



The  
**Birkenhead Park**  
School

# **Prevention of Extremism and Radicalisation Policy 2023-2024**

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We are committed to providing a secure environment for students, where children feel safe and are kept safe. All adults in our school recognise that safeguarding is everyone's responsibility irrespective of the role they undertake or whether their role has direct contact or responsibility for children or not.

This policy is one element within our overall school arrangements to Safeguard and Promote the Welfare of all Children in line with our statutory duties set out at s175 of the Education Act 2002 (s157 of the Education Act 2002.)

### **School Ethos and Practice**

When operating this policy we use the following accepted Governmental definition of extremism which is:

***'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; and/or calls for the death of members of our armed forces, whether in this country or overseas'.***

The full Government Prevent Strategy can be viewed at:

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/97976/prevent-strategy-review.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/97976/prevent-strategy-review.pdf)

As a school we recognise that extremism and exposure to extremist materials and influences can lead to poor outcomes for children and so should be addressed as a safeguarding concern as set out in this policy. We also recognise that if we fail to challenge extremist views, we are failing to protect our students.

We therefore will provide a broad and balanced curriculum so that our students are enriched, understand and become tolerant of difference and diversity and also to ensure that they thrive, feel valued and not marginalized.

We are also aware that young people can be exposed to extremist influences or prejudiced views from an early age which emanate from a variety of sources and media, including via the internet, and at times students may themselves reflect or display views that may be discriminatory, prejudiced or extremist, including using derogatory language. Any prejudice, discrimination or extremist views, including derogatory language, displayed by students or staff will always be challenged and where appropriate dealt with in line with our Behaviour Policy for students.

As part of wider safeguarding responsibilities school staff will be alert to:

- Disclosures by students of their exposure to the extremist actions, views or materials of others outside of school, such as in their homes or community group especially where students have not actively sought these out;
- Graffiti symbols, writing or art work promoting extremist messages or images;
- Students accessing extremist material online through the school network, which is monitored by NetSupport and has a robust perimeter firewall.
- Parental reports of changes in behaviour, friendship or actions and requests for assistance;
- Network schools, local authority services, and police reports of issues affecting students in other schools or settings;
- Students voicing opinions drawn from extremist ideologies and narratives;

- Use of extremist or 'hate' terms to exclude others or incite violence;
- Intolerance of difference, whether secular or religious or, in line with our Equal Opportunities Policy;
- Views based on, but not exclusive to, gender, disability, homophobia, race, colour or culture;
- Attempts to impose extremist views or practices on others;
- Anti-Western or Anti-British views.

### **Our School**

We promote the values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, mutual respect and tolerance for those with different faiths and beliefs. We teach and encourage students to respect one another and to respect and tolerate difference, especially those of a different faith or no faith. It is indeed our most fundamental responsibility to keep our students safe and prepare them for life in modern multi-cultural Britain and globally.

We closely follow any locally agreed procedure as set out by the Local Authority and/or our Safeguarding Children Partnership's agreed processes and criteria for safeguarding individuals vulnerable to extremism and radicalisation. When a member of staff has concerns about a child they must report this to the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL), Headteacher and in their absence, Deputy DSL or Safeguarding Officer.

Equally, if a member of staff has a concern about the actions or views of a colleague, they should refer their concern to the Headteacher and DSL. If the Safeguarding Lead is the subject of the concern, the Headteacher should be informed. In the event that concerns are about a person becoming radicalised, consideration will be given to using the Channel process. Checking with the safeguarding lead will utilise existing internal safeguarding processes.

Channel is a bespoke panel which meets to address issues of individuals who have been identified as being at risk of radicalisation but have not committed any terrorism offence.

The Channel Panel meets when a referral has been made and there are significant safeguarding risks which require support. In the latter case, completion of the online MARF (Multi Agency Referral Form) is required. The link to do this is:

[https://wirral-self.achieveservice.com/service/Children\\_and\\_families\\_request\\_for\\_support\\_form](https://wirral-self.achieveservice.com/service/Children_and_families_request_for_support_form)

Referrals can be made by anyone and advice can be sought from the Channel Police Practitioner at any stage i.e. at the initial noting of concerns, during the information gathering process when the safeguarding lead has been informed and where it is deemed that concerns remain.

#### PREVENT CONTACTS (L.A. Co-ordinator)

Alison Burnett – 07394559106 / E-mail: [alison.burnett@liverpool.gov.uk](mailto:alison.burnett@liverpool.gov.uk)

CHANNEL - To report a concern: Landline: 0151 777 8328 / Mobile: 07739 822 286 / E-mail: [special.branch@merseyside.police.uk](mailto:special.branch@merseyside.police.uk)

#### PREVENT TEAM (Merseyside Police)

0151 777 8125 / E-mail: [prevent@merseysidepolice.uk](mailto:prevent@merseysidepolice.uk) / Twitter: @merpolprevent

## **Child Protection**

Please see our Safeguarding Policy for the full procedural framework on our Child Protection duties. Staff at our school will be alert to the fact that whilst extremism and radicalisation is broadly a safeguarding issue, there may be some instances where a child or children may be at direct risk of harm or neglect.

Therefore all adults working at our school (including visiting staff, volunteers, contractors, and students on placement) are required to report instances where they believe a child may be at risk of harm or neglect to the Designated Safeguarding Lead.

## **Role of the Designated Safeguarding Lead**

- The Designated Safeguarding Lead is: Lyndsey Weekes, Assistant Headteacher
- The Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead is: Pam Robinson, and Dawn Davies, Safeguarding Officers.

The Designated Safeguarding Lead is the focus person for school staff, and others, who may have concerns about an individual child's safety or well-being and is the first point of contact for external agencies. The role of the Designated Safeguarding Lead will include the responsibilities of the PREVENT duty.

## **Role of Governing Body**

The Governing Body 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 will support the ethos and values of our school and will support the school in tackling extremism and radicalisation.

Governors will review this policy annually and may amend and adopt it outside of this timeframe in accordance with any new legislation or guidance or in response to any quality assurance recommendations pertaining to the delivery of this policy and the overall safeguarding arrangements made.

## **Training**

The Prevent guidance refers to the importance of Prevent awareness training to equip staff to identify children at risk of being drawn into terrorism and to challenge extremist ideas. We will ask staff to complete annual Prevent Duty training, and the Designated Safeguarding Lead will be able to provide advice and support to other members of staff on protecting children from the risk of radicalisation.

The Designated Safeguarding Lead will attend training courses as necessary and the appropriate inter-agency training organised by the Safeguarding Children Partnership at least every two years; again, this will include training on extremism and radicalisation and its safeguarding implications. The DSL will provide updates on the Prevent Duty to school staff.

## 1. What is Prevent?

Prevent is 1 of the 4 areas of CONTEST, the government's counter-terrorism strategy and aims to stop people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism.

The three main objectives of Prevent are: 1) Tackle the causes of radicalisation and respond to the ideological challenge of terrorism. 2) Safeguard and support those most at risk of radicalisation through early intervention, identifying them and offering support 3) Enable those who have already engaged in terrorism to disengage and rehabilitate.

## 2. Who is Prevent For?

Prevent initiatives tackle both the causes & risk factors that can lead someone to become radicalised, It can directly support those who are at risk through early intervention. Prevent works in a similar way to other safeguarding processes, designed to protect individuals whereby the level of intervention increases with the level of risk. Under the Prevent Duty all public sector agencies have a responsibility to ensure their staff, service providers & volunteers have a good understanding of risks, are trained to recognise radicalisation and associated behaviours and how to report concerns.

## 3. What is Radicalisation and Extremism?

Radicalisation is the process by which a person comes to support terrorism and in some cases then participates in terrorist activity. There is no one process or indicator of when a person might move to adopt violence in support of extremist ideas. The process is different for each individual and can take place over an extended period or a short time frame.

Extremism is defined as, vocal or active opposition to British values, including democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs.

## 7. Further Information

- [Safeguarding Children and Young People against Radicalisation and Violent Extremism - Wirral Safeguarding Children Partnership](#)
- <https://www.elearning.prevent.homeoffice.gov.uk/edu/screen2.html>
- [Prevent duty guidance - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)
- [Channel and Prevent Multi-Agency Panel \(PMAP\) guidance - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)
- <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/channel-guidance>

## 6. What does the Prevent Co-ordinator Do?

The Prevent Co-ordinator (Alison Burnett on Wirral) works with the Police, local authority, Education establishments, health and other public sector agencies to co-ordinate Prevent delivery and this includes:

\* Training & Awareness, \* Advice and Guidance, \* Prevent duty responsibilities \* Targeted support \* Engagement with Voluntary, community, civil society and faith groups.

Alison Burnett (for Wirral and Liverpool —  
[Alison.Burnett@liverpool.gov.uk](mailto:Alison.Burnett@liverpool.gov.uk)

## 4. What to do if you have a concern?

### NOTICE—CHECK—SHARE

If you notice a change in an individual that concerns you, in that they may be vulnerable to radicalisation, follow your organisation's policy/ Prevent & 'channel' referral process.

Check your concern with a designated safeguarding lead and contact the Prevent local co-ordinator for advice.

Share the concern with the Integrated Front Door and police by completing the Prevent referral form.

## 5. What Happens with the referral?

Referrals are screened and if suitable for multi-agency consideration, it is passed to the Channel team. What is Channel? Channel is a voluntary, multi-agency process designed to safeguard vulnerable people from being drawn into violent extremism or terrorist behaviour. Multi-agency partners work collectively assess the risk to an individual, decide whether an intervention is necessary and develop an appropriate support package for each referral.



Prevent Radicalisation and Extremism - Wirral  
Safeguarding Children Partnership

## Prevent & Radicalisation

Radicalisation can be difficult to spot, particularly in teenagers as a lot of the behaviours can be seen by professionals as 'typical' teenage behaviour. However, there is usually more than one indicator and it is really important to recognise the potential risk, as you would with any other safeguarding concern.

### What is Radicalisation?

Radicalisation is essentially grooming. People are vulnerable to radicalisation because they:

- Feel isolated and lonely
- Are angry at the world
- Feel confused about the reasons for their misfortunes or situation
- Feel purposeless, without direction or hope
- unprotected, lacking guidance or protective factors

Behaviours that may indicate someone is being radicalised:

- isolating themselves from family and friends
- talking as if from a scripted speech
- unwillingness or inability to discuss their views
- Refusing to listen to other people's points of view
- a sudden disrespectful attitude towards others
- increased levels of anger and becoming more and more argumentative
- Refusing to engage with others who are different and becoming abusive/racist to people or about people they see as different
- Embracing conspiracy theories
- Feeling persecuted
- Changing friends / Changing names
- Dressing differently
- Converting religion
- Being secretive about whereabouts
- Sympathetic to extremist ideologies/groups
- Graffiti /stickers on school books, posters/flags on walls (symbols of XFR or ISIS)
- Sudden interest in war memorabilia and uniforms e.g Nazi uniforms.
- adopt the use of certain symbols associated with far-right or neo-Nazi organisations, distribute extremist literature, such as leaflets promoting far-right rallies.
- recite simplistic and prejudiced arguments about immigration and minorities, seeing them as a threat to 'our way of life' or blaming them for global or local issues
- Increased secretiveness, especially around internet use.
- Changing online identity
- Having more than one online identity
- Spending a lot of time online or on the phone
- Accessing extremist online content
- Joining or trying to join an extremist organization
- Accessing or sharing radical and extremist sites/ YouTube clips

## **What is the Prevent Channel Programme?**

The Prevent Channel Programme is designed to safeguard people from radicalisation in a similar way to the safeguarding process which looks to protect people from gang activity, drug abuse, and physical and sexual abuse. Channel aims to support vulnerable individuals who are being targeted and recruited to the cause of violent extremism, which will include historically have included children and adults with learning disabilities, and mental health issues, children who are in the care system, children from difficult backgrounds.

## **Prevent and Schools**

Following an informal consultation process with headteachers and local authority children's services in early 2008, the Department published a toolkit to help schools prevent what was described as 'violent extremism'. Following requests for more practical advice, DfE developed a 'workbook', based on the Ofsted self-evaluation framework, which linked Prevent to other school safety and improvement policies. In 2009, ACPO produced guidance entitled 'Prevent, Police and Schools' to help police officers work more effectively with teachers and school staff. ACPO have also developed an initiative called 'Act Now' which helps stimulate debate on violent extremism.

Guidance documents are provided below for schools including details of their reporting duty and self-assessment and a template for incorporating radicalisation and extremism into their safeguarding policies:

Schools Prevent Duty – DfE Advice:

<https://www.wirralsafeguarding.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/03/schools-prevent-duty-dfe-advice.pdf>

Prevent Strategy:

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/97976/prevent-strategy-review.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/97976/prevent-strategy-review.pdf)

Hammersmith and Fulham Council have developed a series of resources for schools for schools including lesson plans about Prevent. The resources can be downloaded from their website:

<https://www.lbhf.gov.uk/children-and-young-people/schools-and-colleges/school-staff-zone/prevent-and-schools/prevent-and-schools-resources-and-lesson-plans>

**Please now book onto one of Wirral Safeguarding Children Partnership's 1-hour briefing sessions to extend and enrich your knowledge further.**