

Safeguarding children

1.12.2 Preventing Radicalisation: the Prevent Duty

Policy statement for St Joseph's Pre-school

At St Joseph's Pre-school we ensure that through our vision, values, rules, curriculum and teaching we promote tolerance and respect for all cultures, faiths and lifestyles. The Committee also ensure that this ethos is reflected and implemented effectively in policy and practice and that there are effective risk assessments in place to safeguard and promote children's welfare.

We have a duty to prepare our children for life in modern Britain and to keep them safe. Pupils who attend our Pre-school have the right to learn in safety. We do not tolerate bullying of any kind and will challenge derogatory language and behaviour towards others.

The Prevent Duty in early years is a legal requirement placed on all education providers in England to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism. The aim of the duty is to safeguard vulnerable individuals from the risks of radicalisation and extremist views.

Prevent Duty

The Prevent Duty requires education providers to have policies and procedures in place to identify and respond to any concerns about radicalisation. The duty aims to promote British values¹ and prevent extremism from taking root in society.

Early years practitioners have an essential role to play in identifying and responding to any concerns about radicalisation and extremism. They need to have due regard for the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism, and to take appropriate measures to safeguard children and young people from these risks.

The Prevent Duty requires early years practitioners to be alert to any signs of extremist behaviour, including expressions of extremist views and promoting extremist ideologies. This is from parents, colleagues, children and visitors to the setting. They must also be aware of the risk factors associated with radicalisation, such as social exclusion, identity crisis, or a search for adventure and excitement.

Safeguarding children from all risks of harm is an important part of a Pre-school's work and protecting them from extremism is one aspect of that. But safeguarding in early years settings involves much more than just protecting children from physical harm or neglect. It also involves protecting them from the risk of radicalisation and extremist views. Thus to fulfil their safeguarding responsibilities and enable early years practitioners to work together with parents and other professionals, all our staff have received Prevent Duty training to help them be able to identify and assess the risks of radicalisation and know how to respond to any concerns appropriately.

¹ See policy 1.13.1 British Values

Statutory Duties

The duty to prevent children and young people being radicalised is set out in the following documents.

- Counter Terrorism and Security Act (2015) section 26²
- Keeping Children Safe in Education (latest update)
- Home Office: Prevent Duty Guidance (latest update)
- Working Together to Safeguard Children (latest update)

It's a legal obligation for St Joseph's Pre-school to comply with the Prevent duty and help to protect young children from extremism. Prevent Duty has 4 themes:

- Risk assessment – complete a risk assessment pinpointing any concerns relating to vulnerable children and radicalisation, together with monitoring and evaluating the impact of safeguarding policies and procedures;
- Working in Partnership – take appropriate action and refer people to Channel³ when necessary;
- Staff Training – undertake Prevent-awareness training and regularly reviewing the training and support provided to staff; and
- Robust safeguarding policies and procedures – includes having clear processes for identifying and responding to any concerns, as well as effective communication and collaboration with parents and external agencies

Definitions

Extremism was originally defined in 2011, but in 2024, the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities published a new definition of extremism for England (DLHC, 2024). Extremism is defined as the support or promotion of an ideology based on violence, hatred or intolerance that aims to:

- deny or destroy the fundamental rights and freedoms of others;
- undermine or overturn the UK's system of democracy and democratic rights;
- intentionally create an environment that permits or enables others to achieve either of the above.

Radicalisation refers to the process by which a person comes to support terrorism and extremist ideologies associated with terrorist groups.

British Values are democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs⁴.

Role of the Lead Practitioner

It is the role of the Lead Practitioner to:

- ensure that the Pre-school and its staff respond to preventing radicalisation on a day-to-day basis;
- ensure that the Pre-school's curriculum addresses the issues involved in radicalisation;
- ensure that staff conduct is consistent with preventing radicalisation.

² Registered childcare providers are classed as a "specified authority" and have a duty to identify vulnerable children and prevent them from being drawn into terrorism – the Prevent Duty.

³ Channel is a multi agency approach to identify and support individuals at risk of being drawn into terrorism

⁴ See Policy 1.13.1 British Values

Role of Designated Safeguarding Lead

It is the role of the designated safeguarding lead (DSL) to:

- ensure that staff understand the issues of radicalisation, are able to recognise the signs of vulnerability or radicalisation and know how to refer their concerns;
- receive safeguarding concerns about children and young people who may be vulnerable to the risk of radicalisation or are showing signs of radicalisation;
- make referrals to appropriate agencies with regard to concerns about radicalisation;
- liaise with partners, including the local authority and the police;
- report to the Lead Practitioner on these matters.

The DSL will refer to Dept of Education guidance "[The Prevent Duty: safeguarding learners vulnerable to radicalisation](#)" as necessary.

Role of staff

It is the role of staff to understand the issues of radicalisation, are able to recognise the signs of vulnerability or radicalisation and know how to refer their concerns. It is their responsibility to take action when there is concern over a child or families behaviour. Staff will follow the "notice, check, share" procedure outlined in the Prevent Duty GOV.UK awareness training.

Supporting vulnerable children and families: [Early Help](#)

When identified we will work with other groups and agencies in the local community to provide children and families with appropriate support, welfare and pastoral care.

Internet Safety

The internet provides children and young people with access to a wide-range of content, some of which is harmful. Extremists use the internet, including social media, to share their messages. The filtering systems used in our Pre-school blocks inappropriate content, including extremist content.

The Acceptable Use of ICT Policy refers to preventing radicalisation and related extremist content. Staff know how to report internet content that is inappropriate or of concern. Staff are aware of the DfE's "[Educate against hate](#)" website.

Staff Training

Staff will be given training to help them understand the issues of radicalisation, are able to recognise the signs of vulnerability or radicalisation and know how to refer their concerns. This information also forms part of induction safeguarding training. Staff are updated as necessary in weekly safeguarding briefings.

Designated Safeguarding Lead and her Deputy are likely to require additional, more regular training so that they can support others.

Safer Recruitment

We ensure that the staff we appoint to the Pre-school are suitable, our recruitment procedures are rigorous and we follow the statutory guidance published in part 3 of *Keeping Children Safe in Education* (latest version). At St Joseph's Pre-school we ensure that we have a member on every recruitment panel who has received the appropriate recruitment and selection training and that we have more than one member of staff suitably trained.

All our staff are appropriately qualified and have the relevant employment history and checks to ensure they are safe to work with children. References are sought from both the most recent employer and the most recent educational setting (if applicable). Internal

references are only acceptable from someone with authority, not a work colleague. We endeavor to check that any electronic reference received is from legitimate source. Vetting and barring checks are undertaken on relevant people, including Committee members and volunteers. As part of their contract, all staff are required to enroll on the DBS update service.

Signs of radicalisation

Although the signs of radicalisation differ from person to person, it may be a cause for concern if a child is seen to be:

- isolating away from friends and family;
- talking as if they are reading from a scripted speech;
- being unwilling or unable to discuss their views;
- becoming increasingly angry; or
- becoming more secretive.

Children who are at increased risk of radicalisation may suffer from low self-esteem, or be victims of discrimination or bullying.

Referral Process

Staff and visitors to the Pre-school must refer all concerns about children and young people who show signs of radicalisation to the Designated Safeguarding Lead using the usual methods for reporting other safeguarding concerns.

When there are significant concerns about a child, the Designated Safeguarding Lead in liaison with the Lead Practitioner will make a referral to the appropriate body.

Depending on the severity of the matter, they may contact the local police or call the 101 non-emergency services number for advice and support. However, if it is believed that there is an immediate risk of harm, we will call 999 straight away.

Additionally, the Department of Education provides a telephone number (020 7340 7263) for education professionals that want to raise direct concerns relating to radicalisation.

For non-emergency situations, we will do one or more of the following:

- speak to St Joseph's Pre-school's the Designated Safeguarding Lead;
- email: counter.extremism@education.gsi.gov.uk;
- call the police anti-terrorism hotline on 0800 789 321;
- call the NSPCC radicalisation hotline on 0808 800 500 or email them on help@NSPCC.org.uk; or
- report via the [Counter Terrorism Policing](https://www.counterterrorism.gov.uk) website.

In addition, the Department for Education has a dedicated telephone helpline for schools in England who have non-emergency concerns about extremism: 020 7340 7264.

Further Guidance

- Home Office Statutory Guidance "[Prevent duty guidance: Guidance for specified authorities in England and Wales](#)" (latest version)
- Dept for Education guidance "[Making a referral to Prevent](#)"
- Dept for Education guidance "[The Prevent Duty: safeguarding learners vulnerable to radicalisation](#)"
- [NSPCC Helpline](#) – 0808 800 5000. Provides help and support to adults worried about the radicalisation of a child

- www.educateagainsthate.com

Associated Policies and Procedures

- 1.2 Safeguarding children and child protection
- 1.13.1 British Values

Version Number	Author	Purpose of change	Date
1.0	E Kemp	New policy	Nov 2017
2.0	K Coupe	Reviewed, updated and inclusion of version control	7 Nov 2018
3.0	K Coupe	Comprehensive review in line with safeguarding and Keeping Children Safe in Education 2018	27 Feb 2019 Cttee Mtg
4.0	K Coupe & N Powers	Reviewed and updated – inclusion of setting’s legal obligation together with contact details if there is a referral	20 Nov 2021 Cttee Mbr (T Clapp)
5.0	K Coupe	Document reviewed. Minor changes made plus the inclusion of the “Associated policies and procedures” section as per EY Safeguarding Audit 2023 s175/157	29 Jun 2023 Chair (A Hitchings)
6.0	K Coupe	Reviewed and updated in line with HM Gov: “Prevent Duty guidance: Guidance for specified authorities in England and Wales” (latest version)	5 Dec 2023 Committee Member (S Webb)
7.0	K Coupe	Reviewed and updated in line with latest guidance. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • inclusion of more information of what to do in a “non-emergency”; • hyperlinks inserted where appropriate; • “Further Guidance” and “Associated Policies and Procedures” updated. 	27 Jan 2025 Committee Member (H Heaven)