



The Safeguarding Team at Belmont

If you have any concerns about a child's welfare or safety, please speak to a member of the school's safeguarding team.



Mrs Clair Veli

Designated Safeguarding Lead
(DSL)



Miss Rachel Carroll

Deputy Designated Safeguarding
Lead (DDSL)



Mrs Kirstin Eccles
Mental Health Lead

Dear Mums, Dads and Carers,

Welcome to March's edition of Belmont School's Safeguarding Newsletter.

It's the end of Term 4! I don't know about you, but I feel like I blinked and now it's Easter– these shorter terms do fly by but I'm sure we're all still in need of the break and time with our families.

This month's newsletter focuses on **Prevent** which is a government strategy designed to stop people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorist or extremist causes.

If you're looking for further information on any of the topics raised, or any other safeguarding matters, please drop me an email at:

clair.veli@belmont.sandmat.uk

Thank you for taking the time to read this newsletter. As ever, if you have a topic which you'd like us to cover in more detail, please get in touch. Have a lovely break and we look forward to seeing you next term.

Clair Veli

Assistant Headteacher &
Designated Safeguarding Lead



What parents need to know about

RADICALISATION

Children can be exposed to different views and receive information from various sources. Some of these views may be considered radical or extreme.

Radicalisation

is the process through which a person comes to support or be involved in extremist ideologies. It can result in a person becoming drawn into terrorism and is in itself a form of harm.

Extremism

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.

Challenging and tackling extremism needs to be a shared effort. For this reason, the Government has given some types of organisations (including schools) in England, Scotland and Wales a duty to identify vulnerable children and young people and prevent them from being drawn into terrorism. However, all organisations that work with children and young people have a responsibility to protect children from harm. This includes becoming radicalised and/or being exposed to extreme views.



In this newsletter, we're sharing best practice about recognising, responding to and preventing radicalisation and extremism.



RECOGNISING & RESPONDING

How does radicalisation happen?

The process of radicalisation may involve:

- being groomed online or in person;
- exploitation, including sexual exploitation;
- psychological manipulation;
- exposure to violent material and other inappropriate information;
- the risk of physical harm or death through extremist acts.

It happens gradually so children and young people who are affected may not realise what it is that they are being drawn into.

Vulnerability factors

Anyone can be radicalised but there are some factors which may make a young person more vulnerable. These include:

- being easily influenced or impressionable;
- having low self-esteem or being isolated;
- feeling that rejection, discrimination or injustice is taking place in society;
- experiencing community tension amongst different groups;
- being disrespectful or angry towards family and peers;
- having a strong need for acceptance or belonging;
- experiencing grief such as loss of a loved one.

These factors will not always lead to radicalisation.

Report any concerns

If you suspect a child is being abused or is in danger of being abused, please contact a Designated Safeguarding Lead, or any member of staff. You can also contact the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) on:
01452 426565.

If a child is in immediate danger, call the Police immediately on 999.



RECOGNISING & RESPONDING

Indicators of radicalisation

If a child or young person is being radicalised, their day-to-day behaviour may become increasingly centred around an extremist ideology, group or cause. For example, they may:

- spend increasing amounts of time talking to people with extreme views (this includes online and offline communication);
- change their style of dress or personal appearance;
- lose interest in friends and activities that are not associated with the extremist ideology, group or cause;
- have material or symbols associated with an extreme cause;
- try to recruit others to join the cause.

What to do if you think a child is being radicalised

If you think a child or the people around them are involved in radicalisation and there is an immediate risk of harm, call 999 straight away.

If it isn't an emergency, contact the school's Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) Clair Veli, or Rachel Carroll (Deputy DSL).

You can also contact the NSPCC helpline if you're worried that a child is being radicalised. It's free, anonymous and they're there 24/7.

Call: 0808 800 5000 or email: help@NSPCC.org.uk



What does Belmont do?

As a school, we:

- include radicalisation in our safeguarding policies and procedures;
- identify those at risk and make sure everyone in our school knows when to report a concern;
- work in partnership with other organisations across the community;
- promote positive messages of tolerance and community cohesion.