

Westfield Primary School



Prevent Duty

Date Adopted: November 2022

Headteacher: Miss S Pope

Signed: *S Pope*

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Previous Version	2016
Changes Made	Changes Highlighted

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Prevent Duty Policy

What is the Prevent Duty?

From 1st July 2015 all schools, registered early years childcare providers and registered later years childcare providers are subject to a duty under Section 26 of the Counter-Terrorism & Security Act 2015, in the exercise of their functions to have “due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism”. This duty is known as the Prevent Duty. The UK Counter Terrorism strategy is known as CONTEST and part of this process of prevention is called Channel.

Legal Obligations

All staff working with and for the School have a legal obligation to ensure that they do all they can to protect children from the risk of radicalisation. School staff are on the ‘front line’ in terms of protecting young persons from becoming radicalised. It is important that every employee and staff member in the School is able to identify children who may be vulnerable to radicalisation. Protecting children from the risk of radicalisation should be seen as part of the School’s wider safeguarding duties (similar in nature to protecting children from other harms such as drugs, neglect, sexual exploitation, gang culture), whether these come from within their family or are the product of outside influences. The Designated Safeguarding Lead must be trained in the Prevent Duty. **The Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) is Sandra Pope.**

How does the School carry out this obligation?

Young persons are particularly vulnerable to exploitation of any sort and as such, Schools are well placed to monitor potential radicalisation of pupils. **All school staff and governors receive relevant training on induction and as required complete refresher training every two years.** Being familiar with the typical behaviour of each and every pupil will allow Teachers to note any behavioural changes that may be of concern. (See ‘indications of potential radicalisation and extremism’). It is imperative for Schools to monitor pupil usage of websites which may contain information of an extremist nature or terrorism.

Indications of potential radicalisation and extremism

There is no single profile of the type of person who may be at risk of being drawn into terrorism. They can come from any ethnic group, race or religion, or background. Risk evaluation should be undertaken within a local context but to also consider the increased risk of online radicalisation as terrorist organisations may seek to radicalise young people through the use of social media and the internet. (The local authority and local police will be able to provide contextual information to help you understand risks that may be related to your local area.)

As there is no way of identifying an individual who is likely to be susceptible to a terrorist ideology, you should be alert to changes in children’s’ behaviour which could indicate that they may be in need of help or protection.

Children at risk of radicalisation may be:

- Insular and isolated
- Have learning difficulties
- Showing an engagement in terrorist ideology
- Looking for identity and belonging
- Demonstrating a concerning level of control and domination
- Referring to 'them and us' and dehumanising groups or persons
- Acting in a frustrated and/or angry manner
- Demonstrating feelings of being under threat and grievance about injustice
- Looking for excitement

Obvious signs may be that they demonstrate an increased interest in extremist ideology and seek to discuss this within the school. Or, during discussion about extremism, they may become guarded and seek to hide their views.

Where you find evidence that a pupil is engaged with such views, combined with intent and the ability to cause harm, you must raise your concerns immediately.

You should use your professional judgement in identifying children who might be at risk of radicalisation. If in doubt, you must seek guidance from the School Safeguarding Lead.

How to manage discussions about extremist ideology

It is important for pupils to have a safe environment within which they can discuss terrorism and extremist ideology. Teacher led classes and programmes regarding these topics are encouraged in order to allow pupils to debate controversial issues and for Teachers to provide them with support to help them understand how they can participate in decision making. Schools must provide pupils with knowledge and key skills to allow them to understand and manage difficult situations. Having an open and constructive dialogue about such matters; building pupil's self-esteem as well as teaching them the importance of mutual respect and tolerance of diversity, should reduce the risk of pupils becoming radicalised.

The School will give all staff training on how to manage contentious debates in order to ensure we are upholding the objectives of the UK Counter Terrorism strategy.

What to do if you believe a pupil is becoming radicalised or is at risk of radicalisation

In the first instance, speak to the Designated Safeguarding Lead within the School about your concerns. If they agree that there are significant indicators present as to potential radicalisation, the Safeguarding Lead should then escalate this to the Chair of Governors. It is useful to have clear and concise information to justify your concerns. A record of any decision making should be kept. The Designated Safeguarding Lead may then decide to refer these concerns to a Channel Police Practitioner who will do a preliminary assessment on the level of risk. If they assess that there is a substantial level of risk, a multi-agency panel comprising of representatives of agencies such as the Police, Local Authority, Voluntary Sector, Immigration Services and the local community will work together to make

recommendations about appropriate intervention. The pupil will be notified by Channel that they are going to be part of an intervention programme.

You can contact the Department for Education on their helpline 020 7340 7264 or via email at counter.terrorism@education.gsi.gov.uk should you have any concerns relating to extremism.

You can also ring the police on the non-emergency number 101, or speak to your local police directly.

What if I have concerns that a colleague or other staff member at the School is becoming radicalised?

You should follow the same procedure as above.

Civil Liberties

The Prevent Duty does not attempt to restrict pupils, Teachers or support staff within the School from holding any religious or ideological beliefs and any such beliefs will be respected.

All pupils in the School must be treated with dignity at all times. The School will not refer any pupil to Channel without due consideration and substantial evidence. The School will endeavour not to infringe the right to freedom of expression.