

Prevent and Radicalisation Policy

Blackpool Skills Academy

Age Group: 11–18 Years

1. Policy Statement

Blackpool Skills Academy is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all students. As part of this commitment, the Academy recognises its duty under the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 to prevent students from being drawn into terrorism or radicalisation.

We aim to provide a secure environment where students can develop a strong sense of identity, belonging, and critical thinking, and where they feel safe to discuss controversial issues.

2. Aims of the Policy

- To ensure that all staff, students, and visitors are aware of their roles and responsibilities under the Prevent Duty.
- To provide a robust framework for identifying and responding to concerns about radicalisation.
- To ensure that the curriculum promotes British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, and mutual respect and tolerance.
- To protect students from extremist influences while preserving freedom of thought and respectful debate.

3. Definitions

- **Radicalisation:** The process by which a person comes to support terrorism and extremist ideologies associated with terrorist groups.
- **Extremism:** Holding extreme political or religious views which are in opposition to fundamental British values.
- **Terrorism:** An action that endangers or causes serious violence to a person or people; causes serious damage to property; or seriously interferes with or disrupts an electronic system, intended to influence the government or intimidate the public and advance a political, religious, or ideological cause.

4. Roles and Responsibilities

Senior Leadership Team

- Ensure all staff are aware of their Prevent duties and are trained appropriately.
- Ensure safeguarding procedures are aligned with local authority and national Prevent strategies.

Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL): David Hodge

- Lead on Prevent strategy implementation and monitor concerns.
- Liaise with external agencies including the Local Authority Prevent Coordinator and Channel Panel as needed.

Deputy DSL (DDSL): Eloise Crossley

- Support the DSL in delivering Prevent responsibilities.
- Attend relevant training and act as point of contact for staff and students.

All Staff

- Complete Prevent awareness training.
- Be vigilant and report any concerns of extremist behaviour or radicalisation.
- Support students with balanced discussions of sensitive issues.

5. Curriculum and Education

Through the curriculum and pastoral programme, we aim to:

- Build resilience to radicalisation by promoting critical thinking and open discussion.
- Provide students with a safe space to understand and discuss controversial topics.
- Promote understanding and respect for different cultures and beliefs.

6. Procedures for Reporting Concerns

1. Any concern about a student being at risk of radicalisation must be reported to the DSL or DDSL immediately.
2. The DSL will assess the concern and determine whether it meets the threshold for referral to external agencies.
3. Where appropriate, referrals will be made to the Local Authority's Channel Panel.
4. All records of concerns and actions taken will be securely stored.

7. Use of External Agencies and Speakers

- All external visitors and speakers must be approved by SLT.
- Any materials used must be reviewed to ensure they are in line with the Academy's values and safeguarding expectations.
- Staff must be present at all times during any session delivered by a visitor.

8. Staff Training

- All staff will receive training in Prevent as part of their safeguarding induction and regular updates.
- Additional training will be provided as necessary for those in safeguarding roles.

9. Monitoring and Review

This policy will be reviewed annually by the DSL and SLT or in response to new legislation or guidance. The Governing Body will be informed of any updates.

Policy Reviewed: September 2025

Next Review Due: September 2026

Approved by: Senior Leadership Team