

# St Joseph's Catholic Primary School

## Prevent Duty





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### What is Prevent?

The aim of the government Prevent strategy is to reduce the threat to the UK from terrorism by stopping people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism.

The strategy has three specific objectives:

1. Respond to ideological challenge of terrorism and the threat we face from those who promote it
2. Prevent people from being drawn into terrorism and ensure that they are given appropriate advice and support
3. Work with sectors and institutions where there are risks of radicalisation that we need to address

### Government Definition of Extremism:

The Government has defined extremism in the Prevent strategy as:

“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.

Additionally, it includes calls for the death of members of the British armed forces.

### Our duty as a school:

In fulfilling the duty in section 26 of the Act, the Government expect all specified authorities to participate fully in work to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism. This participation and prevention will depend on many factors, for example, the age of the individual, how much interaction we have with them, etc.

### Government Expectations:

Leadership will:

- establish or use existing mechanisms for understanding the risk of radicalisation;
- ensure staff understand the risk and build the capabilities to deal with it;
- communicate and promote the importance of the duty;
- ensure staff implement the duty effectively

### Working in Partnership:

Prevent work depends on effective partnership. As a school we need to be able to demonstrate effective compliance with the duty, providing evidence of productive co-operation, in particular with local Prevent co-ordinators, the police and local authorities, and co-ordination through existing multi- agency forums, for example Community Safety Partnerships.

We ensure that our safeguarding arrangements take into account the policies and procedures of the LBBD Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB).

## **Capabilities:**

Frontline staff, (we consider these to be all our staff as they have access to the children), should understand what radicalisation means and why people may be vulnerable to being drawn into terrorism. These staff need to be aware of what the Government means by the term “extremism” and the relationship between extremism and terrorism.

Staff need to know what measures are available to prevent people from becoming drawn into terrorism and how to challenge the extremist ideology that can be associated with it. They need to understand how to obtain support for people who may be being exploited by radicalising influences.

## **Training:**

As a school we need to ensure that we provide appropriate training for staff involved in the implementation of this duty.

## **Sharing Information:**

We may need to share personal information to ensure that a person at risk of radicalisation is given appropriate support (for example on the Channel programme). Information sharing is assessed on a case-by-case basis.

When considering sharing personal information, we will take account of the following:

- necessity and proportionality: personal information should only be shared where it is strictly necessary to the intended outcome and proportionate to it. Key to determining the necessity and proportionality of sharing information will be the professional judgement of the risks to an individual or the public;
- consent: wherever possible the consent of the person concerned should be obtained before sharing any information about them; in school, this will mean any child under the age of 10 years
- power to share: the sharing of data by public sector bodies requires the existence of a power to do so, in addition to satisfying the requirements of the Data Protection Act 1998 and the Human Rights Act 1998;
- Data Protection Act and the Common Law Duty of Confidentiality: in engaging with non- public bodies, the school will ensure that we are aware of our own responsibilities under the Data Protection Act and any confidentiality obligations that exist.

We make sure that staff have training that gives them the knowledge and confidence to identify children at risk of being drawn into terrorism, and to challenge extremist ideas which can be used to legitimise terrorism and are shared by terrorist groups. Our staff know where and how to refer children and young people for further help. Prevent awareness training is a key part of this.

## **Specific Requirement on Schools:**

Our school is required by law to teach a broad and balanced curriculum which promotes the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of pupils and prepares them for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of life. We must also promote community cohesion.

Early years providers serve arguably the most vulnerable and impressionable members of society. The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) accordingly places clear duties on providers to keep children safe and promote their welfare. It makes clear that to protect children in their care, providers must be alert to any safeguarding and child protection issues in the child's life at home or elsewhere (paragraph 3.4 EYFS). Early years providers must take action to protect children from harm and should be alert to harmful behaviour by other adults in the child's life.

Early years providers already focus on children's personal, social and emotional development. The Early Years Foundation Stage framework supports early years providers to do this in an age appropriate way, through ensuring children learn right from wrong, mix and share with other children and value other's views, know about similarities and differences between themselves and others, and challenge negative attitudes and stereotypes.

As a school we have due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism. This does not just include violent extremism but also non-violent extremism, which can create an atmosphere conducive to terrorism and can popularise views which terrorists exploit.

We view our schools as a safe space in which children and young people can understand and discuss sensitive topics, including terrorism and the extremist ideas that are part of terrorist ideology, and learn how to challenge these ideas.

The Prevent duty is not intended to limit discussion of these issues. We are mindful of our existing duties to forbid political indoctrination and secure a balanced presentation of political issues. These duties are imposed on us by sections 406 and 407 of the Education Act 1996.

#### **Risk Assessment:**

As a school we assess the risk of children being drawn into terrorism, including support for extremist ideas that are part of terrorist ideology. This is based on an understanding, shared with partners, of the potential risk in our local area. We demonstrate how we are protecting children and young people from being drawn into terrorism by having robust safeguarding policies in place to identify children at risk, and intervening as appropriate.

As a school we will consider the level of risk to identify the most appropriate referral, which could include Channel or Children's Social Care, for example. We also have clear protocols for ensuring that any visiting speakers – whether invited by staff or by children themselves – are suitable and appropriately supervised.

#### **Computing Policy:**

We ensure children are safe from terrorist and extremist material when accessing the internet in school, including by establishing appropriate levels of filtering. We work closely with the Borough to identify these levels. Children are taught safety across all year groups.

#### **Monitoring and Enforcement:**

The Governing Body will monitor the implementation of the Prevent Duty and request a report from the Executive Headteacher to be made within the usual reporting system.

The Office for Standards in Education as part of their inspection schedule will assess the effectiveness of our policy and procedures.

## How Can You Help?

It is very important that we all work together to protect and safeguard our community and its members. There are different ways of doing this and so if you have any concerns:

- ✓ You can speak to our school designated safeguarding lead even if the young person is not in our school
- ✓ You can contact the local Prevent Officer
- ✓ You can speak with our community officers

## Glossary of Terms:

**‘Having due regard’** means that the authorities should place an appropriate amount of weight on the need to prevent people being drawn into terrorism when they consider all the other factors relevant to how they carry out their usual functions.

**‘Extremism’** is defined in the 2011 Prevent strategy as 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. We also include in our definition of extremism calls for the death of members of our armed forces, whether in this country or overseas.

**‘Interventions’** are projects intended to divert people who are being drawn into terrorist activity. Interventions can include mentoring, counselling, theological support, encouraging civic engagement, developing support networks (family and peer structures) or providing mainstream services (education, employment, health, finance or housing).

**‘Non-violent extremism’** is extremism, as defined above, which is not accompanied by violence.

**‘Prevention’** in the context of this document means reducing or eliminating the risk of individuals becoming involved in terrorism. Prevent includes but is not confined to the identification and referral of those at risk of being drawn into terrorism into appropriate interventions. These interventions aim to divert vulnerable people from radicalisation.

**‘Radicalisation’** refers to the process by which a person comes to support terrorism and extremist ideologies associated with terrorist groups.

**‘Safeguarding’** is the process of protecting vulnerable people, whether from crime, other forms of abuse or (in the context of this document) from being drawn into terrorist related activity.

**‘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.

**‘Terrorist-related offences’** are those (such as murder) which are not offences in terrorist legislation, but which are judged to be committed in relation to terrorism.

**‘Vulnerability’** describes the condition of being capable of being injured; difficult to defend; open to moral or ideological attack. Within Prevent, the word describes factors and characteristics associated with being susceptible to radicalisation.

## **Channel Programme:**

Channel is a programme which focuses on providing support at an early stage to people who are identified as being vulnerable to being drawn into terrorism. The programme uses a multi-agency approach to protect vulnerable people by:

- identifying individuals at risk
- assessing the nature and extent of that risk
- developing the most appropriate support plan for the individuals concerned

This policy has been written directly from the HM Government “Revised Prevent Duty guidance: for England and Wales” 2015

A direct link to this document may be found at:

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/445977/3799\\_Revised\\_Prevent\\_Duty\\_Guidance\\_England\\_Wales\\_V2-Interactive.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/445977/3799_Revised_Prevent_Duty_Guidance_England_Wales_V2-Interactive.pdf)

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