



Part of Brighter Futures Educational Trust

# PREVENTING RADICALISATION POLICY

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**Review Committee:** ELT

**Type of Policy:** Non-Statutory

**Review Period:** Every 2 years

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## Version Control

V1.1	November 2025	Version control added, new layout (rebranding) Changes in red to most of the policy

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## 1. Background

This 'Preventing Radicalisation Policy' is part of our commitment to keeping children safe. Since the 'Education and Inspections Act 2006' schools have a duty to promote community cohesion. Over the last few years global events have led to a growth of extremist viewpoints, including advocacy of violent extremism. Schools have an important part to play in both educating children and young people about extremism and recognising when pupils start to become radicalised. The four key categories of risk of becoming radicalised.

## 2. Ethos

At Larwood School we ensure that through our school vision, values, rules, diverse curriculum and teaching we promote tolerance and respect for all cultures, faiths and lifestyles. The governing body 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 students' welfare.

We have a duty to prepare our children for life in modern Britain and to keep them safe. Pupils who attend our 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.

## 3. Statutory Duties

This policy is informed by:

- Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE), September 2025 (statutory guidance for schools and colleges)
- Working Together to Safeguard Children, December 2023 (statutory guidance)
- Prevent Duty Guidance: for England and Wales, 2023 (statutory guidance issued under section 29 of the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015)
- The Prevent Duty: Safeguarding learners vulnerable to radicalisation (DfE, 2023)
- Filtering and Monitoring Standards for Schools and Colleges (DfE, 2023)

## 4. Non-Statutory Guidance

- Promoting fundamental British values as part of SMSC in schools: Departmental advice for maintained schools, (DfE 2014).

## 5. Related Policies

- Acceptable use of the Internet and Digital Technology Policy
- Trust Behaviour Policy
- Equality Objectives Policy
- Staff Code of Conduct
- Teaching and Learning Policy (Under construction)
- Whistle-blowing Policy

## 6. Definitions

**Extremism** is 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. We also include in our definition of extremism calls for the death of members of our armed forces, whether in this country or overseas.

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

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

**Terrorism** is an action that endangers or causes serious violence to a person or people, serious damage to property, or seriously interferes with or disrupts an electronic system. The use or threat 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.

**Channel** is a voluntary, confidential programme which provides tailored support to individuals who are vulnerable to being drawn into terrorism.

## 7. Roles and Responsibilities

### Role of the Trustees

The Trust Board will:

- Ensure the school complies with its duties under the Prevent duty and KCSIE.
- Ensure this policy is reviewed at least annually and updated to reflect current legislation and local safeguarding practice.
- Appoint a nominated trustee/governor lead for safeguarding (including Prevent).
- Receive an annual safeguarding report that includes Prevent training completion rates, online safety (filtering and monitoring), any Prevent-related concerns, and referrals (anonymised).

### Role of the Headteacher

It is the role of the Headteacher to:

- Ensure the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) has appropriate time, resources and training to fulfil their role.
- Ensure all staff receive appropriate induction and annual training on safeguarding, including Prevent.
- Ensure online safety measures, including filtering and monitoring, meet DfE standards and are overseen by senior leaders.
- Foster an ethos that promotes respect, equality, and fundamental British values through the curriculum and school culture.
- Ensure safer recruitment procedures comply with KCSIE Part 3 (2024), including online searches for shortlisted candidates.

## Role of Designated Safeguarding Lead

It is the role of the designated safeguarding lead to:

- Coordinating safeguarding and child protection, including Prevent-related concerns.
- Receiving and acting upon concerns raised by staff, pupils, parents or external partners.
- Assessing whether a referral to the local authority Children's Services Front Door, Hertfordshire Prevent team, or Channel panel is appropriate.
- Maintaining secure, confidential records of concerns and actions taken.
- Liaising with the Headteacher, senior leaders, external agencies and the police as necessary.
- Undertaking DSL training (updated at least every two years) that includes Prevent awareness.

The DSL and named deputies are listed on the school website and staff notice boards.

## Role of Staff

- Complete Prevent awareness training at induction and attend regular safeguarding updates (at least annually).
- Be alert to signs that a pupil may be vulnerable to radicalisation or extremism.
- Report any concern, however small, to the DSL immediately.
- Promote fundamental British values and challenge extremist narratives in age-appropriate ways.
- Model respectful behaviour and challenge prejudice or discrimination.

## 8. Risk Assessment and Mitigation

The school will:

- Conduct an annual risk assessment of pupils' vulnerability to radicalisation and extremism, considering local and national threats, the school's context, and pupil profile.
- Review curriculum content, visiting speakers, external partnerships, IT systems, and site security to identify and mitigate risks.
- Work with local partners, including Hertfordshire Safeguarding Children Partnership (HSCP), the police, and the local authority Prevent lead, to stay informed of emerging risks.

## 9. The Curriculum

We actively promote fundamental British values through:

- Personal, Social, Health and Economic (PSHE) education and Relationships and Sex Education (RSE), which teach pupils about healthy relationships, respect, consent, equality, and diversity.
- The wider curriculum, including computing (online safety and critical digital literacy), history, citizenship, RE, and assemblies.

- Pupil voice and school council, which encourage democratic participation and respect for different viewpoints.
- Enrichment activities, visits and visitors, which broaden pupils' horizons and challenge stereotypes.

Pupils are taught to:

- Recognise and challenge prejudice and discrimination.
- Think critically and question information, especially online.
- Understand their rights and responsibilities as citizens.
- Show respect and tolerance towards people of all backgrounds, faiths and beliefs.

## 10. Online Safety

Pupils may be vulnerable to radicalisation and extremist content online. The school will:

- Provide filtering and monitoring systems that meet the DfE Filtering and Monitoring Standards (2023).
- Use Smoothwall to filter age-inappropriate content, including extremist material, and monitor online activity on school devices and networks.
- Ensure alerts are reviewed promptly by designated staff and escalated to the DSL where safeguarding concerns arise.
- Risk-assess and review filtering and monitoring at least annually, with oversight from senior leaders and governors.
- Teach pupils how to stay safe online, recognise harmful content, and report concerns through the computing curriculum, PSHE and assemblies.
- Acknowledge risks from personal devices, mobile data, gaming platforms and social media, and educate pupils and parents accordingly.

The school's Online Safety Policy and Acceptable Use Policies (staff and pupils) provide further detail.

## 11. Recognising Vulnerability and Indicators of Concern

There is no single profile of a person vulnerable to radicalisation. Factors may include (but are not limited to):

- Experience of bullying, discrimination, or social isolation.
- Family or peer influence, including exposure to extremist views.
- Identity confusion, low self-esteem, or a need for belonging.
- Bereavement, trauma, or mental health difficulties.
- Exposure to extremist content online or in the community.
- Changes in behaviour, friendship groups, or appearance.
- Use of extremist language or symbols.
- Possession of extremist literature or materials.
- Withdrawal from family, friends, or usual activities.
- Expressing views that are intolerant, hateful, or supportive of violence or terrorism.

These indicators should be considered in context and alongside other safeguarding concerns. Staff should remain alert and report any concern to the DSL without delay.

Further guidance on indicators is available in the Prevent Duty Guidance and KCSIE 2025, Annex B.

## 12. Responding to Concerns and Referral Process

### Responding to Concerns and Referral Process

#### Immediate Risk

**If a child is at immediate risk of harm, or a crime is being committed, call 999.**

#### Reporting a Concern

If you have a concern that a child is being harmed, is at risk of harm, or is vulnerable to radicalisation, or a child tells you something that causes concern (whether they mean to or not), you must:

- Report the concern to the DSL immediately, in person or via the school's safeguarding recording system CPOMS.
- Record factual observations (what you saw, heard, or were told) as soon as possible.
- Do not investigate or promise confidentiality.

#### Assessment and Referral by the DSL

The DSL will:

- Assess the concern, considering the child's context, any previous concerns, and the threshold for intervention.
- Consult with the Headteacher and/or external agencies as appropriate.
- Where a child may be vulnerable to radicalisation, consider referral to:

#### **Hertfordshire Children's Services Front Door:**

Telephone: 0300 123 4043 (8am-8pm, Monday to Friday; 9am-4pm Saturday)

#### **Hertfordshire Prevent Team (Police):**

Email: [prevent@herts.police.uk](mailto:prevent@herts.police.uk)

Telephone: 101 (non-emergency) or via the Children's Services Front Door

#### **Channel Panel:**

Referrals to Channel (a voluntary, multi-agency safeguarding programme) are made via the Children's Services Front Door or the Bedfordshire Prevent team. Consent is normally sought unless doing so would place the child or others at risk.

#### **Emergency Duty Team (out of hours):**

Telephone: 0300 123 4043

#### **Police (immediate danger):**

Telephone: 999

## **NSPCC Child Protection Helpline:**

Telephone: 0808 800 5000

- Keep secure, confidential records of the concern, actions taken, and outcomes.
- Inform parents/carers unless doing so would place the child or others at risk.

## **13. Visiting Speakers and External Partnerships**

The school has clear protocols for visiting speakers and external organisations to ensure pupils are not exposed to extremist views. These include:

- Pre-approval and vetting of all visitors and organisations.
- Staff supervision of all visits and activities.
- Challenge of any content that conflicts with fundamental British values or the school's ethos.
- Clear communication with external partners about safeguarding expectations.

## **14. Training and Staff Development**

All staff, trustees and volunteers will:

- Complete Prevent awareness training at induction (e.g., the Home Office online training or equivalent local authority training).
- Attend regular safeguarding training updates (at least annually) that include Prevent, online safety, and local risks.
- Receive updates via staff meetings, briefings, and safeguarding bulletins.

The DSL and deputies will undertake specialist DSL training (updated every two years) and attend Prevent and Channel awareness training as appropriate.

Training records are maintained by the school and monitored by the Trust Board.

## **15. Safer Recruitment**

The school will prevent unsuitable people from working with children by:

- Following safer recruitment procedures in line with KCSIE 2024, Part 3 and the Trust's Safer Recruitment Policy.
- Ensuring all pre-employment checks (including DBS, prohibition checks, references, identity, and right to work) are completed and recorded on the Single Central Record.
- Conducting online searches for shortlisted candidates in line with KCSIE guidance.
- Including safeguarding and Prevent questions in recruitment interviews.
- Ensuring at least one member of every recruitment panel has completed safer recruitment training

## **16. Partnership Working**

The school works closely with:

- Hertfordshire Safeguarding Children Partnership (HSCP)
- Hertfordshire County Council Children's Services
- Hertfordshire Police and the local Prevent team
- Channel panel
- Schools, colleges and other educational settings (for pupils transitioning in or out)
- Health services, Early Help, and other local agencies

The DSL attends local safeguarding network meetings and training to stay informed of emerging risks and best practice.

## 17. Record Keeping and Information Sharing

The school will:

- Keep secure, confidential safeguarding records (separate from the pupil's main file) that are factual, dated, and signed.
- Share information with external agencies where necessary to safeguard a child, in line with KCSIE and data protection legislation (UK GDPR and Data Protection Act 2018).
- Transfer safeguarding records securely when a pupil moves to another school or setting.

## 18. Monitoring and Review

This policy will be reviewed every 2 years (or following significant changes to national guidance, local procedures, or a serious incident) by the Headteacher and DSL and approved by ELT.

Trustees will receive at least an annual safeguarding report that includes:

- Prevent training completion rates.
- Filtering and monitoring oversight.
- Number and nature of Prevent-related concerns and referrals (anonymised).
- Any learning from serious case reviews or local audits.