



Leamington Federation

Sydenham Primary School and Lighthorne Heath Primary School

Preventing Radicalisation Policy

Background

This Preventing Radicalisation Policy forms part of the Federation's wider safeguarding arrangements. Sydenham Primary School and Lighthorne Heath Primary School recognise that protecting children from the risk of radicalisation is a safeguarding responsibility and that the Prevent duty should be implemented proportionately, in a way that supports children's welfare, rights and access to education.

Section 26 of the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 places a duty on specified authorities, including maintained schools, to have due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism. The current statutory Prevent duty guidance for England and Wales (2023), which came into force on 31 December 2023, describes the aim of Prevent as stopping people from becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism.

The school understands Prevent as part of its existing safeguarding framework. Concerns about radicalisation are therefore responded to using the same child-centred safeguarding principles that apply to other forms of harm, while recognising the specialist referral and support routes available through Prevent and Channel.

Ethos

At Sydenham and Lighthorne Heath Primary Schools, our vision, values, relationships and curriculum promote respect, inclusion, equality, dignity and a sense of belonging. We prepare pupils for life in modern Britain by enabling them to encounter different ideas, beliefs and perspectives in an age-appropriate way, to ask questions, think critically, distinguish fact from misinformation and develop respectful disagreement.

We challenge prejudice, racism, antisemitism, Islamophobia, misogyny, homophobia, transphobia, ableism and other discriminatory or hateful language or behaviour. We do not make assumptions about a child's beliefs, faith, ethnicity, culture, SEND, family circumstances or political views. There is no single profile of a person who may be susceptible to radicalisation.

The whole staff recognise the importance of fostering a culture where everyone's behaviour towards others is guided by the Taking Care Project's question: "Is your fun fun for everyone?"



UN Convention on the Rights of the Child

This policy reflects the principles of equality, dignity, respect, non-discrimination and participation. At Sydenham and Lighthorne Heath Primary Schools, children's rights are learnt, taught, practised, respected, protected and promoted. The school balances children's rights to safety, education, expression, belief and participation with its duty to safeguard them from harm.

Statutory and national framework

This policy should be read in the context of the following current legislation and statutory guidance:

- Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015, including the Prevent duty under section 26 and the Channel duties in Chapter 2 of Part 5;

- Terrorism Act 2000;
- Education Act 2002, including the school's duty to safeguard and promote the welfare of pupils;
- Equality Act 2010, including the Public Sector Equality Duty;
- Keeping Children Safe in Education 2026;
- Working Together to Safeguard Children 2026;
- Prevent duty guidance: England and Wales (2023); and
- Channel duty guidance: protecting people susceptible to radicalisation, as currently in force.

Related guidance and school policies

- The Prevent duty: safeguarding learners vulnerable to radicalisation (Department for Education);
- Prevent duty risk assessment guidance and template for schools;
- Promoting fundamental British values as part of SMSC in schools;
- Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy;
- Staff Behaviour (Code of Conduct) Policy;
- Online Safety / Acceptable Use policies and filtering and monitoring arrangements;
- Positive Behaviour Policy;
- Inclusion and SEND Policy;
- Equality Policy;
- Whistle-Blowing Policy; and
- Visitors and external speakers procedures.

Current terminology and definitions

Prevent is one part of the Government's counter-terrorism strategy, CONTEST. Its aim is to stop people from becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism. Prevent includes early intervention to support people who are susceptible to radicalisation.

Radicalisation is the process of a person legitimising support for, or use of, terrorist violence. This is the terminology used in the current Prevent duty guidance.

Susceptibility to radicalisation is complex and unique to an individual's circumstances. A person may be likely or liable to be influenced or harmed by terrorist or extremist ideologies that support or radicalise people into terrorism. Susceptibility may be linked to vulnerability, but the terms are not interchangeable and not everyone who is susceptible to radicalisation will be vulnerable in another safeguarding sense.

Terrorism is defined in law by the Terrorism Act 2000. In summary, it concerns the use or threat of serious violence or serious damage, designed to influence government or intimidate the public, for the purpose of advancing a political, religious, racial or ideological cause.

Fundamental British values are democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs. The school promotes these values through the curriculum, relationships, pupil voice, assemblies and wider school life.

Leadership, governance and risk assessment

The Governing Body and Executive Head Teacher are responsible for ensuring that the Prevent duty is implemented effectively and proportionately as part of the Federation's safeguarding arrangements. The school will maintain an up-to-date understanding of the local and national terrorism threat and will assess the risk of pupils being drawn into terrorism, including through online activity.

The Federation will maintain a Prevent risk assessment and, where required, an associated action plan. The assessment will take account of the age and needs of pupils, the local context, online risks, curriculum, staff

training, partnership arrangements, visitors and speakers, and the effectiveness of filtering and monitoring systems. Prevent risks and actions will be reviewed as part of safeguarding governance and whenever circumstances materially change.

Roles and Responsibilities

Role of the Executive Head Teacher

The Executive Head Teacher will:

- ensure that Prevent is embedded within the school's safeguarding culture and procedures;
- ensure that staff understand how to identify and report concerns about susceptibility to radicalisation;
- ensure that the curriculum and wider school culture promote critical thinking, respectful dialogue, inclusion and fundamental British values;
- ensure that appropriate risk assessment, staff training, filtering and monitoring, visitor checks and partnership arrangements are in place; and
- support the DSL in making timely referrals and seeking specialist advice where concerns arise.

Role of the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)

The DSL has lead responsibility for Prevent within the school's safeguarding arrangements. The DSL will:

- ensure staff understand the Prevent duty, current terminology, local procedures and the school's referral process;
- receive and assess concerns about pupils who may be susceptible to radicalisation;
- consider the concern in the context of the child's wider safeguarding needs and available information;
- seek advice from the local authority Prevent team, police or other appropriate partners where necessary;
- make a Prevent referral when there is a concern that a pupil may be susceptible to radicalisation, without requiring certainty that radicalisation has occurred;
- work with safeguarding partners and cooperate with Channel where a case is progressed;
- ensure appropriate records are made and retained in accordance with safeguarding and data protection requirements;
- ensure information is shared lawfully, proportionately and on a need-to-know basis; and
- report appropriately to governors on Prevent arrangements, training, risk and themes, without identifying individual pupils unnecessarily.

Role of all staff and volunteers

All staff and volunteers must understand that safeguarding is everyone's responsibility. They should remain professionally curious, avoid stereotyping, and report concerns promptly to the DSL or a Deputy DSL using the school's normal safeguarding procedures. Staff must not investigate concerns themselves or confront a pupil about suspected radicalisation in a way that could increase risk.

Curriculum and promoting resilience

The Federation provides a broad, balanced and inclusive curriculum that helps pupils develop knowledge, confidence, curiosity and resilience. Through age-appropriate teaching, pupils are supported to understand democracy, rights and responsibilities, the rule of law, individual liberty, mutual respect and tolerance, and to recognise prejudice and discrimination.

Teaching supports pupils to evaluate information, challenge misinformation and conspiracy narratives, understand how online content can manipulate emotions or exploit grievances, and discuss controversial

issues safely. Staff must present political issues impartially and ensure that pupils are not encouraged to adopt partisan political views.

Prevent is not taught as a stand-alone ideology-checking exercise. It is embedded within safeguarding, online safety, PSHE, relationships education, citizenship, reading, assemblies and wider opportunities to develop respectful dialogue and critical thinking.

Online safety, filtering and monitoring

Online environments can expose children to terrorist and extremist content, propaganda, conspiracy narratives, hateful material and individuals seeking to radicalise or exploit them. The school's approach to Prevent therefore forms part of its wider online safety arrangements.

The Federation will ensure that appropriate filtering and monitoring systems are in place, are reviewed regularly and are understood by relevant staff. Filtering and monitoring must support, rather than replace, effective teaching and safeguarding vigilance. Staff, pupils and visitors should report inappropriate or concerning online content or attempts to bypass filtering to a senior member of staff or DSL.

Where a concern relates to a specific child's online activity, it will be recorded and responded to as a safeguarding concern. The DSL will consider whether specialist Prevent advice or referral is appropriate.

Staff training

All staff receive safeguarding training that includes the Prevent duty, signs that may indicate susceptibility to radicalisation, online radicalisation, how to report a concern and the support available through Prevent and Channel. Training will be refreshed at appropriate intervals and updated when guidance, local risk or school circumstances change.

Staff with designated safeguarding responsibilities will undertake more detailed Prevent training appropriate to their role and will maintain awareness of current national and local threat information and referral arrangements.

Safer recruitment and professional conduct

The Federation follows the safer recruitment requirements in Keeping Children Safe in Education 2026. Recruitment, vetting, references, checks and staff conduct arrangements are designed to help ensure that adults working with children are suitable to do so. Concerns about an adult's conduct, including the expression or promotion of extremist views that may create a safeguarding risk, must be reported in accordance with the Staff Behaviour Code of Conduct, low-level concerns procedures and safeguarding policy.

Visitors, external speakers and use of school premises

Visitors are made aware of safeguarding expectations and how to report a concern. The school undertakes proportionate due diligence for visiting speakers and organisations, taking account of the Prevent duty, safeguarding, equality duties and the need to protect freedom of expression within the law.

Staff inviting an external speaker or organisation must obtain the required approval in advance. Appropriate checks, supervision and risk controls will be used. The school will not knowingly allow its premises or resources to be used to promote terrorism, support a proscribed organisation, encourage hatred or expose pupils to material that creates an unacceptable safeguarding risk.

Recognising possible susceptibility to radicalisation

There is no single route to radicalisation and no definitive checklist of signs. Indicators should never be considered in isolation or used to stereotype pupils. A child's faith, ethnicity, culture, political interest, SEND, family circumstances, dress or identity is not, in itself, evidence of radicalisation.

Concerns may arise from a combination of changes, behaviours, expressed views, relationships or online activity. Depending on context, these may include:

- expressing support for terrorist violence or for a proscribed terrorist organisation;

- justifying or glorifying terrorist attacks or mass-casualty violence;
- repeatedly sharing or seeking terrorist propaganda, extremist material linked to terrorism, or instructional material connected to terrorist activity;
- a marked and concerning change in behaviour or relationships alongside exposure to radicalising influences;
- being targeted, groomed or influenced by individuals or online networks promoting terrorist ideology;
- fixation on grievance narratives, hatred or dehumanisation which appears linked to support for terrorist violence;
- expressing an intention to travel, meet individuals or take action connected to terrorism;
- attempts to recruit or influence peers towards terrorist ideology or violence; or
- other behaviour which, when considered with the child's circumstances, causes concern that they may be susceptible to radicalisation.

Staff should also be alert to the possibility that a child may have other unmet safeguarding, mental health, SEND, exploitation, bullying, family or wellbeing needs. These should be considered alongside, not instead of, any Prevent concern.

Referral process and Channel

Any concern that a pupil may be susceptible to radicalisation must be reported promptly to the DSL or Deputy DSL using the school's normal safeguarding reporting procedures. If there is an immediate risk of harm or a suspected terrorism offence, the police should be contacted without delay in accordance with safeguarding procedures.

The DSL will gather relevant information, consider the concern in context, consult local Prevent arrangements where appropriate, and decide whether to make a Prevent referral. The threshold for referral is concern about susceptibility to radicalisation; staff do not need proof that a child has committed an offence or has already been radicalised.

Prevent referrals are assessed by specialist partners. Where appropriate, a person may be considered for Channel, a multi-agency programme that provides tailored support to people susceptible to becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism. Channel support is intended to safeguard and divert individuals away from terrorism. The school will cooperate with Channel and other safeguarding partners in accordance with its legal duties.

Information sharing, confidentiality and record keeping

Information relating to Prevent concerns will be handled in accordance with safeguarding, data protection and information-sharing requirements. Data protection law does not prevent the lawful sharing of information for safeguarding or public protection purposes. Information will be shared only where necessary, proportionate and relevant, and decisions about sharing will be recorded.

Prevent concerns and referrals are sensitive safeguarding information. They must not be discussed with people who do not need to know. Parents and carers will normally be involved where this is safe and appropriate, but information should not be shared with a parent or carer where doing so could place the child or another person at increased risk, prejudice an investigation or conflict with advice from safeguarding or Prevent partners.

Equality, inclusion and freedom of expression

The Federation applies this policy in accordance with the Equality Act 2010 and its inclusive ethos. Prevent activity must be fair, evidence-informed and non-discriminatory. Staff must not equate a particular religion, ethnicity, nationality, political concern or cultural practice with terrorism.

The school values lawful freedom of speech, belief and discussion. Pupils may hold and express a wide range of lawful views. The safeguarding concern arises where there is evidence of susceptibility to terrorist ideology, support for terrorist violence, or another risk of harm; disagreement, curiosity or controversial opinion alone should not trigger a Prevent referral.

Monitoring and Review

The Governing Body will monitor the effectiveness of the Federation's Prevent arrangements through safeguarding reporting, review of the Prevent risk assessment and action plan, assurance about staff training, filtering and monitoring, and consideration of relevant local and national developments.

This policy will be reviewed annually, and sooner if there is a significant change in legislation, statutory guidance, local Prevent arrangements or the school's risk assessment.

This policy was ratified: September 2026

This policy will be reviewed: September 2027

Signed by the Head teacher: Juliette Westwood

Chair of Governors: Richard Butler