



Anti-Radicalisation & Anti-Extremism Policy

Approved by:	Full Governing Body	Date: October 2023
Last reviewed on:	October 2023	
Next review due by:	October 2024	

Contents

1. The aims of the policy.....	3
2. Aims and principles.....	3
3. Definitions and Indicators.....	3
4. Safeguarding policies children and young people.....	4
5. Worried about a child or young person.....	4
6. Extremism / radicalisation.....	4
7. Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural.....	4
8. Government advice.....	5
9. Legislative and policy framework.....	5
10. Information sharing and confidentiality.....	5
11. Prevent.....	6
12. Channel.....	6
13. What to do if you have a concern.....	7
14. Staff concerns.....	7
15. The role of the curriculum.....	7
16. Staff training.....	7
17. Procedures for referrals.....	8
Appendix 1 Flowchart of procedures for dealing with safeguarding concerns.....	9
Appendix 2 Checklist for schools for dealing with safeguarding concerns.....	10
Appendix 3 Background documents.....	11
Appendix 4 Background documents: Home Office Guidance.....	13
Appendix 5 Connecting Policies for Safeguarding purpose.....	14

1. The aims of the policy

Willow Bank school is fully committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all its pupils and young people. We recognise that safeguarding against radicalisation and extremism is no different to safeguarding against any other vulnerability. The Anti-radicalisation & Extremism Policy sets out our beliefs, strategies, and procedures to protect vulnerable individuals from being radicalised or exposed to extremism, by identifying who they are and providing them with support. Please report any concerns you have to the Assistant Headteacher or Lead for safeguarding and engagement or the school.

The governors of Willow Bank school wish to make it clear that extremist religious views and partisan political views promoted in the teaching of any subject in the school will not be tolerated. All members of staff are expected to offer a balanced presentation of views and opinion to pupils while they are in attendance at the school and while taking part in extra-curricular activities that are provided or organised by or on behalf of the school including through the distribution of promotional materials. Failure to observe the above could lead to disciplinary procedures including instant dismissal.

2. Aims and principles

The Anti-Radicalisation policy is intended to provide a framework for dealing with issues relating to vulnerability, radicalisation, and exposure to extreme views. It clearly sets out how the school will deal with such incidents and identifies how the curriculum and ethos underpins our actions.

The objectives are that:

- All governors, teachers, teaching assistants and non-teaching staff will have an understanding of what radicalisation is and why we need to be vigilant in school.
- All governors, teachers, teaching assistants and non-teaching staff will know what the school policy is on anti-radicalisation and will follow the policy when issues arise.
- All parents and pupils will know that the school has policies in place to keep pupils safe from harm and that the school regularly reviews its systems to ensure they are appropriate and effective. What every parent needs to know about radicalisation
- The main aims of this policy are to ensure that staff are fully engaged in being vigilant about radicalisation and extremism; that they overcome professional disbelief that such issues will not happen here and ensure that we work alongside other professional bodies and agencies to ensure that our pupils are safe from harm.

3. Definitions and Indicators

Radicalisation is defined as the act or process of making a person more radical or favouring of extreme or fundamental changes in political, economic, or social conditions, institutions, or habits of the mind.

Extremism is defined as the holding of extreme political or religious views 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.

There are a number of behaviours which may indicate a child is at risk of being radicalised or exposed to extreme views. These include:

- Spending increasing time in the company of other suspected extremists
- Changing their style of dress or personal appearance to accord with the group
- Their day-to-day behaviour becoming increasingly centred on an extremist ideology, group, or cause.

- Loss of interest in other friends and activities not associated with the extremist ideology, group, or cause.
- Possession of materials or symbols associated with an extremist cause.
- Attempts to recruit others to the group/cause
- Communications with others that suggests identification with a group, cause, or ideology.
- Using insulting to derogatory names for another group
- Increase in prejudice-related incidents committed by that person – these may include physical or verbal assault, provocative behaviour, damage to property, possession of prejudice-related materials, prejudice related ridicule or name calling, refusal to co-operate, attempts to recruit to prejudice-related organisations, condoning or supporting violence towards others.

4. Safeguarding policies children and young people

The safeguarding policies are in place to help prevent children and young people up to 16 years of age being at risk of harm. Willow Bank school advises the safeguarding policies are read in conjunction with each other. If you have any concerns or questions regarding policies, please refer to a member of SLT.

5. Worried about a child or young person

If you are worried about a child or a young person being at risk of harm, please speak Assistant Headteacher, Lead for safeguarding and engagement or the school DO NOT IGNORE IT.

6. Extremism / radicalisation

All staff and Governors are to be familiar with the indicators of vulnerability to extremism and radicalisation and the procedures for dealing with concerns. Staff are made aware of the potential indicating factors when a child is vulnerable to being radicalised or exposed to extreme views. These include peer pressure, influence from other people or the internet, bullying, crime and anti-social behaviour, family tensions, race/hate crime, lack of self-esteem or identity, prejudicial (damaging) behaviour and personal or political grievances. Staff to report any concerns to Assistant Headteacher or Lead for safeguarding and engagement

7. Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural

Willow Bank work to prevent children and young people from developing extreme and radical views by embedding SMSC principles throughout the curriculum. During lessons we strive to create a learning environment which promotes respect, diversity and self-awareness and equips all of our children and young people with the knowledge, skills, attitudes and values they will need to succeed in their future lives.

For more information on safeguarding refer to the following documents

- Keeping Children safe in education (statutory guidance for schools and colleges)
- Keeping Children safe in education (part 1) (statutory guidance for schools and colleges)
- Regulating activity in relation to children scope.
- Working together to safeguard children (A guide to inter-agency working to safeguard and promote the welfare of children: July 2018)

- Guidance for safer working practice for those working with children and young people in educational settings: October 2015

8. Government advice

Nothing is more important than keeping children safe from harm. Schools already play an important role in protecting and safeguarding young people including from radicalisation and extremism.¹ (Extremism 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). That is why we have issued advice to schools and childcare providers to help them understand their role under the new prevent duty, which came into force on 1st July, and which reinforces their existing safeguarding duties.

The government has also published advice for schools on how social media is being used by extremist groups to encourage young people to travel to Syria and Iraq. It makes clear that every teacher should be aware of the risks posed by the online activity of extremist and terrorist groups and be vigilant of the signs of radicalisation.

The Department for Education set up a telephone helpline (020 7340 7264) and an email address (counter.extremism@education.gsi.gov.uk) to enable people to raise concerns directly with the department. Since 1st July, all schools have a duty under the Counter Terrorism And Security Act to keep children safe from harm, especially from the risks of radicalisation and extremism. The checklist (Appendix 3) will help identify the key elements Willow Bank have in place.

9. Legislative and policy framework

The following legislation and policies have provided the framework for this protocol:

- Care Act 2014
- European Convention of Human Rights Act 1998.
- The Mental Capacity Act 2005
- The Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act 2004
- CONTEST (The National Counter Terrorism Strategy)
- Social Ecological Framework

10. Information sharing and confidentiality

There is a statutory duty for professionals to share personal information where there are concerns about safety or wellbeing.

Numerous pieces of legislation bestow a power or duty on local authorities to share information in specific circumstances. Please check existing local policies within the following statutory frameworks as appropriate.

- The Data Protection Act 2018
- The Human Rights Act 1998
- The Common Law Duty of Confidence
- The Crime and Disorder Act 1998
- The Caldicott Principles

All information sharing must be conducted in accordance with a relevant legal power of duty.

11. Prevent

The Prevent is part of our overall counter-terrorism strategy, CONTEST is split into four work streams that are known within the counter-terrorism community as the 'four P's': Prevent, Pursue, Protect, and Prepare. The aim of the Prevent strategy is to reduce the threat to the UK from terrorism by stopping people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism.

The Department for Education has dedicated a telephone helpline (020 7340 7264) to enable staff and governors to raise concerns relating to extremism directly. Concerns can also be raised by email to counter.extremism@education.gsi.gov.uk. Please note that the helpline is not intended for use in emergency situations, such as a child being at immediate risk of harm or a security incident, in which case the normal emergency procedures should be followed.

For more information, please refer to:

- The Prevent Duty –Departmental advice for schools and childcare providers: June 2015
- Prevent strategy GOV.UK – Home Office (Adobe pdf file)

12. Channel

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.

Channel may be appropriate for anyone who is vulnerable to being drawn into any form of terrorism. Channel is about ensuring that vulnerable children and adults of any faith, ethnicity or background receive support before their vulnerabilities are exploited by those that would want them to embrace terrorism, and before they become involved in criminal terrorist related activity.

Subsequently Merseyside Police Merseyside Police are working alongside Local Authorities to implement Channel.

Preventing extremism is a new area for partnership working. It may be that in the past, agencies have had concerns about vulnerabilities related to extremism, but the lack of a structured response has led to those concerns not being fully addressed. It is recognised that while the Police deal with many of the more serious cases, it is the responsibility of all agencies to protect vulnerable adults and children and promote welfare.

Local authorities have a key role to play in the day-to-day delivery of this work through their responsibilities for tackling extremism at a local level.

The St Helens Safeguarding Board agree that this psychological abuse and exploitation should be recognised within Multi-Agency Safeguarding Procedures, to provide a clear framework within which to respond to safeguarding concerns for those individuals who may be vulnerable to the messages of extremism.

This framework is underpinned by a number of key principles:

- Each vulnerable individual has unique personal circumstances and needs an individualised response.

- Each vulnerable individual affects and is affected by multiple domains i.e., family, community, societal.
- The local authority has a duty to respond promptly and robustly to concerns raised around possible safeguarding issues.
- Information will be shared with other agencies and local authorities as appropriate in the interests of protecting an individual from serious harm.

13. What to do if you have a concern

If a member of staff in a school has a concern about a particular pupil they should follow the school's normal safeguarding procedures, including discussing with the school's Designated Safeguarding Lead, or, in his absence, the Assistant Headteacher.

14. Staff concerns

Staff will be fully briefed about what to do if they are concerned about the possibility of radicalisation relating to a pupil, or if they need to discuss specific children whom they consider to be vulnerable to radicalisation to the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) who will act on this and contact the CHANNEL team for advice and to decide the best course of action to address concerns.

15. The role of the curriculum

The curriculum promotes respect, tolerance, and diversity. Children are encouraged to share their views and recognise that they are entitled to have their own different beliefs which should not be used to influence others. Any unusual changes in behaviour observed in lessons or attempts to go on inappropriate websites to be reported the Lead for safeguarding and engagement, or in his absence, the Assistant Headteacher. Staff must adhere to the Code of Conduct at all times as stated in the Staff Handbook.

PSHE provision is embedded across the curriculum, most notably in RE, and directs our assemblies and underpins the ethos of the school. It is recognised that children with low aspirations are more vulnerable to radicalisation and therefore we strive to equip our pupils with confidence, self-belief, respect, and tolerance as well as setting high standards and expectations for themselves.

Children and young people are regularly taught about how to stay safe when using the internet and are encouraged to recognise that people are not always who they say they are on-line. They are taught to seek adult help if they are upset or concerned about anything they read or see on the internet.

16. Staff training

Through INSET opportunities in school, we will ensure that our staff are fully aware of the threats, risks and vulnerabilities that are linked to radicalisation; are aware of the process of radicalisation and extremism and how this might be identified early on and are aware of how we can provide support as a school to ensure that our children are resilient and able to resist involvement in radical or extreme activities. (See Appendix 2- Staff training)

NEW STAFF will be given a starter pack that includes information on radicalisation. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) who is responsible for: -

- Raising awareness about the need to prevent violent extremism and safeguarding processes in Willow Bank.

- Promote the screening tool and assessment process and policy
- First point of contact for case discussions on preventing violent extremism and identifying relevant referrals to the screening tool
- Make referrals to the LA for Violent Extremism Policy and Process /Channel lead in Early Intervention and Prevention Services.
- Make use and demonstrate a good understanding of the guidance - “Working with Children and Young People Who Are Vulnerable to the Messages of Violent Extremism” Collate and gather relevant information from your organisation in relation to referrals about vulnerable children and young people
- Attend related meetings as necessary and carry out any actions as required
- Report progress and actions to the LA for Early Intervention and Prevention Services (Restorative Solutions Service).
- Share any new information in a timely manner

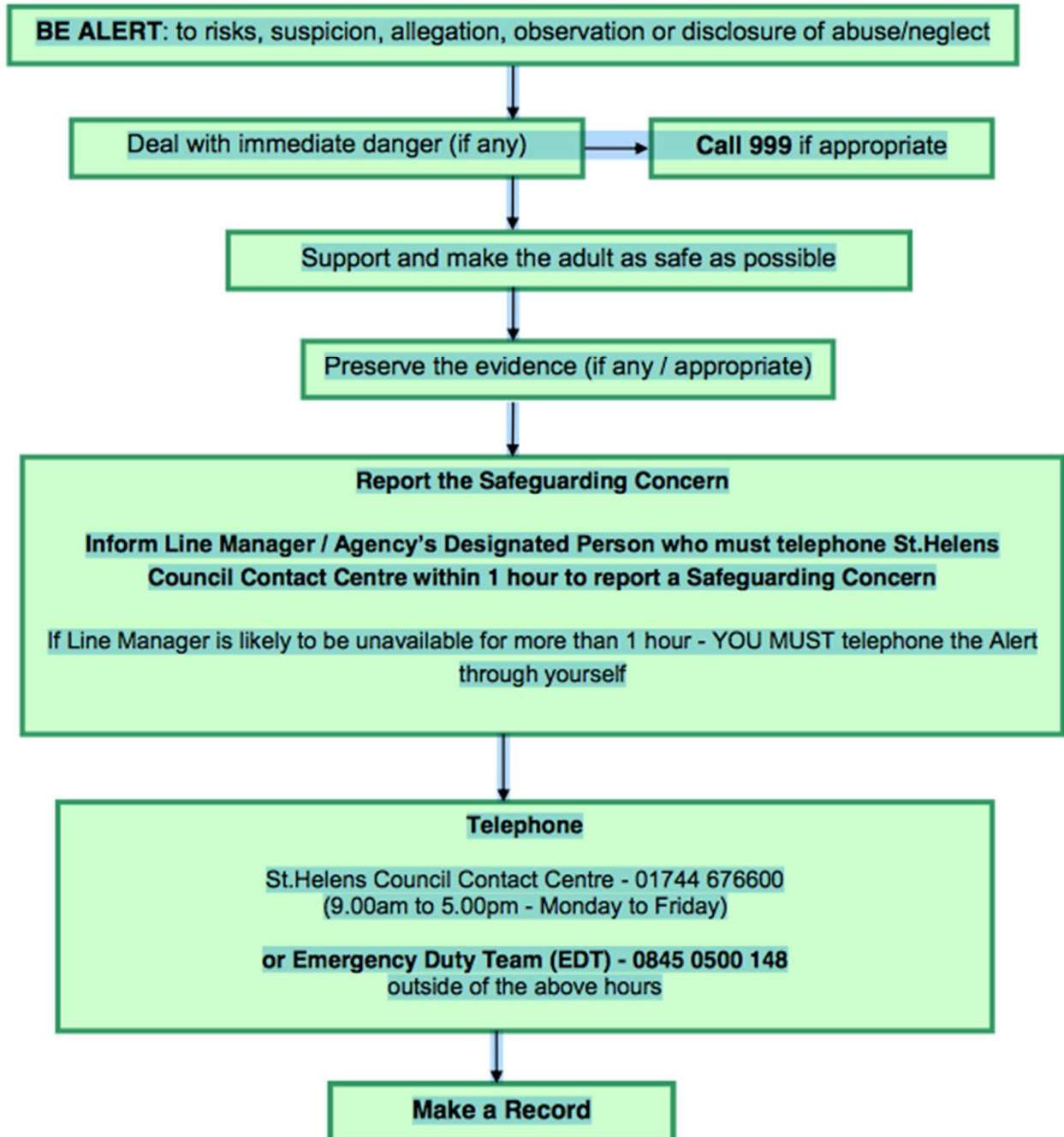
17. Procedures for referrals

- We are aware of the potential indicating factors that a child is vulnerable to being radicalised or exposed to extreme views, including peer pressure, influence from other people or the internet, bullying, crime and anti-social behaviour, family tensions, race/hate crime, lack of self-esteem or identity, prejudicial behaviour and personal or political grievances.
- In the event of prejudicial (harmful) behaviour:
- All incidents of prejudicial behaviour will be reported directly to Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL). The necessary information will be referred on to the Prevent- CHANNEL.
- All incidents will be fully investigated and recorded in the safeguarding CP forms /Referral’s folder and in SIMS re- Behaviour.
- Parents to be contacted and the incident discussed in detail, aiming to identify motivating factors, any changes in circumstances at home, parental views of the incident and to assess whether the incident is serious enough to warrant a further referral. A note of this meeting is kept alongside the initial referral in the safeguarding folder and safeguarding child file.

Appendix 1 Flowchart of procedures for dealing with safeguarding concerns

How to Report a Safeguarding Concern in St.Helens

**This applies to all residents of St.Helens regardless of setting,
i.e. community, hospital or care establishment**



Anti-Radicalisation

CHECKLIST FOR SCHOOLS


Since 1st July, all schools have a duty under the Counter Terrorism And Security Act to keep children safe from harm, especially from the risks of radicalisation and extremism.

Here is a checklist of what your school should have in place: ✓

1. Does your school have an Anti-Radicalisation Policy?
2. Does the school have procedures in place to address any issues around radicalisation? E.g. incident flow-chart
3. Have staff (teaching and non-teaching) received training on their duty with countering radicalisation and extremism?
4. Does the school promote British Values?
5. Does the school cover anti-radicalisation in the curriculum?
6. Do pupils understand how to evaluate web sites for bias and propaganda?
7. Does the school have filtering in place to prevent access to extremist sites?
8. Are staff and pupils aware of how the internet is used to radicalise people?
9. Has the school communicated with parents/carers about radicalisation and extremism?
10. Are governors aware of their duty to anti-radicalisation?



School name:

Completed By: Date:


E-safety Support

© www.e-safetysupport.com 2015

How did you do?
By carrying out the checklist, you have demonstrated that anti-radicalisation is already on your schools agenda. E-safety support can help you fulfil these requirements with a range of extremism resources including staff training, curriculum resources, parent guide and a tackling extremism school policy.



Appendix 3 Background documents

Prevent duty guidance:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/prevent-duty-guidance>

Departmental advice for schools and childcare providers

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/protecting-children-from-radicalisation-the-prevent-duty>

Background

Prevent is part of the UK's counter terrorism strategy and aims to reduce the number of people becoming or supporting violent extremists. Prevent happens before any criminal activity takes place. It is about recognising, supporting, and protecting people who might be susceptible to radicalisation. The new strategy is focused on delivering against the following objectives:

1. respond to the 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; and
3. work with sectors and institutions where there are risks of radicalisation which need to be addressed.

The Channel Project is an early intervention strategy, led by Merseyside Police, which is aimed at identifying and supporting those individuals who are vulnerable to involvement in violent extremism. Channel seeks to intervene in the lives of people who may be prone to the messages of violent extremism. Channel is designed to establish an effective multi-agency referral and intervention processes to identify vulnerable individuals and provide them with diversionary intervention to support them and reduce their vulnerability.

Counter Terrorism Local Profiles (CTLP's) are produced for each local authority area, including St Helens which sets out key threats and vulnerabilities which are used to inform a St Helens specific Prevent Action Plan. Both documents are held under restricted criteria and produced by the Counter Terrorism Unit of GMP, in consultation with the Local Authority. Actions within the CTLP Action plan relate to the three national Prevent Strategy Objectives and reviewed annually.

Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015

The Counter Terrorism and Security (CT) Act places a duty on certain bodies to have due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism. The Prevent Duty guidance will be statutory guidance issued under section 24 of the Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015 and will apply to local authorities, police forces, some NHS bodies, schools, further and higher education providers, prisons and young offender institutions and providers of probation services. The Act will have statutory implication of those bodies to which it relates.

The CT Bill will put the Prevent Duty onto a statutory platform.

The Prevent Duty in a School context

The education and childcare specified authorities in Schedule 6 to the Act are as follows:

- The proprietors of maintained schools, non-maintained special schools, maintained nursery schools, independent schools (including academies and free schools) and alternative provision academies
- Pupil referral units
- Registered early years childcare providers
- Registered later years childcare providers
- Providers of holiday schemes for disabled children
- Persons exercising local authority functions under a direction of the Secretary of State when the local
- Authority is performing inadequately; and persons authorised by virtue of an order made under section 70 of the Deregulation and Contracting Out Act 1994 to exercise a function specified in Schedule 36A to the Education Act 1996.

In order to fulfil the new duty, the specified sectors above should be carrying out activities in the following areas.

Risk Assessment

There is a need to demonstrate both a general understanding of the risks affecting children and young people in your local area and how to identify young people at risk of radicalisation. Settings should have clear procedures in place for protecting children at risk of radicalisation, although this does not need to be a standalone document. School staff should understand how and when it is appropriate to make a referral to Channel.

Working in partnership

Policies and procedures should be reflective of St Helens Safeguarding Children's Board procedures.

IT Policies

Specified authorities will be expected to ensure children are safe from terrorist and extremist material when accessing the internet in school, including by establishing appropriate levels of filtering.

Staff training

Settings are expected to ensure that staff have training to identify young people at risk of being drawn into terrorism, and to challenge extreme rhetoric's which can be used to legitimise terrorism. They should know where and how to refer children and young people for further help.

Staff Training & Resources

The Prevent Duty is not prescriptive on how Prevent awareness training should be accessed; the requirement is for staff to have training to identify young people at risk of being drawn into terrorism and to challenge extremist ideas.

As a minimum it is recommended that the Designate Safeguarding Lead undertakes Prevent awareness training and disseminates this to other members of staff.



HOW SOCIAL MEDIA IS USED TO ENCOURAGE TRAVEL TO SYRIA AND IRAQ BRIEFING NOTE FOR SCHOOLS

Terrorist organisations, such as ISIL, are trying to radicalise and recruit young people through an extensive use of social media and the internet. Young people, some as young as 14, have tried to leave the UK to travel to join ISIL and other terrorist groups in Syria and Iraq.

As with other online harms, every teacher needs to be aware of the risks posed by the online activity of extremist and terrorist groups. This briefing note is aimed at head teachers, teachers and safeguarding leads and provides advice about online terrorist and extremist material. It includes a short summary of some of the main ISIL propaganda claims and identifies social media sites which ISIL is using.

What action do schools and teachers need to take?

Schools have a vital role to play in protecting pupils from the risks of extremism and radicalisation. Keeping children safe from risks posed by terrorist exploitation of social media should be approached in the same way as safeguarding children from any other online abuse.

- In the same way that teachers are vigilant about signs of possible physical or emotional abuse in any of their pupils, if you have a concern for the safety of a specific young person at risk of radicalisation, **you should follow your school's safeguarding procedures**, including discussing with your school's designated safeguarding lead, and where deemed necessary, with children's social care. If you are in a 'Prevent' priority area, your local authority will have a 'Prevent' lead who can also provide support.

- **You can also contact your local police force or dial 101** (the non-emergency number). They can talk to you in confidence about your concerns and help you gain access to support and advice.

- **The local authority or police might suggest a referral to the 'Channel' programme.** 'Channel' is a voluntary Government funded programme which aims to safeguard children and adults from being drawn into terrorist activity. 'Channel' can provide a support plan and specific interventions to protect people at risk, including mentoring support or an ideological or theological intervention. If you want to find out more about 'Channel' [click here](#) or call 101 to discuss your concerns.

If you are concerned that a child's life is in immediate danger, or that they may be imminently planning to travel to Syria or Iraq dial 999 or call the confidential Anti-Terrorist Hotline on 0800 789 321.

Appendix 5 Connecting Policies for Safeguarding purpose

Willow Bank School believes it is very important that policies relating to Safeguarding issues, across the school, are read in conjunction between one another. The Policies in question have been listed below.

- Safeguarding Policy
- Child Protection Policy
- Safer Recruitment Policy
- Health & Safety Policy
- Drug Policy
- First Aid Policy
- Anti-bullying & Harassment Policy
- Behaviour Policy
- Positive Handling and Guidance Policy
- Attendance Policy
- E-safety Policy
- Lone Worker Policy
- Sexual Violence and Sexual Harassment