



**British International School  
of Timisoara**

*We Provide the Foundation on Which Our Children Can Flourish*

**School Policies**

**Preventing Extremism and Radicalisation  
policy**

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# Preventing Extremism and Radicalisation policy

## General

The British International School of Timisoara (BIST) is an international coeducational private school following a British-based curriculum and accepting children aged between 4 and 18.

The British International School of Timisoara offers its students an international experience through a British-based curriculum adhering to the guidelines of the Council of British International Schools, Cambridge Assessment International Education and IB World Schools organization. Our qualified, internationally-experienced and dynamic educators will teach all subjects in English, with the exception of the lessons of Romanian, which are taught by qualified and engaging local teachers.

### Our Vision

*We provide the Foundation on which our Children can Flourish  
Inspiring our students to Learn and Live with Purpose*

### Our Mission

*Building a community of learners where students are given meaningful opportunities to learn, experience, grow, succeed and excel in all areas of their academic and personal development*

### Our Core Values

*We Think, We Explore and We Learn  
We Listen, We Respect and We Care  
We Speak Up, We Participate and We Strive*

At BIST we want to ensure that all members of our community understand and adhere to our school ethos and values. Rules and regulations will be in place to protect all members of the community and to give everyone equal opportunities for development and progress.

## Introduction

The purpose of this policy is to set out the framework and procedures in place at BIST to providing a secure environment for its pupils, where children feel safe and are kept safe and protected from radicalisation and extremist influences. All adults at BIST recognise that safeguarding is everyone's responsibility irrespective of the role they undertake or whether their role has direct contact or responsibility for children or not.

## Definition

When operating this policy BIST 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'.*

There is no place for extremist views of any kind in our school, whether from internal sources — pupils, staff or governors, or external sources - school community, external agencies or individuals. Our pupils see our school as a safe place where they can explore controversial issues safely and where our teachers encourage and facilitate this — we have a duty to ensure this happens.

## Preventing Extremism and Radicalisation policy

As a school we recognise that extremism and exposure to extremist materials and influences can lead to poor outcomes for children 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 pupils.

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.

### Procedure and implementation

At BIST we will provide a broad and balanced curriculum, delivered by skilled professionals, so that our children are enriched, understand and become tolerant of difference and diversity and also to ensure that they thrive, feel valued and not marginalised.

Furthermore, at BIST we are aware that young people can be exposed to extremist influences or prejudiced views from an early age which emanate from a variety of sources and media, including via the internet, and at times pupils may themselves reflect or display views that may be discriminatory, prejudiced or extremist, including using derogatory language.

Any prejudice, discrimination or extremist views, including derogatory language, displayed by pupils or staff will always be challenged and where appropriate dealt with in line with our Good Behaviour Policy for pupils, and the Code of Conduct and Disciplinary Procedures for staff.

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

- Disclosures by pupils of their exposure to the extremist actions, views or materials of others outside of school, such as in their homes or community groups, especially where pupils have not actively sought these out;
- Graffiti symbols, writing or artwork promoting extremist messages or images;
- Pupils accessing extremist material online, including through social networking sites;
- Parental reports of changes in behaviour, friendship or actions and requests for assistance;
- Partner schools, local authority services, police report of issues affecting pupils in other schools or settings;
- Pupils voicing opinions drawn from extremist ideologies and narratives;
- Use of extremist or 'hate' terms to exclude others or incite violence;
- Intolerance of difference, whether secular or religious or, in line with our equalities policy, views based on, but not exclusive to, gender, disability, homophobia, race, colour or culture;
- Attempts to impose extremist views or practices on others;
- Views that fundamentally oppose the British values and the school promoted values as detailed below.

Our school will closely follow any locally agreed procedure as set out by the Local Authority and the Child Safeguarding Team's agreed processes and criteria for safeguarding individuals vulnerable to extremism and radicalisation.

### BIST values and British Values

At BIST, we have determined School Values to be:

*We Think, We Explore and We Learn  
We Listen, We Respect and We Care  
We Speak Up, We Participate and We Strive*

We believe that the British Values, promoted by the school as International agreed values: Democracy, the rule of law, Individual liberty, Mutual respect and Tolerance, are embedded in the school promoted values.

## Preventing Extremism and Radicalisation policy

As a school we aim to develop and nurture these values by:

- Planning a vibrant, engaging assembly programme with core ethical values and beliefs at its heart;
- Implementing a well-structured PSHEE programme which addresses the requirements of the programmes of study (looking at Democracy, Freedom, the rule of law, Human Rights and responsibilities);
- Implementing an effective School Council enabling pupils to actively participate in the democratic process;
- Providing a broad and balanced curriculum which addresses many of these core values across a range of subject areas;
- Having a clearly communicated and consistently applied Reward/Sanctions and Good Behaviour Policy so that pupils understand what is expected of them and the consequences of both meeting and failing to meet these expectations;
- Implementing a Code of Conduct which is regularly referred to and communicated with pupils and staff, reiterating that we are a school community built on mutual respect and understanding;
- Adopting restorative approaches, where possible, to resolve any difficulties between members of our school community;
- Having a rigorous commitment to pupil safety (for example: risk assessments for educational visits policy and procedures, Safeguarding procedures, Code of Conduct and Health and Safety procedures)

### Teaching Approach

BIST will strive to eradicate the assumptions that can lead to some young people becoming alienated and disempowered. In our school this will be achieved by good teaching, primarily via PSHEE, but also by adopting the methods outlined in the Government's guidance.

We will do our best to ensure that all our teaching approaches help our pupils build resilience to extremism and give pupils a positive sense of identity through the development of critical thinking skills. We will do our best to ensure that all our staff are equipped to recognise extremism and are skilled and confident enough to challenge it.

We will be flexible enough to adapt our teaching approaches, as appropriate, to address specific issues. We will do this through:

- Making a connection with young people through good teaching and a child centred approach;
- Facilitating a 'safe space' for dialogue
- Equipping our pupils with the appropriate skills, knowledge, understanding and awareness for resilience.

Our goal is to build mutual respect and understanding and to promote the use of dialogue not violence as a form of conflict resolution.

We will also work with local partners, families and communities in our efforts to ensure our school understands and embraces our local context and values in challenging extremist views and to assist in the broadening of our pupils' experiences and horizons.

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

At BIST we will promote the values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, mutual respect and tolerance for those with different faiths and beliefs. We will teach and encourage pupils to respect one another and to respect and tolerate difference, especially those of a different faith or no faith.

## **Preventing Extremism and Radicalisation policy**

### **Agencies and speakers**

At BIST we will encourage the use of external agencies or speakers to enrich the experiences of our pupils, however we will positively vet those external agencies, individuals or speakers who we engage to provide such learning opportunities or experiences for our pupils.

Our school will assess the suitability and effectiveness of input from external agencies or individuals to ensure that:

- Any messages communicated to pupils are consistent with the ethos of the school and do not marginalise any communities, groups or individuals;
- Any messages do not seek to glorify criminal activity or violent extremism or seek to radicalise pupils through extreme or narrow views of faith, religion or culture or other ideologies;
- Activities are properly embedded in the curriculum and clearly mapped to schemes of work to avoid contradictory messages or duplication;
- Activities are matched to the needs of pupils;
- Activities are carefully evaluated by the school to ensure that they are effective.

### **Whistle Blowing**

Where there are concerns of extremism or radicalisation pupils, staff will be encouraged to make use of our internal systems to Whistle Blow or raise any issue in confidence. They must inform the Designated Safeguarding Lead immediately.

### **Safeguarding**

Please refer to our Child Safeguarding Policy for the full procedural framework on our Safeguarding and Child Protection duties.

### **Annual Review**

This policy is subject to an annual review