

SCARF, British Values and Prevent

The PSHE Association guidance on radicalisation states that:

“Schools can build pupils’ resilience to extremism and radicalisation by supporting inclusion and a sense of belonging in the community and by providing a safe environment for debating emotive issues. As part of this whole school approach, PSHE education lessons can develop knowledge and understanding of the factors that lead to extremism, and skills such as critically evaluating the media, as well as developing attributes such as resilience, empathy and respect for others. These lessons are not designed to be taught in isolation, but should always form part of a planned, developmental PSHE education programme.”

SCARF lessons provide a carefully sequenced, age-appropriate series of lesson plans and resources. These don’t refer specifically to extremism and radicalisation, but there are broad, protective factors threaded throughout their content; these lay the foundations for preventing the radicalisation that can lead to extremist beliefs.

The SCARF lesson plans specifically support and promote children’s knowledge, skills and confidence in relation to this by helping children to:

- clarify values and beliefs, develop an individual identity and respect the freedom of others to express their identity
- develop empathy
- develop listening and discussion/debating skills
- identify, evaluate and manage risk
- developing critical thinking skills
- assess and evaluate arguments; understanding and challenging concepts such as ‘certainty’
- be able to separate fact from opinion
- understand influence, persuasion, manipulation – particularly in relation to the influence of social media.

SCARF provides a curriculum, and a framework for a whole-school ethos of tolerance and respect. It provides the foundations and building blocks – beginning in the early years, and progressing in a sequential, age-appropriate way – to develop these essential skills.

The lesson plan content encourages teachers to adopt teaching and learning approaches which develop and promote critical thinking, curiosity and enquiry. Lessons provide open questions and suggest teaching strategies to help embed this positive, enabling pedagogical approach.

Within SCARF’s suggested half-termly units, the **Valuing Difference** units and **Rights and Responsibilities** are a particularly rich source of lesson plans that promote and develop the protective learning factors in relation to this issue. (For an example of a lesson, go to the Y4 half-termly unit Valuing Difference and lesson plan [The People We Share Our World With](#).)

The SCARF [Subjects and Issues](#) page provides quick access to lesson plans that relate directly to British Values, though it’s important to understand that a large number of SCARF lesson plans beyond list also promote the key values and skills listed earlier.

SCARF is also mapped to and covers all elements of the new [DfE Relationships Education and Health Education guidance](#) statutory from September 2020. Its end-of-primary statements cover the fundamental building blocks of this key area in detail within the Relationships Education categories and framework.