



PREVENT
AND
RADICALISATION

POLICY

**SAFEGUARDING
POLICY**

Witham Prospect School
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Statement of Intent

The purpose of this policy is to clarify the expectations that are placed upon Witham Prospect School having considered advice given by the Department for Education (DFE) regarding understanding their obligations under “The Education (Independent School Standards) regulations 2014”.

Guidance was given by the DFE in June 2015 to help schools understand the implications of the Prevent duty. The Prevent duty is the duty in the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 on authorities regarding the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism.

Note

This policy needs to be read in-conjunction with the policy on Promoting British Values.

Monitoring and review

This policy will be monitored and refined on a continuous basis and reviewed biennially by either the Directors, Director of Education or a member of the Senior Leadership Team or earlier if changes in legislation, regulatory requirement or best practice guidelines so require.

Any changes to this policy will be communicated to all staff, parents and, where appropriate, children and young people.

Legal framework

This policy has due regard to all relevant legislation and guidance including, but not limited to, the following:

- Prevent Duty Guidance: England and Wales (latest version) – UK Gov.
- Managing the risk of radicalisation in your education setting (latest version) – DFE
- The Prevent Duty: an introduction for those with safeguarding responsibilities (latest version) – DFE.
- Understanding and Identifying radicalisation risk in your education setting (latest version) – DFE.
- Making a referral to Prevent (latest version) – DFE
- The Children’s Homes (England) Regulations 2015 – UK Gov.
- Guide to the Children’s Homes Regulations, including the quality standards April 2015 – DFE.
- Social Care Common Inspection Framework SCCIF: children’s homes (latest version) – OFSTED.
- Positive environments where children can flourish (latest version) – OFSTED.
- The Education (Independent School Standards) Regulations 2014 (latest available, revised) – UK Gov.
- Education Inspection Framework: EIF (latest version) – OFSTED.
- Non – association independent schools inspection handbook (latest version) – OFSTED.
- Keeping Children Safe in Education, statutory guidance for schools and colleges (latest version) – DFE.
- Working Together to Safeguard Children, a guide to multi-agency working to help, protect and promote the welfare of children (revised latest version) – HM Government.
- Lincolnshire Safeguarding Children Partnership (LSCP): Policy and Procedures – live manual.

This policy operates in conjunction with the following school policies:

- SMSC Policy
- British Values Policy
- Safeguarding (Child Protection) Policy

Rationale and management of the Prevent Policy

This policy serves as a protocol for Designated Safeguarding Leads, senior leaders and all members of staff at Witham Prospect School to gain an understanding of The Prevent duty, what to do if they feel that a young person is at risk of “radicalisation” and inform them about other sources of information, advice and support.

The Prevent duty applies to a wide range of public bodies including educational settings and schools, see Prevent Duty Guidance: England and Wales (latest version).

At Witham Prospect School protecting children from the risk of radicalisation is seen as part of our wider safeguarding duties, whether these come from immediate members of their family or outside influences. We will always consider the Prevent Strategy and if we have any concerns we will immediately refer to the local safeguarding children partnership and/or to the CHANNEL programme.

As an organisation we have a duty to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism. Being drawn into terrorism includes not just violent extremism but also non-violent extremism, which can create an atmosphere conducive to terrorism and can popularise views which terrorists exploit. Schools should be safe spaces in which children and young people can understand and discuss sensitive topics, including terrorism.

At Witham Prospect School, we have robust policies which detail how we will fulfil our obligations regarding promoting fundamental British Values and SMSC, these policies enable us to challenge extremism.

Radicalisation: the process by which a young person comes to support terrorism and forms of extremism leading to terrorism. During that process, it is possible to intervene to prevent vulnerable people being drawn into terrorist-related activity.

As a school and wider organisation, we will base our “Prevent Policy” and associated actions under the following four themes:

- Risk assessment.
- Working in partnership.
- Staff training.
- IT and “E” Safety

Risk Assessment

At Witham Prospect School, we will assess the risks of our pupils being drawn into terrorism, including support for extremist ideas. Our staff, as part of their safeguarding training, will receive training in how to spot the signs that a pupil may be at risk of radicalisation. We will also work with partner agencies to gain an understanding of the risks of radicalisation in the local area that may affect pupils and other young people. As part of our safeguarding policies we will look to identify pupils who are at risk of radicalisation and what actions will then be needed to support them.

As part of our “E” safety policy, staff will receive training in the use of the internet, social media and other on-line platforms that may be used to radicalise young people. Depending on the level of risk to a pupil, general safeguarding principles would apply when reporting concerns to the designated safeguarding lead(s) and thereafter to Children’s Social Care (Lincolnshire Safeguarding Children Partnership) and 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. It provides a mechanism for schools to make referrals if they are concerned that an individual might be vulnerable to radicalisation. An individual’s engagement with the programme is entirely voluntary at all stages.

For detailed guidance on Channel see HM Government Channel Duty Guidance Protecting vulnerable people from being drawn into terrorism: 2015.

Working in Partnership

At Witham Prospect School, we will ensure that our safeguarding policies and arrangements consider the policies and procedures of the LSCP i.e. the Lincolnshire Safeguarding Children Partnership. We will work in partnership and take advice from various agencies including any available Prevent co-ordinators and the police.

Staff Training

All staff will receive Prevent awareness training as part of their safeguarding and child protection training. The Director of Education, will undertake Prevent awareness training so that they can provide advice and support to other members of staff on protecting children from the risk of radicalisation.

In addition to this staff will take advantage of any online general awareness training module on prevent/radicalisation that is available. Such module(s) introduce how to identify factors that can make people vulnerable to radicalisation, and case studies illustrating the types of intervention that may be appropriate.

IT and “E” Safety

At Witham Prospect School, we will ensure that suitable filtering is in place to protect pupils from terrorist and extremist material when accessing the internet. The school will also have robust IT and “E” Safety policies in place which will support pupils to stay safe online. Internet and social media safety can also be taught in ICT, PSHEE and PSD. In addition, staying safe on-line can also be discussed in tutor time as part of “informal learning”.

Identifying radicalisation and managing the risk (from DFE guidance)

Low risk

Low risk means there’s no evidence to suggest the learner is susceptible to radicalisation into terrorism. Low risk behaviours, when seen alone, would not necessarily need to be explored further.

Low risk behaviours include:

- holding strong opinions or values (non-violent or non-extremist)
- criticising government policies
- adopting visible signs, for example wearing clothing (non-violent or non-extremist), to express identity or sense of belonging
- being active on social media
- taking a keen interest in national and international affairs
- demonstrating support and supporting causes, for example animal rights (non-violent)
- showing new interest in a political ideology or religion
- holding or expressing conservative values or practices, whether traditional, cultural or religious (unless they cause harm to a child or others, for example female genital mutilation)

Low risk: what to do

Where there is low risk, you should think about:

- talking informally to the learner about the changes in their behaviour
- providing an opportunity to debate controversial issues in a safe space
- offering information about how to keep safe online

Educate Against Hate has [resources for schools to safeguard students](#) and Education and Training Foundation has [resources for FE providers](#).

The [Prevent duty guidance](#) says that schools and FE providers should be safe spaces in which learners can understand and discuss sensitive topics, including terrorism and the extremist ideas that are part of terrorist ideology, and to learn how to challenge these ideas.

Regular Prevent training will help staff understand what radicalisation means and why learners may be susceptible to becoming a terrorist or supporting terrorism.

At risk

A learner at risk may be showing behaviours that could increase their risk and vulnerability to radicalisation.

If a learner is showing at risk behaviour, you should explore this further to see if you need to make a Prevent referral.

At risk behaviour includes:

- being drawn to conspiracy theories
- beginning to isolate themselves from family and friends
- viewing or engaging with inappropriate online content and having uncontrolled or unsupervised access to the internet
- expressing concerns about being victimised, for example feeling under attack
- discriminating against other individuals or groups of people
- a sudden change in behaviour
- showing interest in extremists or extreme groups
- expressing views that divide us, for example talking about 'us' and 'them'.

At risk: what to do

If you think a learner is at risk, you should look at their behaviour and gather all the information you need to make a full assessment of risk and harm.

You should ask yourself:

- if you have enough information to make a comprehensive assessment
- what's happened in the past to trigger the incident
- if this is an isolated incident or a pattern of behaviour
- what else you know and if there any relevant vulnerability factors
- if there are any relevant contextual factors - for example, previous safeguarding concerns, behaviour, attendance, attainment, general wellbeing
- if there are any protective factors - for example, supportive personal relationships with peers and family, environmental factors such as school, college, provider or home life.

You should:

- talk to the learner in a safe space - see [how to speak to a learner susceptible to radicalisation](#)
- talk to the parents or carers (if under 18) about your concerns - see 'informing the child, young person, parents or carers' in [making a referral to Prevent](#)
- make a holistic assessment of vulnerability, examining risk and protective factors as set out on page 15 of [working together to safeguard children](#)

If you need to make a Prevent referral, you can ask Prevent partners for advice and support.

When asking for advice, you do not need to identify the learner. Keep a written record of all concerns, discussions and decisions made, and the reasons for those decisions.

If you're in any doubt, [make a Prevent referral](#).

The best person to speak to a learner is any professional, parent or carer (if under 18) who has a good relationship with them.

If you think the risk is escalating, follow your Prevent referral procedures and read the guidance for medium or high-risk cases.

Medium risk

Medium risk means a learner is at heightened risk of radicalisation. There may be several indicators of risk.

If the learner is at risk of harm, you should [make a Prevent referral](#) immediately.

Medium risk behaviour includes:

- legitimising the use of violence to defend ideology or cause
- accessing extremist or terrorist websites, forums and publications
- expressing dehumanising views
- expressing an interest to travel to a conflict zone
- being in contact with a group or individuals known to support a violent extremist ideology, either online or in real life

- expressing persistent intolerance towards groups of people perceived as 'other' - this may be based on protected characteristics such as gender, religion or ethnicity, but not exclusively
- demonstrating a fixation with weaponry or explosives (this may include posing in concerning photographs or videos with weaponry), without an otherwise reasonable explanation
- being obsessed with massacre, or extreme or mass violence, without targeting a particular group (for example, high school shootings)

Medium risk: what to do

If you suspect a learner is at medium risk, you should assess their vulnerability and examine the risk and protective factors as set out in the statutory guidance on [working together to safeguard children](#).

You should ask yourself:

- if there's reasonable cause to suspect that the learner is suffering or likely to suffer significant harm
- what the risks are and what would happen if these needs are not met - what the impact will be on the learner - what you're worried about
- what else you know and if there are any relevant vulnerability factors
- if there are any relevant contextual factors - for example, previous safeguarding concerns, behaviour, attendance and attainment records and general wellbeing
- if there are any protective factors - for example, supportive personal relationships with peers and family, environmental factors such as school, college, provider or home life.

If the learner is suffering from or is at risk of harm including vulnerability to radicalisation, you should act immediately and follow your internal safeguarding policy, including the designated safeguarding lead considering making a [referral to Prevent](#). Your Prevent partners may give you advice or forward the referral on to Channel as appropriate.

Channel is a multi-agency partnership that supports people identified as at risk of being drawn into terrorism. Channel focuses on early intervention to provide support at an early stage. To find out more, read 'Channel support' in [making a referral to Prevent](#).

You should also carry out an assessment to identify whether any needs should be met by more than one agency, for example child and adolescent mental health services. If you're not sure if you should do this, your local authority may suggest this when you make the Prevent referral.

When you share information about a child or young person who is under 18, you should try to get parental consent but only if it is safe to do so. Do not put the child or young person in more danger. For more guidance, read 'informing the child, young person, parents or carers' in [making a referral to Prevent](#). Once a referral has been made to Prevent, it is assessed by specialists (Police Officers and staff), this is also called a *Gateway Assessment* and will determine the level of support that can be offered via Channel.

High risk

High risk means a learner is at significant risk. There's evidence that they're currently exposed to terrorist or extremist activity and there's a significant risk to their safety.

If they're showing high risk, criminal behaviour, tell the police immediately.

High risk, criminal behaviour includes:

- verbally or physically attacking someone due to their race, religion, sexuality and so on
- committing violent acts guided by a violent extremist ideology or group
- taking part in any proscribed violent extremist group (financing, sharing material online, recruiting others and so on)
- having a 'kill list' or detailed plan to carry out mass violence
- producing or sharing terrorist material offline or online
- recruiting others to a proscribed terrorist group or organisation

High risk: what to do

You should ask yourself if the learner:

- needs support from more than one agency
- is about to put themselves or others in danger
- is at risk due to actions of their parents or carers, or wider family members
- has made violent threats to your setting

Tell the police immediately if you suspect a learner:

- is about to put themselves or others in danger by travelling to join a proscribed organisation, or
- appears to be involved in planning to carry out a criminal offence

If you suspect a learner is likely to commit an attack on your setting, contact the police and local authority for immediate support.

Create a safe space

The Prevent duty states that having a safe space to discuss controversial topics is crucial to give learners a chance to share their views and understand the views of others.

Speaking about these issues can help build resilience to challenge extremist narratives. It may also prompt them to raise concerns that staff may not otherwise be aware of.

The [Educate Against Hate](#) and [ACT Early](#) websites have resources to support you with this.

- Focus on the child/young person.
- Be inclusive.
- Be proactive. And build relationships.

Use TED:

- T - tell
- E - explain
- D – describe

To make a prevent referral follow the process outlined in: Making a referral to prevent (latest version) – DFE.

Useful resources

[Educate Against Hate](#)

[ACT Early \(radicalisation and the internet\)](#)

[The Prevent Duty: Safeguarding Learners Vulnerable to Radicalisation](#)

Lincolnshire Contacts for Referrals/Procedures: Useful Contacts

Early intervention is vital and any concerns, no matter how small, can be discussed with the PREVENT Officer:

East Midlands Special Operations Unit – Special Branch

Tel: 01522 885350

Email: prevent@lincs.pnn.police.uk.

Or

Local Authority Prevent Officer, Richard Clare

Lincolnshire County Council: prevent@lincolnshire.gov.uk

This may lead to a referral to CHANNEL using the referral form Prevent | Lincolnshire Police (lincs.police.uk).

Report a concern

If you have a concern that someone you know is drawn to extremism, report it to ctp-em-prevent-referral@lincs.police.uk for both referrals and enquires or call 101 and ask for the Prevent Team.