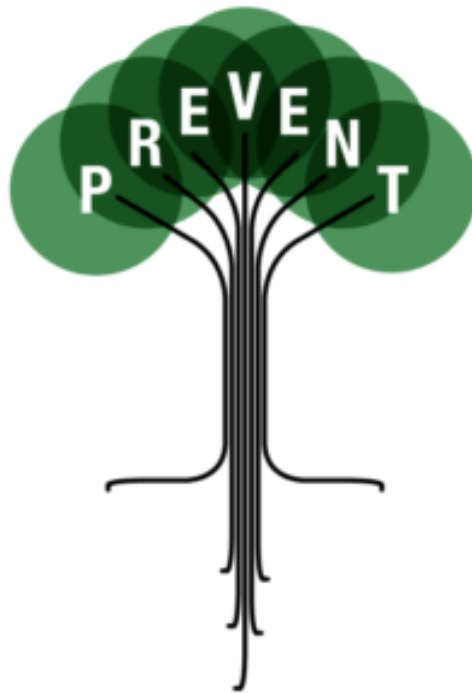




Preventing Extremism and Radicalisation Safeguarding Policy



Updated: January 2025

Review Date: January 2027

1. Introduction

- 1.1 St Nicholas C of E is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all pupils. We provide a secure environment where children feel safe and are kept safe. All adults within our school community share the responsibility for safeguarding, regardless of their role or direct contact with children.
- 1.2 This policy complies with the statutory guidance outlined in the *Keeping Children Safe in Education 2024* and *Working Together to Safeguard Children 2024*. It also aligns with the *Prevent Duty* under the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015.
- 1.3 The policy integrates guidance from:
 - Warwickshire Child Protection Procedures.
 - DfE resources: *Teaching Approaches that Help Build Resilience to Extremism among Young People* (2011).
 - Relevant updates to the Prevent Strategy (2025).

2. School Ethos and Practice

- 2.1 We adopt the Government's definition of extremism: "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."
- 2.2 Extremist views, in any form, have no place in our school. Our curriculum and ethos promote critical thinking, inclusivity, and resilience to harmful ideologies.
- 2.3 As part of our safeguarding responsibilities, we ensure that:
 - Pupils are educated on safe and acceptable behaviour, including online.
 - Staff are trained to identify and challenge extremist views or behaviours, and they are equipped to provide support to vulnerable pupils.
 - The school proactively works with families and local communities to foster mutual respect and understanding.
- 2.4 Our staff are vigilant for signs of vulnerability to extremism, such as:
 - Changes in behaviour, friendship groups, or use of extremist language.
 - Exposure to extremist materials online or in the community.
 - Reports of radical influences from external sources.

3. Teaching Approaches

- 3.1 Through a broad and balanced curriculum, including PSHE, RE, and online safety education, we help pupils develop resilience and critical thinking. This includes:
- Engaging pupils in age-appropriate dialogue about controversial issues in a safe environment.
 - Equipping them with the knowledge and skills to challenge misinformation and harmful ideologies.
- 3.2 Staff are trained to adapt teaching methods to address emerging issues of extremism and radicalization. This includes:
- Addressing online risks such as grooming or exposure to radical content.
 - Supporting pupils who may face discrimination based on gender identity, faith, or sexual orientation.
- 3.3 Our goal is to build mutual respect, tolerance and understanding and to promote the use of dialogue not violence as a form of conflict resolution. We will achieve this through the Scarf PSHE curriculum which includes units such as:
- Me and my relationships
 - Valuing difference
 - Rights and responsibilities
 - Being my best
- 3.4 The school 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 pupil's 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.

4. Use of External Organisations and Speakers

- 4.1 The school will check that all external speakers and organisations to ensure their alignment with the school's values. We assess their input to:
- Avoid marginalising individuals or groups.
 - Prevent glorification of criminal activities or extremist views.
 - Ensure activities align with the curriculum and are age-appropriate.
- 4.2 External contributions are carefully evaluated to ensure consistency with safeguarding principles and effectiveness in broadening pupils' perspectives.

5. Child Protection

5.1 Extremism and radicalisation are addressed in section 6.4 of the school's Safeguarding Policy 2024. Staff are required to report concerns to the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL).

6. Role of the Designated Safeguarding Lead

6.1 The DSL, oversees all safeguarding responsibilities, including the Prevent duty.

6.2 The DSL is trained to:

- make referrals to the Channel programme where there is a radicalisation concern and/or support staff that make a referral to Channel;
- support the headteacher with regards to their responsibilities under the Prevent duty and provide advice and support on protecting children from radicalisation;

7. Training

7.1 All staff and governors undergo safeguarding annually, which includes any updated guidance on extremism, radicalisation, and online safety. Staff complete prevent training, at least, every three years.

7.2 The DSL and deputy DSL attend safeguarding training/briefings/networks to ensure the school's practices align with the latest guidance.

8. Recruitment

8.1 The school will be alert to the possibility that persons may seek to gain positions within our school so as to unduly influence our schools character and ethos.

8.2 The school follows the MAT's Safer Recruitment Policy when recruiting staff, volunteers and governors to prevent individuals with extremist views from gaining access to pupils.

9. Governing Body

9.1 The Governing Body is responsible for monitoring the effectiveness of this policy and ensuring it is reviewed biennially or as new guidance emerges. Annual Governor training supports them in understanding their safeguarding responsibilities, including the Prevent duty.

Related Policies

- Safeguarding & Child Protection Policy
- Equality Policy
- Anti-Bullying Policy
- Online Safety Policy

Distribution

This policy will be shared with staff, published on the school's website, and made available to parents upon request.