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Prevent Duty Policy

Our Mission Statement

We come together as Saint Mary’s family,

To learn, share our faith, and do our best to follow in the footsteps of Jesus

**Prevent Duty Policy**

1. Responsibilities

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As part of the Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015, we have a duty to ‘prevent people being drawn into terrorism’. This has become known as the ‘Prevent Duty’.​ Where Staﬀ are concerned that children are developing extremist views or show signs of becoming radicalised, they should discuss this with the DSL. The DSL has received training about the Prevent Duty and tackling extremism and is able to support staﬀ with any concerns they may have. ​Staﬀ should be alert to changes in children’s behaviour, which could indicate that they may need help or protection. Staﬀ should use their judgement in identifying children who might be at risk of radicalisation and act proportionately which may include the Designated Safeguarding Manager making a Prevent referral.

​This policy and its procedures will apply to:

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* Employees of St. Mary’s Primary School
* Children

2. What is Terrorism/Extremism

Terrorism covers all forms of extremism, both violent and non-violent and is defined in the national Prevent Strategy as any 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. This also includes calling for the death of members of the armed forces.

‘Prevent’ covers internal and domestic terrorist threats, and includes the activities of far-right groups, and animal rights groups.

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The government has defined extremism in the Prevent strategy as​

1. negate or destroy the fundamental rights and freedoms of others; or

2. undermine, overturn or replace the UK’s system of liberal parliamentary democracy and democratic rights; or

3. intentionally create a permissive environment for others to achieve the results in (1) or (2).

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What are British Values? British Values are defined as “democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance for those with diﬀerent faiths and beliefs”; institutions are expected to encourage children to respects others particularly the protected characteristics set out in the Equality Act 2010.

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3. Radicalisation

Radicalisation is defined as the process by which people come to support terrorism and extremism and, in some cases, to then participate in terrorist groups. There is no obvious profile of a person likely to become involved in extremism or a single indicator of when a person might move to adopt violence in support of extremist ideas. Children may be vulnerable to extremist ideology and radicalisation. Like protecting children from other forms of harm and abuse, protecting children from this risk is part of our safeguarding approach.

There is no single way of identifying whether a learner is likely to be susceptible to an extremist ideology. Background factors combined with specific influences such as family and friends may contribute to a learner’s vulnerability. Similarly, radicalisation can occur through many diﬀerent methods (such as social media) and settings (such as the internet).

Early indicators of radicalisation or extremism may include:

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* showing sympathy for extremist causes
* glorifying violence, especially to other faiths or cultures
* making remarks or comments about being at extremist events or rallies outside school, college, university or other settings
* evidence of possessing illegal or extremist literature
* advocating messages similar to illegal organisations or other extremist groups
* out of character changes in dress, behaviour and peer relationships (but there are also very powerful narratives, programmes and networks that young people can come across online so involvement with particular groups may not be apparent.)
* secretive behaviour
* online searches or sharing extremist messages on social network profiles.
* intolerance of diﬀerence, including faith, culture, gender, race, or sexuality
* graﬃti, artwork or writing that displays extremist themes.
* attempts to impose extremist views or practices on others.
* verbalising anti-Western or anti-British views
* advocating violence towards others

It is possible to protect vulnerable people from extremist ideology and intervene to prevent those at risk of radicalisation being radicalised. As with other safeguarding risks, staﬀ should be alert to changes in children’s behaviour, which could indicate that they may be in need of help or protection.

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Where deemed appropriate, St. Mary’s will seek external support for children through referrals to the Channel Program. This program aims to work with the individuals to address their specific vulnerabilities and prevent them becoming further radicalised.

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4. The Prevent Duty

The Prevent duty should be part of our school’s wider safeguarding obligations. Designated Safeguarding Leads and other senior leaders should familiarise themselves with the revised Prevent Duty guidance: for England and Wales.

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5. What is Channel?

Channel is a key element of the Prevent Strategy. It is a multi-agency approach to protect people at risk from radicalisation using collaboration between local authorities, statutory partners, the police and local community to:

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* 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 individual concerned.

The following indicators identify factors that may suggest a young person, or their family may be vulnerable to being drawn into extremism:

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* Identify crisis – distance from culture religious heritage and uncomfortable with their place in the society around them.
* Personal crisis – family tensions, sense of isolation, adolescence low self-esteem, disassociation from existing friendship groups and becoming involved with a new and diﬀerent group of friends searching for answers to questions about identity, faith and belonging.
* Personal circumstances - migration, local community tensions, events aﬀecting Country and region, alienation from UK values having a sense of grievance that is triggered by personal experience of racism or discrimination or aspects of Government policy, unmet aspirations, perceptions of injustice feeling of failure, rejection of civic life, criminality, experiences of imprisonment, poor resettlement, reintegration, previous involvement with criminal groups.

The process of radicalisation is diﬀerent for every individual and can take place over an extended period or within a very short time frame. Safeguarding from extremism is no diﬀerent to how staﬀ would share a concern about drugs, physical and sexual abuse or any other safeguarding concern. Potential indicators of radicalisation are listed below.

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* Use of inappropriate language
* Possession or accessing violent extremist literature.
* Behavioural changes
* The expression of extremist views
* Advocating violent actions and means
* Association with known extremists
* Articulating support for violent extremist causes or leaders
* Using extremist views to explain personal disadvantage.
* Joining or seeking to join extremist organisations.
* Seeking to recruit others to an extremist ideology.

Any prejudice, discrimination, or extremist views, including derogatory language, displayed by Children or staﬀ will always be challenged and where appropriate will be dealt with in line with the Children Disciplinary Policy and the Code of Conduct for staﬀ. Staﬀ should use their professional judgement and discuss with the Designated Safeguarding Lead if they have any concerns. Once assessed, and if appropriate, this will be referred into the Channel Panel Process.

6. Responsibilities of St. Mary’s and our duty to our children

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1. Ensure that we have an eﬀective Prevent Policy in place which is updated annually, and that we contribute to inter-agency working in line with statutory guidance ’Working Together To Safeguard Children 2023’ and ‘Keeping Children Safe in Education 2025’.
2. Ensure that the Prevent arrangements consider the procedures and practice of the local authority as part of the interagency safeguarding procedures set up by the Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB).
3. Ensure that we comply with the Prevent Duty as set out in the Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015.
4. Ensure that the policies and procedures in place enable appropriate action to be taken in a timely manner to safeguard and promote children’s welfare.
5. Ensure that a DSL is appointed to lead on Prevent, advise/support staﬀ and liaise with the Local Authority and other agencies. He/she will have status/authority to carry out the role e.g. commit resources to prevent and direct staﬀ as appropriate.
6. Give scrutiny to regular reports which will provide detail on the numbers and types of prevent concerns which have arisen.
7. Ensure that any deficiencies or weaknesses in Prevent arrangements are remedied without delay.

**The DSL will:**

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1. Ensure that the Prevent policy, is reviewed annually and the procedures and implementation are reviewed regularly.
2. Ensure that the Prevent Policy is available publicly and that parents/carers and employers know referrals may be made.
3. Ensure the quality assurance of the provision of Prevent information, advice and guidance and procedures.
4. Act as a source of support, advice and expertise to staﬀ on matters of Prevent Duty, when deciding to make a referral, by liaising with relevant agencies.
5. Keep detailed, accurate, confidential and secure written records of concerns, disclosures and referrals. Ensure all such records are kept confidentially and securely.
6. Have access to resources and attend any relevant or refresher training courses at least every two years.

​​Induction Training for staﬀ is mandatory and should include a minimum of:

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* the Prevent Policy.
* the Safeguarding Policy
* the Safer Recruitment Policy
* the Staﬀ Code of Conduct Policy ​​

DSL to attend training every two years. All other staﬀ receive regular safeguarding and child protection updates as required, but at least annually, to provide them with relevant skills and knowledge to safeguard children eﬀectively. All staff to do the online awareness course for Prevent at the beginning of each academic year.

Reviewed Annually

Reviewed Sep 2025