STOUR VALLEY
COMMUNITY SCHOOL

Statement on Combating Extremism

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Date approved: December 2025
Next review date: December 2026

Ways in which SVCS protects students from extremist views, including religious and political extremism.

The Curriculum

At Stour Valley Community School we recognise the responsibility to make sure that our students grow up with a balanced view of the world, its peoples and opinions. We also recognise that there are many opportunities within a school curriculum to address these issues and support balanced and informed debate about many contentious issues.

The Religious Studies department at SVCS, through following the Suffolk Agreed Syllabus, studies the main world religions and promotes tolerance and understanding of world views. When appropriate, current issues in the news are discussed and that may prompt students to question human behaviour and their motives behind it. Students are encouraged to use critical thinking skills to identify bias and in doing so develop the skills of analysis and evaluation. Lessons regularly look at 'right' and 'wrong' in terms of religious beliefs and British law so it is made clear what is acceptable behaviour in this country.

The concept of nationalism in its extreme form arises in History lessons from Year 9 onwards is discussed in PSHE and, as issues arise, in tutor times. Students are encouraged to discuss, as far as possible, why these views are extreme and why and how people in the world may express them. Within work on British Values this leads to discussions about freedom of speech and association. As part of Relationship and Sex Education and in PSHE students discuss how to make choices about right and wrong, how to resist peer pressure and how to cope with upsetting news or emotional difficulties. These themes are also explored through the Drama curriculum.

Role of Staff

The school will not tolerate any extremist political or religious views expressed openly by staff or Governors either in school to students or other staff members or in more public forums such as social media. Staff members may be subject to disciplinary action as necessary. The school does not tolerate any extremist views expressed by any visitors to the school, including parents. If a staff member hears such views then they must inform a member of Senior Staff immediately.

Role of Tutor and Whole School

Within tutor time students are encouraged to discuss current news items from television and in the press. In this context students can be presented with a more balanced view of a particular story and together we can help and support them if they become worried or distressed about any particular story, especially where there has been loss of life. We need to be especially sensitive to students whose family members may be in areas that might be the source of many of these news items.

Themes of tolerance for others and differences in beliefs are also explored in assemblies, which are held throughout the year and are differentiated to ensure they contain age appropriate material. Individual support from Senior Staff and the Pastoral Team can be given to any student who expresses more serious anxiety.

Any of our students may come into contact with extremist literature or propaganda at any time including when on school visits and in the community. Staff leading or accompanying visits must be vigilant to this possibility. Staff will support students who may be distressed or frightened by what they read or see. Students will be helped to have a balanced view as well

as give them coping strategies in dealing with what may be external pressures, however it is important to ensure that students do not become phobic about certain groups or religions.

There may be occasions where students have come into contact with extremist propaganda and have come to school to proselytize or ‘spread the word’. All adults must be vigilant and report to the Designated Safeguarding Lead (Amy Jamieson) any suspicion or incident. Students are vulnerable to such influences and must be safeguarded from any grooming activities related to extremism.

Ratified by Governing Body	SVCS LGB
Date	December 2025