

STATEMENT ON THE DUTY TO COMBAT EXTREMISM



OUR VISION

Enabling individuals to unlock their unique potential.

INTRODUCTION

This Statement has been agreed in order to make clear the response of Todmorden High School to the concerns over extremism in some British schools, and wider society, recently. It is submitted to the Governing Body for approval as school policy.

The Statement will be reviewed in line with other school policies.

DUTIES OF MEMBERS OF STAFF

All members of staff have a fundamental responsibility with regard to combatting extremism. The Teachers' Standards (July 2011), clearly show this professional responsibility in Part 2:

- “showing tolerance of and respect for the rights of others;
- “not undermining fundamental British values, including democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect, and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs”
- “ensuring that personal beliefs are not expressed in ways which exploit pupils’ vulnerability or might lead them to break the law.”

Support staff are required to demonstrate a similar responsibility in their work as an essential and everyday expectation.

Teachers must not promote partisan political views in the teaching of any subject and are required to ensure that whenever political issues are brought to the attention of pupils a balanced presentation of the opposing views is offered. This requirement applies not only during scheduled lessons but in all other contexts. Any teacher failing to comply with these requirements would be liable to disciplinary action.

Todmorden High School takes very seriously the promotion of both:

- A. personal responsibility, understanding of the differences between right and wrong and respect for the civil and criminal law and;
- B. an understanding of how individuals can contribute to the wellbeing of those in the locality and beyond

These strands of learning are addressed in many different subjects and contexts, including assemblies. The school takes pride in the personal and spiritual development of its young people and seeks to provide every opportunity for pupils to become positive and emotionally resilient adults with the knowledge and confidence to stand by their own convictions.