

Prevent Policy and Procedures



Our Mission

*'At SS John and Monica's we learn through the example of Jesus
to love, respect, understand and value each other'*

SS John and Monica Catholic Primary School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare and wellbeing of all children.

Policy owner	Head Teacher / Designated Safeguarding Lead
Approved by	Governing Body
Date updated	September 2026
Review date	September 2027, or sooner if legislation/guidance changes

1. Purpose and statutory context

This policy forms part of the school's wider safeguarding arrangements. The Prevent duty is the duty in section 26 of the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 to have due regard to the need to prevent people from becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism. The current statutory Prevent duty guidance for England and Wales came into force on 31 December 2023.

The school will implement this duty as part of its child-centred safeguarding practice and in conjunction with Keeping Children Safe in Education 2026 (KCSIE), Working Together to Safeguard Children, the Equality Act 2010, the Data Protection Act 2018 and UK GDPR, and relevant local safeguarding and Prevent procedures.

Prevent is not about preventing pupils from expressing views, discussing controversial issues or exploring faith, identity and politics in an age-appropriate way. The school provides safe opportunities for discussion while challenging prejudice, hatred, intolerance and narratives that may legitimise or encourage terrorism.

2. Aims

- protect pupils from the risk of radicalisation into terrorism as part of the school's safeguarding responsibilities;
- ensure staff understand the Prevent duty, the local and online risk context, and how concerns may present;
- provide a clear, proportionate route for recording, assessing and referring concerns;
- build pupils' resilience through a broad curriculum, safeguarding education, critical thinking, online safety and the active promotion of fundamental British values;
- work effectively with parents, the local authority, safeguarding partners, police and Channel where appropriate; and
- ensure that the school's premises, IT systems, visitors, speakers and external organisations are managed so they are not used to promote terrorism or radicalising influences.

3. Key terms

Prevent: the part of the UK counter-terrorism strategy concerned with stopping people from becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism.

Radicalisation: the process of a person legitimising support for, or use of, terrorist violence.

Susceptibility to radicalisation: there is no single profile or pathway. A person may be susceptible because of a combination of influences, grievances, circumstances, needs, relationships, online activity or other factors. Susceptibility should not be assumed from a pupil's faith, ethnicity, culture, political interest or protected characteristics.

Terrorism: for the purposes of this policy, the school uses the meaning set out in terrorism legislation and current Prevent guidance.

Extremist or radicalising narratives: ideas or narratives may be relevant to Prevent where they are used to legitimise, encourage or support terrorism. Staff should remain alert to both violent and non-violent extremist influences that can reasonably be linked to terrorism.

4. Leadership, governance and accountability

The Head Teacher/DSL is the school's senior Prevent lead and Single Point of Contact (SPOC). The DSL may delegate operational actions to trained Deputy DSLs, but retains lead responsibility for safeguarding and Prevent.

- The Governing Body will ensure the school meets its statutory Prevent duty and that arrangements are reviewed as part of safeguarding oversight.
- The DSL/Prevent lead will maintain an up-to-date understanding of local, regional, national and online risks and liaise with Birmingham Prevent and safeguarding partners as required.

- The school will maintain a Prevent risk assessment proportionate to its context, phase, size and identified risks, including online risks. Specific risks will be addressed through an action plan and reviewed at least annually or when circumstances change.
- Prevent considerations will be integrated into safeguarding, online safety, filtering and monitoring, curriculum, visitor, lettings and staff training arrangements.

5. Recognising and responding to concerns

There is no definitive checklist of signs that proves a child is being radicalised. Staff should use professional curiosity, consider the child's circumstances and behaviour in context, and avoid stereotyping. A change or concern may have many explanations and may indicate a different safeguarding or support need.

Possible indicators may include, particularly where several are present or there is a marked change:

- expressing support for terrorism, terrorist groups, terrorist violence or narratives that justify serious violence;
- possessing, viewing, searching for, creating or sharing terrorist or radicalising material, including online;
- increasingly fixed or intolerant views accompanied by hostility towards groups or individuals, where these views are linked to terrorist or radicalising narratives;
- glorifying violence, martyrdom or terrorist attacks, or expressing an intention to carry out or support violence;
- unexplained or concerning changes in behaviour, peer groups, online contacts, language, interests or secrecy;
- contact with individuals or networks of concern, online or offline, or attempts to recruit or influence others;
- grievances, identity concerns, social isolation, bullying, trauma or other circumstances being exploited by radicalising influences; or
- any disclosure, behaviour or online activity that causes a member of staff to believe a pupil may be on a pathway towards terrorism.

None of these factors should be considered in isolation. Poverty, underachievement, religious observance or conversion, lawful political views, cultural identity, or non-conformity are not in themselves indicators of radicalisation.

6. Procedure for reporting and referral

- Any member of staff with a concern must report it to the DSL or a Deputy DSL without delay and make a factual safeguarding record on CPOMS in line with the school's safeguarding procedures.
- The DSL/DDSL will assess the concern, consider the pupil's wider safeguarding context, seek advice where needed, and record the rationale for decisions and actions.
- For a child or young person in Birmingham, the school will follow the current Birmingham Prevent referral flowchart: follow the local Early Help/safeguarding process, consider the Right Help Right Time threshold, and where a Prevent referral is appropriate complete the National Prevent Referral Form and submit it with the relevant Request for Support to CASS.
- If staff are unsure whether the threshold for a Prevent referral is met, the DSL may seek advice from Birmingham's Prevent team, safeguarding partners or police as appropriate.
- Where there is an immediate risk of harm, a suspected crime in progress, or an immediate threat to life, staff must follow emergency safeguarding procedures and contact the police on 999 where necessary. Prevent procedures do not replace emergency action.
- The school will cooperate, as reasonably practicable, with any local authority-led Channel panel where a referral is adopted and will contribute relevant information and support planning.

7. Information sharing, consent and record keeping

Information will be shared on a need-to-know basis and in accordance with KCSIE, data protection legislation and safeguarding information-sharing guidance. Consent is not always required to share

safeguarding information where there is a lawful basis and sharing is necessary and proportionate to protect a child or others.

Channel support is voluntary. Where a child is offered Channel support, consent is normally provided by a parent, guardian or the agency with responsibility for the child's care. The school will follow advice from the Channel panel and safeguarding partners.

Prevent concerns, referrals, advice received, decisions and outcomes will be recorded securely. Where a pupil transfers school, relevant safeguarding information, including appropriate information about Channel involvement and outcomes, will be transferred securely as part of the child protection file where required.

8. Curriculum and building resilience

The school provides a broad and balanced curriculum that prepares pupils for life in modern Britain. Through RE, RSHE/PSHE, computing, English, history, collective worship and wider school life, pupils are supported to develop respect, critical thinking, media literacy, digital resilience and the confidence to challenge prejudice and harmful narratives.

- Fundamental British values - democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs - are actively promoted in an age-appropriate way.
- Pupils are taught how to recognise misinformation, manipulation, unsafe online contact and harmful content, and how to seek help.
- Sensitive and controversial issues may be discussed in a safe and balanced way. The school will meet its duties on political impartiality and the balanced presentation of opposing views where political issues are taught.
- Teaching will be age-appropriate and will not stigmatise communities, faiths or groups.

9. Online safety, filtering and monitoring

Online radicalisation is a significant safeguarding risk. The school's filtering and monitoring arrangements will take account of the Prevent duty and KCSIE. Appropriate filtering will restrict access to harmful and terrorist content, while monitoring arrangements will help identify concerning activity.

- Filtering and monitoring arrangements are reviewed in line with the school's safeguarding and online safety responsibilities.
- Staff understand how to report concerns about online searches, messages, images, videos, social media or other digital activity.
- Pupils are taught to report upsetting, unsafe or suspicious content and contact.
- Any filtering or monitoring concern linked to terrorism or radicalisation will be escalated to the DSL promptly.

10. Staff training

Relevant staff will receive Prevent training at the earliest appropriate opportunity and as part of safeguarding induction and refreshers. Training will be proportionate to role and the school's risk assessment and will include how to recognise susceptibility, respond to concerns and use the school's internal referral arrangements.

The DSL/Prevent lead and appropriate DDSs will receive more in-depth training on terrorist and extremist ideologies, referral processes and Channel. In line with current Prevent guidance, Prevent-specific lead training will normally be refreshed at least every two years, with updates sooner where local or national risks or guidance change. Training records will be maintained.

11. Visitors, external speakers, lettings and external organisations

The school will take proportionate steps to ensure its premises, events, resources and reputation are not exploited to promote terrorism or radicalising narratives.

- Visiting speakers and external organisations will be subject to appropriate checks and supervision in line with the school's visitor and safeguarding procedures.

- Where a speaker or event could present a Prevent risk, the school will undertake proportionate due diligence and risk assessment before proceeding.
- External agencies used to support teaching will be appropriate, credible and consistent with safeguarding, Prevent and political impartiality requirements.
- Lettings and use of school facilities will be managed so that school premises are not used to encourage terrorism, support proscribed organisations or spread radicalising material.

12. Safer recruitment and staff conduct

Recruitment will be undertaken in accordance with KCSIE, statutory requirements and the school's safer recruitment procedures. Staff are expected to uphold the Staff Code of Conduct and safeguarding responsibilities. Concerns about a member of staff will be managed under the school's safeguarding/allegations and low-level concerns procedures as appropriate.

13. Partnership with parents and the community

The school will work respectfully with parents and carers and, where appropriate, provide information about online safety, radicalisation and how to seek support. Prevent concerns will be approached as safeguarding matters and without discrimination or stereotyping. The school will work with Birmingham City Council, Birmingham Children's Trust, police, health and other safeguarding partners where necessary.

14. Monitoring and review

The DSL/Prevent lead will monitor the implementation of this policy, the Prevent risk assessment, training, referrals and any identified actions. Governors will receive appropriate safeguarding assurance while maintaining confidentiality. This policy will be reviewed annually and sooner if there are changes to legislation, statutory guidance, local referral arrangements or the school's risk profile.

15. Related school policies and documents

- Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy
- Online Safety Policy and Acceptable Use Agreements
- Filtering and Monitoring arrangements
- Staff Code of Conduct
- Low-Level Concerns / Allegations Management procedures
- Visitors and External Speakers procedures
- Safer Recruitment Policy
- Equality Policy
- Behaviour and Anti-Bullying Policy
- RSHE/PSHE and Curriculum policies
- Prevent Risk Assessment and Action Plan

16. Key legislation and guidance

- Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015, sections 26 and 29 and Schedule 6.
- Home Office, Prevent duty guidance: England and Wales (2023), in force from 31 December 2023.
- Department for Education, Keeping Children Safe in Education 2026.
- Department for Education, The Prevent duty: safeguarding learners vulnerable to radicalisation.
- Department for Education, Prevent duty risk assessment templates and guidance for education settings.
- Channel Duty Guidance: protecting people susceptible to radicalisation.
- Working Together to Safeguard Children.
- Equality Act 2010, Data Protection Act 2018 and UK GDPR.
- Birmingham City Council, Birmingham Prevent referral flowchart and National Prevent Referral Form.

17. Local contacts

Contact	Details
School Prevent Lead / SPOC	Head Teacher / DSL - Mrs Elliott
Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads	School DDSLs
Birmingham Prevent enquiries	prevent@birmingham.gov.uk
Children's safeguarding / Prevent referral	Follow Birmingham CASS / Request for Support and Prevent referral pathway
Emergency	999 where there is an immediate risk to life or immediate danger

Policy status: Updated for the 2026-27 academic year.