



## Policy for Preventing Extremism and Radicalisation

### **Introduction**

LMA is committed to providing a secure environment for students, where they feel safe and are kept safe. All staff at LMA recognise that safeguarding is everyone's responsibility, irrespective of the role they undertake or whether their role has direct contact or responsibility for students or not.

Preventing Extremism and Radicalisation is one element within our overall arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of all students in line with our statutory duties. This policy also draws upon the Government's 'Prevent' agenda and associated guidance document, 'Revised Prevent Duty Guidance', and the DfE Guidance 'Keeping Children Safe in Education, 2016'.

### **College Ethos and Practice**

When operating this policy, LMA uses the following accepted Governmental definition of extremism which 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; and/or calls for the death of members of our armed forces, whether in this country or overseas'.*

Extremists of all persuasions aim to develop destructive relationships between different communities by promoting division, fear and mistrust of others based on ignorance or prejudice and thereby limiting the life chances of young people.

Education is a powerful weapon against this; equipping young people with the knowledge, skills and critical thinking, to challenge and debate in an informed way.

LMA does not tolerate extremist views of any kind whether from internal sources; learners, staff or governors, or external sources; the college community, external agencies or individuals. Students see LMA as a safe place where they can explore controversial issues safely and where our staff encourage and facilitate this, effectively embedding fundamental British values into their teaching and learning practices. We have a duty to ensure this happens.

As an educational provider, we recognise that extremism and exposure to extremist materials and influences can lead to poor outcomes for students and so should be addressed as a safeguarding concern as set out in this policy. We also recognise that if we fail to challenge extremist views we are failing to protect our students.

Therefore, at LMA we will provide a broad and balanced tutorial programme, delivered by skilled professionals, so that our students understand and become tolerant of difference and diversity. We will ensure that they feel valued and not marginalised.

Any prejudice, discrimination or extremist views, including derogatory language, displayed by students or staff will always be challenged and where appropriate dealt with in accordance with our Student Disciplinary Policy and the Staff Disciplinary and Dismissal Policy.

As part of wider safeguarding responsibilities, LMA staff will be alert to:

1. Disclosures by students, of their exposure to the extremist actions, views or materials of others outside, such as in their homes or community groups, especially where students have not actively sought these out.
2. Graffiti symbols, writing or artwork promoting extremist messages or images
3. Students accessing extremist material online, including through social networking sites
4. Parental reports of changes in behaviour, friendship or actions and requests for assistance
5. Partner colleges, local authority services, and police reports of issues affecting students in other colleges or settings
6. Students voicing opinions drawn from extremist ideologies and narratives
7. Use of extremist or 'hate' terms to exclude others or incite violence
8. Intolerance of difference, whether secular or religious, or views based on, but not exclusive to, gender, disability, homophobia, race, colour or culture
9. Attempts to impose extremist views or practices on others
10. Anti-Western or Anti-British views

LMA will closely follow any locally agreed procedures as set out by the Local Authority and/or Liverpool Safeguarding Children's Board's agreed processes and criteria for safeguarding individuals vulnerable to extremism and radicalisation.

We will help support students who may be vulnerable to such influences as part of our wider safeguarding responsibilities and where we believe a student is being directly affected by extremist materials or influences we will ensure that the student is offered mentoring. Additionally in such instances LMA will seek external support from the Local Authority and/or local partnership structures working to prevent extremism.

By delivering a broad and balanced tutorial programme, augmented by the use of external sources where appropriate, we will strive to ensure our students recognise risk and build resilience to manage any such risk themselves where appropriate to their age and ability but also to help them develop the critical thinking skills needed to engage in informed debate.

### **Raising Concerns**

Where there are concerns of extremism or radicalisation, students and staff will be encouraged to discuss them with a member of the Safeguarding Team or Principal. The procedure for reporting and referring safeguarding concerns will apply.

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