

The 'Prevent' Strategy at Bishopshalt School (Autumn 2014)

1. Introduction

The 'Prevent Strategy' published by the government in 2011 is a strategy designed to prevent any kind of extremist or terrorist activity from occurring in any community. This document should be read in conjunction with the document Promoting British Values available on the school website. In November 2014, Bishopshalt hosted 'Prevent Training' for secondary schools in L.B. Hillingdon and key members of staff attended the training.

The approach that Bishopshalt takes is built on the following principles:

- i. It is good practice in any school to be constantly vigilant in combatting suspicion or distrust between different groups of people represented in the school's community. Mistrust and a sense of injustice lie at the heart of division which can lead to extremist activity.
- ii. The expression of extremism changes as national and world affairs change. Being resilient to all forms of extremism both now and in later life, as things change, depends on the values, the critical thinking skills and belief in tolerance and mutual respect that a person has.
- iii. Having a stake in the opportunities which Britain offers to all its citizens for economic empowerment is critical. Disaffection and alienation occur when young people feel disenfranchised. An outstanding education which sees pupils leave school confident, fulfilled, well-qualified and with a repertoire of skills to engage in British public and community life is the best way to eradicate all forms of extremism.

2. How the 'Prevent Strategy' is delivered at Bishopshalt

The strategy is delivered through the following elements of our provision:

- i. **The Curriculum:** Pupils follow a traditional, broad and balanced curriculum. There are three Religious Studies specialists and RS is compulsory throughout all Key Stages. RS is also a popular option at both GCSE and A Level. The RS curriculum follows the Locally Agreed Syllabus. It includes a study of all faiths with a focus on Christianity and Hinduism at KS4. There are no students who are withdrawn from either RS or from school assemblies. Citizenship and PSHE are also compulsory throughout all Key Stages. Democracy, rule of law and global citizenship is taught as well as tolerance, diversity and respect. There is a strong PSHE curriculum which includes sex and relationships education, health education, drugs education and social issues amongst other learning.

Performing Arts subjects, including dance, music and drama are compulsory in KS3, as are history and geography. Humanities subjects cover life in Britain historically and in contemporary times. Politics, law and sociology are also popular options at KS5, alongside history and geography.

There is also a whole curriculum audit of opportunities for SMSC, RS and Citizenship development and these can be read alongside this guidance.

- ii. **Performing Arts Education:** The study of performing arts at Bishopshalt is endorsed by our Performing Arts specialism. Girls and boys perform in front of each other in dance, drama and music and value the opportunity to do so.
- iii. **Extra-Curricular Provision:** both boys and girls are involved in clubs and other activities that enrich the curriculum at Bishopshalt. Participation rates are tracked so that any groups or individuals who are not taking advantage of what is on offer across the school, can be encouraged and/or enabled to get more involved. Pupils engage in a wide range of field trips, residential trips and day trips to support their curriculum learning or enrichment including trips abroad and to a variety of places of worship. Examples include: MFL trips, the battlefields in Ypres, theatre trips, RS trips to Neasden Mandir, the Gurdwara and Regents Park mosque.
- iv. **Pupil Voice:** Bishopshalt has a strong School Council and a range of other initiatives for student leadership which allow pupils to have input into the strategic planning for the school. A democratic process is in place to ensure fair representation. Students have the opportunity to have their voices heard through our Student Council, surveys and questionnaires
- v. **Links with Employers:** a wide variety of work is undertaken with employers. All Year 10 students undertake work experience during the summer term.
- vi. **Parental Involvement:** the regular newsletter and the website ensure that there is good communication between home and school. Pupils and their parents can access help, advice and support when they need it, from our effective pastoral staff. Much support is given to parents at crucial times, for example, options choices.

- vii. **Safeguarding:** Bishopshalt has employed extensive safeguarding services for pupils as part of its commitment to the whole child. They include: a pastoral co-ordinator, an Attendance Officer, four school counsellors, two welfare officers and a team of TAs. Every child has a Form Tutor and a Year Tutor who will stay with them for Yrs 7-11. The DSL is the Deputy Head. We also employ the services of an EWO and the Hillingdon Behaviour Support Team. We have a Safer Schools Officer. We have a team of counsellors who provide high quality counselling services to a number of students and support emotional well-being. These services are coordinated by the Deputy Head. Records are kept meticulously and referrals are followed up conscientiously. Liaison with social services, CFACS and other agencies is carried out effectively.

- viii. **Governance:** the governing body of Bishopshalt is actively involved in the life of the school, supporting the pupils and their families to do well. The Personal Development and Well-Being Committee, takes an active role in holding the school to account for the safety and well-being of the pupils. The Achievement and Standards Committee ensures that the aspirations, ambitions and enrichment of pupils' learning is extensive and that the principles of equality for all students of all groups and abilities is upheld.

- ix. **Data Analysis:** data for outcomes, attendance, behaviour and participation is analysed by group to ensure that no groups are over or under represented and that achievement is the highest it can be for all students.

- x. **ICT School Network:** access to social media sites/chat rooms is blocked on the school network.

This comprehensive approach to ensuring that pupils have access to the highest quality education which offers experience, in the world beyond Bishopshalt, to equip pupils to be successful in adult life both individually, within their own community and within wider British society is regarded by us as the best way in which to 'prevent' engagement in extremist activity of any kind. Pupils are proud of their British heritage – whether it be British Bangladeshi, British African etc. The school is proud of their achievements as they leave and go on to work, apprenticeships, college, university and ultimately to have successful careers.

