



Prevent Policy

“Safeguarding is everyone’s responsibility”

Policy owner	Trust Safeguarding Lead
Policy approved by	Education Standards Committee
Policy approved	10 September 2024
Review frequency	2 years
Policy next approved	September 2026

PREVENT POLICY

Introduction

Radicalisation refers to the process of a person legitimising support for, or use of, terrorist violence

Extremism is the promotion or advancement of an ideology based on violence, hatred or intolerance, that aims to:

- Negate or destroy the fundamental rights and freedoms of others; or
- Undermine, overturn or replace the UK's system of liberal parliamentary democracy and democratic rights; or
- Intentionally create a permissive environment for others to achieve the results outlined in either of the above points
- Extremism goes beyond terrorism and includes people who target the vulnerable – including the young by seeking to sow division between communities on the basis of race, faith or denomination: justify discrimination towards women and girls: persuade others that minorities are inferior; or argue against the primacy of democracy and the rule of law in society (Working Together December 2023)

Terrorism is an action that:

- Endangers or causes serious violence to a person/people;
- Causes serious damage to property; or
- Seriously interferes or disrupts an electronic system

The use or threat of terrorism must be designed to influence the government or to intimidate the public and is made for the purpose of advancing a political, religious or ideological cause.

Key Documents

This policy should be read in conjunction with the following documents:

[Keeping Children Safe in Education](#) September 2024, which is the statutory guidance for Schools and Colleges.

[Working Together to Safeguard Children](#) December 2023, which is statutory guidance to be read and followed by all those providing services for children and families, including those in education.

[The Prevent duty: an introduction for those with safeguarding responsibilities: Updated September 2023](#)

[Prevent duty guidance: England and Wales \(2023\) - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

[Information sharing advice for safeguarding practitioners](#) March 2015. Updated May 2024

Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Multi Agency [Safeguarding Children Partnership Guidance](#) which includes links to relevant policies and procedures as well as training and useful links for children, parents/carers and professionals. www.ciossafeguarding.org.uk

We follow the procedures set out by:

The [South West Child Protection Procedures](#) and [Our Safeguarding Children Partnership \(OSCP\) for Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly](#).

This policy should also be read in conjunction with the following St Barnabas safeguarding policies which include:

- Child Protection and safeguarding
- Anti-bullying
- Online safety
- Health and Safety
- Visitors
- Behaviour
- Safer Recruitment
- Whistleblowing
- Equality and diversity
- Attendance
- Information Sharing and Record Keeping - including GDPR and the transfer of files

Ethos

St Barnabas Multi Academy Trust ensures that through our schools' vision, values, rules, diverse curriculum and teaching we promote tolerance and respect for all cultures, faiths and lifestyles. The Board of Directors also ensures that this ethos is reflected and implemented effectively in school 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 schools have the right to learn safely. We do not tolerate bullying of any kind and will challenge derogatory language and behaviour towards others.

Roles and Responsibilities

Role of the Board of Directors

It is the role of the Board of Directors to ensure that the schools in the Trust meet their statutory duties with regard to preventing radicalisation and extremism.

Role of the Head/ DSL

Establish or use existing mechanisms for understanding the risk of extremism

Ensure staff understand the risk and build capabilities to deal with issues arising

Communicate the importance of the duty

Make referrals to appropriate agencies with regard to concerns about radicalisation

Liaise with partners, including the local authority and the Police. Report to the CEO and Board of Directors.

Training

The DSL, or designated Prevent lead, will undertake in-depth Prevent awareness training, including on extremist and terrorist ideologies. They'll make sure that staff have access to appropriate training to equip them to identify children at risk.

Trust staff receive Safeguarding and Prevent training (Safesmart/Smartlog) to help to identify signs of extremism.

Updates are provided in termly safeguarding briefings

Curriculum

Opportunities are provided in the curriculum to enable pupils to discuss issues of religion, ethnicity and culture and the school follows the DfE advice Promoting fundamental British Values as part of SMCS (spiritual, moral, social and cultural education) in Schools.

Reporting concerns

We will assess the risk of children in our school from becoming involved with or supporting terrorism. This assessment will be based on an understanding of the potential risk in our local area, in collaboration with our local safeguarding partners and local police force.

There is no single way of identifying an individual who is likely to be susceptible to radicalisation into terrorism. Radicalisation can occur quickly or over a long period.

Staff will be alert to changes in pupils' behaviour.

The government website [Educate Against Hate](#) and charity [NSPCC](#) say that signs that a pupil is being radicalised can include:

- Refusal to engage with, or becoming abusive to, peers who are different from themselves
- Becoming susceptible to conspiracy theories and feelings of persecution
- Changes in friendship groups and appearance
- Rejecting activities they used to enjoy
- Converting to a new religion
- Isolating themselves from family and friends
- Talking as if from a scripted speech
- An unwillingness or inability to discuss their views

- A sudden disrespectful attitude towards others
- Increased levels of anger
- Increased secretiveness, especially around internet use
- Expressions of sympathy for extremist ideologies and groups, or justification of their actions
- Accessing extremist material online, including on Facebook or Twitter/X, WhatsApp
- Possessing extremist literature
- Being in contact with extremist recruiters and joining, or seeking to join, extremist organisations

Children who are at risk of radicalisation may have low self-esteem, or be victims of bullying or discrimination. It is important to note that these signs can also be part of normal teenage behaviour – staff should have confidence in their instincts and seek advice if something feels wrong.

Staff should **always** take action if they are worried.

Schools in the Trust will respond to any concern about Extremism/Radicalisation/Prevent as a Safeguarding concern and will report in the usual way using local safeguarding procedures (safeguard my school). However, staff in the first instance should contact the SPOC (Single Point of Contact) within the school with any concerns. This person is named on the front page of each school's safeguarding policy.

We will seek to work in partnership, undertaking risk assessments where appropriate and proportionate to risk, building our children's resilience to radicalisation.

When reviewing our PREVENT duties we consider the guidance contained on the [Safer Cornwall website](#) and www.safercornwall.org.uk

What can we do to help our children understand these issues and help protect them?

- Provide a safe space for them to debate controversial issues.
- Help them to build resilience and the critical thinking they need to be able to challenge extremist arguments.
- Give them confidence to explore different perspectives, questions, and challenges.

Monitoring

The Trust is committed to providing an effective filtering system (Securly) and this includes monitoring the activities of children when on-line in the school. We follow the guidance set out in Annex C (KCSIE September 2024) Please refer to the St Barnabas online safety policy.

Additional contact details:

Concerns can be discussed with the Prevent Lead for Cornwall: Steve Rowell
email: prevent@cornwall.gov.uk

MARU can also be contacted for advice: 0300 1231 116

Emergency Out of Hours: Tel No: 01208 251300

If immediate and serious concerns call the police on 999