



# Prevent Policy

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<b>Approved by:</b>	?????????	
<b>Last reviewed on:</b>	?????????	
<b>Next review due</b>	September 2025	
<b>by:</b>	?????????	

## 1. Introduction

The Counter-Terrorism and Security Act (July 2015) requires schools to "have due regard, in the exercise of their functions, to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism". This is known as the 'Prevent Duty'. The updated Prevent Duty Guidance came into force in December 2023 ( <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/prevent-duty-guidance>). The school is fully committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all its pupils.

As a school we recognise that safeguarding against radicalisation is no different from safeguarding against any other vulnerability. All staff are expected to uphold and promote the fundamental principles of British values, including democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect, and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs. The school should continue to understand their Prevent duty requirements as part of their wider safeguarding responsibilities as outlined in Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE).

## 2. Aims & Principles

The main aims of this policy statement are to ensure that staff are fully engaged in being vigilant about radicalisation; that they overcome professional disbelief that such issues will not happen here and ensure that we work alongside other professional bodies and agencies to ensure that our pupils are safe from harm.

The principal objectives are that:

- All Staff and Governors will have an understanding of what radicalisation and extremism are and why we need to be vigilant in school.
- All Staff and Governors will know what the school policy is on anti-radicalisation and extremism and will follow the policy when issues arise.
- All parents and pupils will know that the school has policies in place to keep pupils safe from harm and that the school regularly reviews its systems to ensure they are appropriate and effective.

## 3. Definitions and Indicators

- Extremism is the vocal or active opposition to our fundamental values, including democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and the mutual respect and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs. This also includes calling for the death of members of the armed forces.
- Radicalisation refers to the process by which a person comes to support terrorism and extremist ideologies associated with terrorist groups.
  - Terrorism is an action that endangers or causes serious violence to a person/people; causes serious damage to property; or seriously interferes or disrupts an electronic system. The use or threat must be designed to influence the government or to intimidate the public and is made for the purpose of advancing a political, religious, or ideological cause.

There is no single way of identifying whether a child is likely to be susceptible to an extremist ideology. Background factors combined with specific influences such as family and friends may contribute to a child's vulnerability. Similarly, radicalisation can occur through many different methods (such as social media or the internet) and settings (such as within the home). However, it is possible to protect vulnerable people from extremist ideology and intervene to prevent those at risk of radicalisation being radicalised.

As with other safeguarding risks, staff should be alert to changes in children's behaviour, which could indicate that they may be in need of help or protection. Staff should use their judgement in identifying children who might be at risk of radicalisation and act proportionately which may include the designated safeguarding lead (or deputy) making a Prevent referral.

Radicalisation can be really difficult to spot. Signs that may indicate a child is being radicalised include:

- isolating themselves from family and friends
- talking as if from a scripted speech
- unwillingness or inability to discuss their views
- a sudden disrespectful attitude towards others
- increased levels of anger
- increased secretiveness, especially around internet use.

## 4. E Safety

The internet provides children and young people with access to a wide-range of content, some of which is harmful. Extremists use the internet, including social media, to share their messages. The filtering systems used in our school blocks inappropriate content, including extremist content.

Children will be taught how to stay safe online, both in school and outside school. They will be taught to understand the risks posed by adults or young people who use the internet and social media to groom, abuse or radicalise other people, especially children, young people and vulnerable adults.

The school will also filter out social media, such as Facebook. Searches and web addresses are monitored, and the IT technicians will alert the DSL/ Head where there are concerns and prevent further access when new sites that are unblocked are found. Where staff, students or visitors find unblocked extremist content they must report it to the DSL who will in turn discuss it with the Head Teacher.

The school are aware that children and young people have access to unfiltered internet when using their mobile phones and staff are alert to the need for vigilance when pupils are found to be using electronic devices.

## 5. Procedures for Referrals

Staff are reminded to suspend any professional disbelief that instances of radicalisation 'could not happen here' and to refer any concerns through the appropriate channels (currently via the Designated Safeguarding Lead).

We believe that it is possible to intervene to protect people who are vulnerable.

Early intervention is vital, and staff must be aware of the established processes for front line professionals to refer concerns about individuals and/or groups. We must have the confidence to challenge, the confidence to intervene and ensure that we have strong safeguarding practices based on the most up-to-date guidance and best practice.

The Designated Safeguarding Lead and the Head Teacher will deal swiftly with any referrals made by staff or with concerns reported by staff. The Head Teacher will discuss the most appropriate course of action on a case-by-case basis and will decide when a referral to external agencies is needed.

### **Channel**

Channel is a voluntary, confidential support programme which focuses on providing support at an early stage to people who are identified as being vulnerable to being drawn into terrorism. Prevent referrals may be passed to a multi-agency Channel panel, which will discuss the individual referred to determine whether they are vulnerable to being drawn into terrorism and consider the appropriate support required. A representative from the school may be asked to attend the Channel panel to help with this assessment.

## **6. Visitors to the School**

The school will ensure all visitors to the school are carefully vetted and take immediate action if any individual or group is perceived to be attempting to influence members of the school community, either physically or electronically.

The school will also conduct a “open source” check for any organisations which wish to have relationships with the school, particularly those in the voluntary sector.

## **7. The Role of the Curriculum**

Our curriculum promotes respect, tolerance and diversity. We are committed to ensuring that our pupils are offered a broad and balanced curriculum that aims to prepare them for life in modern Britain. Children are encouraged to share their views and recognise that they are entitled to have their own different beliefs which should not be used to influence others.

Our RE, PSHE and RSHE provision is embedded across the curriculum and underpins the ethos of the school. Teaching the schools’ core values alongside the fundamental British values supports quality teaching and learning, whilst making a positive contribution to the development of a fair, just and civil society. Children are regularly taught about how to stay safe when using the Internet and are encouraged to recognise that people are not always who they say they are online. They are taught to seek adult help if they are upset or concerned about anything they read or see on the Internet.

## **8. Responsibilities and Training**

The Governing Body of our School will undertake appropriate training to ensure that they are clear about their role and the parameters of their responsibilities as Governors, including their statutory safeguarding duties. The Governing Body of our school will support the ethos and values of our school and will support the school in tackling extremism and radicalisation.

The school has determined who the appropriate members of staff are and how frequently training should occur, being proportionate to the risk of terrorism and extremism in the local area. It has also considered what type of training is needed for staff in different roles. The

leads with designated Prevent responsibilities receive more in-depth training, including on extremist and terrorist ideologies to enable them to train and advise other staff and support making informed referrals to Prevent where necessary.

Through INSET opportunities in school, we will ensure that our staff are fully aware of the threats, risks and vulnerabilities that are linked to radicalisation; are aware of the process of radicalisation and how this might be identified early on.

**The Designated Prevent Lead** will liaise regularly with the Head and the DSL on matters relating to the Prevent duty and will monitor the school's compliance with this duty primarily by way of term updates from the Safeguarding Lead ("DSL") and by conducting an annual review (see Safeguarding policy) into the School's compliance with its Prevent duty. As part of this process the Designated Prevent Lead will:

- ensure that this policy is understood and effectively implemented by staff throughout the School;
- ensure that the DSL undergoes appropriate Prevent duty training which is refreshed at least every two years; and
- ensure that the School's Prevent policies and procedures and general safeguarding arrangements take into account the policies and procedures of Local Safeguarding Children's Boards ("LSCBs").

**The DSL will:**

- be the single point of contact to oversee and coordinate the school's implementation of the Prevent duty;
- undertake prevent awareness training, such as the on-line general awareness training module on Channel - WRAP (Workshop to Raise Awareness of Prevent);
- undertake higher level training to be able to assess the risk of children being drawn into terrorism, including being drawn into support for the extremist ideas that are part of terrorist ideology;
- provide Prevent duty training to all staff so that they (a) understand the general risks affecting pupils at the School; (b) are able to identify individual children who might be at risk of radicalisation; and (c) know what to do to support these children;
- provide advice and support to other members of staff on protecting pupils from the risk of radicalisation;
- liaise with the Designated Prevent Lead and local partners, including the Police and the LSCB (Local Children's Safeguarding Board), including to establish what advice and support they can provide and to seek guidance on the general levels of risk within the local area;
- have responsibility for ensuring that any visiting speakers whether invited by staff or pupils are suitable and are appropriately supervised (see below);
- receive safeguarding concerns about children and young people who may be vulnerable;
- work in partnership with the LSCB on all matters covered by this policy and the School will follow any locally agreed procedures which are set out by the LSCB.
- report each term to the Head Teacher on these matters.

**All staff will:**

- undergo regular Prevent duty training (including Channel online awareness training and additional in-house training) so that staff have the knowledge and confidence to be able to (a) understand the general risks of radicalisation affecting pupils at the

School; (b) identify individual children who might be at risk of radicalisation and spot signs of extremism; (c) challenge extremist views; and (d) provide appropriate advice to children who are at risk of radicalisation.

- be alert to changes in children's behaviour which could indicate that they may be in need of help or protection.
- use their professional judgement in identifying children who might be at risk of radicalisation and act proportionately.

## 9. Recruitment

The arrangements for recruiting all staff, permanent and volunteers, to our school will follow the guidance for safer recruitment including, but not limited to, ensuring that DBS checks are always made at the appropriate level, that references are always received and checked and that we complete and maintain a single central record of such vetting checks.

We will apply safer recruitment best practice principles and sound employment practice in general and in doing so will deny opportunities for inappropriate recruitment or advancement. We will be alert to the possibility that persons may seek to gain positions within our school so as to unduly influence our school's character and ethos. Therefore, by adhering to safer recruitment best practice techniques and by ensuring that there is an ongoing culture of vigilance within our school and staff team we will minimise the opportunities for extremist views to prevail.

## 10. Risk Assessment

We will carry out an annual risk assessment which will identify the risk of pupils being drawn into terrorism or extremism.

Managing Risk -The risk and threat landscape has been updated in line with the counter-terrorism strategy (CONTEST) 2023. The risk and threat picture is broader than that of 2015, but the threat from Islamist terrorism remains the primary concern.

This risk assessment will look at the general risks affecting children and young people in the local area and the specific risks which may affect groups or individuals within the school and it will propose measures to mitigate and manage these risks.

## 11. Procedures for Referral

All staff and visitors to the School must refer all concerns about children and young people who show signs of vulnerability to radicalisation to the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL). **For further details about safeguarding referrals please see the School's separate policy entitled Safeguarding: Child Protection Procedures.**

If the DSL becomes aware of a concern relating to the radicalisation of a pupil he or she will discuss this with the Head and the LSCB so that appropriate actions can be taken to safeguard the pupil and appropriate referrals, including to the Channel programme, can be made.

Sharing information on Prevent should be treated the same as wider safeguarding. The National Referral Form is being rolled out nationally with the aim for all Prevent partners to adopt this approach. The referral form means that there is greater consistency of outcome both within and across a local authority. The school will continue to follow their existing processes for sharing information about learners susceptible to radicalisation and be aware of the Prevent referral process in their local authority. It also highlights existing KCSIE expectations that, where appropriate, as with any other safeguarding concern, any Prevent concerns should be securely transferred when a child moves school.

## **12. Monitoring and Review**

This Policy will be reviewed by the Head and the DSL annually, in consultation with the Prevent Lead. The effectiveness and implementation of this policy will be monitored by the DSL who will carry out an annual review for this purpose. For further information see the School's separate policy on Safeguarding.

## **13. Resources**

If you require further support, please contact your local authority safeguarding or education services. Further support for designated safeguarding leads, including on understanding and identifying risk and making Prevent referrals, is available on GOV.UK. You can also access Prevent duty training online. For sector specific resources please go to Educate Against Hate, Sign-up for Educate Against Hate newsletter which includes the latest news, blogs and resources to help teachers, school leaders and designated safeguarding leads protect students from radicalisation.