

Date: December 2023
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Responsibility: KB

Bishop Challoner School



Prevent Policy



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PREVENT POLICY

The Prevent Policy applies to the whole school including the Early Years Foundation Stage. It should be read in conjunction with the Safeguarding Children Policy.

The national Prevent Strategy aims to stop people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism.

'Radicalisation' refers to the process by which a person comes to support terrorism and forms of extremism.

'Extremism' is defined as vocal or active opposition of fundamental British Values, including democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs. We also include in our definition of extremist, calls for the death of members of our armed forces, whether in this country or overseas.

Bishop Challoner School is committed to providing a secure environment for pupils, 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.

The school, working with other local partners, families and communities, seeks to play a key role in ensuring that the children and young people who attend the School are safe from the threat of terrorism. Prevent is part of the school's wider responsibility for Safeguarding and this policy is therefore linked to the school's Safeguarding Policy.

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 pupils.

The Prevent Strategy identifies that young people are more likely to be vulnerable to violent extremist or terrorist narratives, including non-violent extremism which can create an atmosphere conducive to terrorism and can popularise views which terrorists exploit.

When operating this policy we use the Government's Prevent Strategy 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'.

We believe that Bishop Challoner School should be a safe place where children and young people can understand and discuss sensitive topics, including terrorism and the extremist ideas that are part of the terrorist ideology, and learn how to challenge such ideas. The Prevent duty is not intended to limit discussion of these issues. We are, however, mindful of our existing duties that forbid political indoctrination and secure a balanced presentation of political issues. These duties are imposed on maintained schools by sections 406 and 407 of the Education Act 1996.

In order to fulfil our Prevent Duty, we undertake to do the following:

- Actively promote Fundamental British Values, including mutual respect, tolerance and democratic participation, as part of our wider SMSC/ Life Skills (PSHEE) programmes as well as within other subject areas and assemblies;
- Respect pupil and staff diversity, encouraging freedom and openness;
- Assess the risk of children in our School being drawn into terrorism;
- Maintain robust safeguarding policies;
- Maintain and enforce IT policy and IT Code of Conduct;
- Ensure appropriate levels of filtering are applied when accessing the internet;
- Train staff so that they have the knowledge and confidence to identify children at risk of being drawn into terrorism, and to challenge extremist ideas which can be used to legitimise terrorism;
- Conduct due diligence checks on groups/ individuals seeking to hire or use school premises;
- Conduct due diligence checks on visitors to school, particularly visiting speakers, whether invited by children or staff;
- Conduct due diligence checks on contractors working on the school sites;
- Ensure children are safe from terrorist and extremist material when accessing the internet in School;

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

- Disclosures by pupils of their exposure to the extremist actions, views or materials of others outside of school, such as in their homes or community groups, especially where pupils have not actively sought these out;
- Graffiti symbols, writing or art work promoting extremist messages or images;
- Pupils accessing extremist material online, including through social networking sites;
- Parental reports of changes in behaviour, friendship or actions and requests for assistance;
- Partner schools, local authority services, and police reports of issues affecting pupils in other schools or settings;
- Pupils 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 equalities 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;
- Travel for extended periods of time to international locations known to be associated with extremism;

Teaching Approaches

We will all strive to eradicate the myths and assumptions that can lead to some young people becoming alienated and disempowered, especially where the narrow approaches children may experience elsewhere may make it harder for them to challenge or question these radical influences.

In our school this will be achieved by good teaching, primarily via PSHEE. We will ensure that all of our teaching approaches help our pupils build resilience to extremism and give pupils a positive sense of identity through the development of critical thinking skill. We will ensure that all of our staff are equipped to recognize extremism and are skilled and confident enough to challenge it. We will be flexible enough to adapt our teaching approaches, as appropriate, so as to address specific issues so as to become even more relevant to the current issues of extremism and radicalisation.

When accessing the internet at school, appropriate filters are in place to keep children safe from terrorist and extremist material. Bishop Challoner actively promotes British values through form time discussions and assemblies.

Warning signs

Staff should be watchful for any pupil showing signs of radicalisation or extremism including:

- Changes in behaviour;
- Possessions of extremist material;
- Expression of extremist views;
- Unhealthy level of fixation or obsession with religious or political views/issues;
- Socialising with people known to have extremist views.

Supportive Interventions

Channel is the multi-agency approach to protect people at risk from radicalisation and aims to: identify individuals at risk of being drawn into terrorism; assess the nature and extent of that risk; develop the most appropriate support plan for the individuals concerned.

Should concerns require support from other agencies, the following are ways in which terrorism and extremism can be reported:

Anti-terrorist hotline: 0800 789 321

Crime stoppers: 0800 555 111

Relevant police force: 101

www.gov.uk/report-suspicious-activity-to-mi5

The DfE has a dedicated telephone helpline and mailbox for non-emergency advice for staff and Trustees/Governors: 020 7340 7264

(email: counter.extremism@education.gov.uk)

Whistle Blowing

Where there are concerns of extremism or radicalisation pupils and staff will be encouraged to make use of our internal systems to Whistle Blow or raise any issue in confidence. Please refer to School Whistle Blowing Policy.

Child Protection

Please refer to our Child Protection 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. For example; this could be due to a child displaying risky behaviours in terms of the activities they are involved in or the groups they are associated with or staff may be aware of information about a child's family that may equally place a child at risk of harm. (These examples are for illustration and are not definitive or exhaustive) 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 or Headteacher.

Role of the Designated Safeguarding Lead

The Designated Safeguarding Lead is: Kate Brooker

The Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead is: John Lubi

The Designated Safeguarding Lead works in line with the responsibilities as set out at Annex B of the DfE Guidance 'Keeping Children Safe in Education'. The Designated Safeguarding Lead is the focus person and local 'expert' 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. This is in keeping with professional responsibility for the child's welfare and legal requirements set out in the Counter Terrorism & Security Act 2015. The Designated Safeguarding Lead will share concerns with the local Prevent team, who will support the school, either by escalating the matter or providing guidance. This may include making a referral to the Channel programme, where the pupil's engagement is entirely voluntary at all stages.

Training

Whole school in-service training on Safeguarding and Child Protection will be organised for staff and governors at least every year and will comply with the prevailing arrangements agreed by the Local Authority and the Safeguarding Children Board and will, in part, include training on extremism and radicalisation and its safeguarding implications.

Prevent training is also conducted once a year.

All staff have read "Keeping Children Safe in Education, Part 1", September 2022 and have been informed of their duties as set out in "The Prevent Duty" (DfE, June 2015).

Students and staff have read and signed the Acceptable Use of ICT policy.

The Designated Safeguarding Lead will attend training courses as necessary and the appropriate inter-agency training organised by the Safeguarding Children Board at least every two years, again this will include training on extremism and radicalisation and its safeguarding implications.

Recruitment

The arrangements for recruiting all staff, permanent and volunteers, to our school will follow LA guidance for safer recruitment best practice in education settings, including, but not limited to, ensuring that DBS checks are always made at the appropriate level, that references are always received and checked and that we complete and maintain a single central record of such vetting checks. We will apply safer recruitment best practice principles and sound employment practice in general and in doing so will deny opportunities for inappropriate recruitment or advancement. We 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. We are aware that such persons seek to limit the opportunities for our pupils thereby rendering them vulnerable to extremist views and radicalisation as a consequence. Therefore, by adhering to safer recruitment best practice techniques and by ensuring that there is an on-going culture of vigilance within our school and staff team we will minimise the opportunities for extremist views to prevail.

Sharing Information

It may be necessary to share personal information to ensure, for example, that a person at risk of radicalisation is given appropriate support (for example on the Channel programme/ Channel Duty Guidance). Information sharing must be assessed on a case-by-case basis and is governed by legislation. To ensure the rights of individuals are fully protected, it is important that information sharing agreements are in place at a local level. When considering sharing personal information, the school should take account of the following:

- Necessity and proportionality: personal information should only be shared where it is strictly necessary to the intended outcome and proportionate to it. Key to determining the necessity and proportionality of sharing information will be the professional judgement of the risks to an individual or the public;
- consent: wherever possible the consent of the person concerned should be obtained before sharing any information about them;
- power to share: the sharing of data by public sector bodies requires the existence of a power to do so, in addition to satisfying the requirements of the Data Protection Act 1998 and the Human Rights Act 1998;
- Data Protection Act and the Common Law Duty of Confidentiality: in engaging with non-public bodies, the specified authority should ensure that they are aware of their own responsibilities under the Data Protection Act and any confidentiality obligations that exist.
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Supportive Interventions

Should concerns require support from other agencies, the following are ways in which terrorism and extremism can be reported:

- Anti-terrorist hotline: 0800 789 321
- Crime stoppers: 0800 555 111
- Relevant police force: 101
- To report any online terrorist-related material: www.gov.uk/report-terrorism

Reviewed by: K Brooker
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