone to report any concern or incident, however small.
- Offer reassurance that all students or staff will be dealt with sensitively and carefully

How and when to react to concerns

The person to contact with a concern is Kerry the Director of Studies, or, in his absence, Judy the Principal. Confidentiality is assured for any person reporting a concern. If you are concerned, you should report your concern so it can be evaluated. It will be dealt with sensitively and carefully.

Our local contact person in the police is:

Chris Palumbo
Prevent Support Officer (Haringey)
Counter Terrorism Unit
Metropolitan Police Service
Tel: 020 8345 1874
Email: chris.palumbo@met.pnn.police.uk
chris.palumbo@met.police.uk