



St Mary's School
Gerrards Cross

PREVENT POLICY

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MONITORING AND REVIEW

Person Responsible	Deputy Head (Head of Prep & DSL)
Reviewed by	SLT
Approved by	SLT
Frequency of Review	Annually
Date of Last Review	January 2025
Date of Next Review	January 2026

The School refers to all staff and students in St Mary's School, which includes the Early Years/Foundations Stage (EYFS), the Preparatory Department (Years 1-6), Senior House (Years 7-11) and the Sixth Form (Years 12-13).

The term 'parent' refers to those who have parental responsibility for a child.

CONTEXT

The national Prevent Strategy aims to protect young people from being drawn into terrorism. St Mary's School, working with other local partners, families and communities, seeks to play a key role in ensuring that the children and young people who attend the schools/settings or use its services are safe from the threat of terrorism. Prevent is part of the school's wider responsibility for Safeguarding and this policy is therefore linked to the school's Policy for Safeguarding and Child Protection.

The Prevent strategy identifies that young people are more likely to be vulnerable to violent extremist or terrorist narratives, including non-violent extremism which can create an atmosphere conducive to terrorism and can popularise views which terrorists exploit.

AIMS

We believe that St Mary's School should be a safe place where children and young people can understand and discuss sensitive topics, including terrorism and the extremist ideas that are part of the terrorist ideology, and learn how to challenge such ideas.

WIDER REFERENCES

This policy operates within a wider national policy framework, which includes:

- Keeping Children Safe in Education (2025)
- <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/prevent-duty-guidance>
- The use of social media for online radicalisation (July 2015) <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-use-of-social-media-for-online-radicalisation>
- [The Prevent Duty; Departmental advice for schools](#) (June 2015)
- <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-prevent-duty-safeguarding-learners-vulnerable-to-radicalisation>
- <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-prevent-duty-safeguarding-learners-vulnerable-to-radicalisation> 2022
- Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015
<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2015/6/contents/enacted>
- <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/safeguarding-practitioners-information-sharing-advice>

RELATED POLICY

This policy should be read in conjunction with St Mary's School:

- Safeguarding Policy
- Whistleblowing Policy
- Low-level Concerns
- Online Safety
- Children Missing from Education Policy
- SMSC – In Regards to British Values
- SMSC – In Regards to RE
- PSHCEE Policy

EXTREMISM

The Government's Prevent Strategy defines extremism as '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'.

Terrorism

The current UK definition is set out in the Terrorism Act 2000 (TACT 2000). In summary this defines terrorism as 'The use or threat of serious violence against a person or serious damage to property where that action is:

- designed to influence the government or an international governmental organisation or to intimidate the public or a section of the public; and
- for the purpose of advancing a political, religious, racial or ideological cause.'

The objectives of Prevent are to:

- tackle the ideological causes of terrorism
- intervene early to support people susceptible to radicalisation
- enable people who have already engaged in terrorism to disengage and rehabilitate

ST MARY'S PREVENT STRATEGY

In order to fulfil our Prevent Duty, we undertake to do the following:

- Actively promote Fundamental British Values, including mutual respect, tolerance and democratic participation, as part of our wider SMSC/ PSHCEE programmes as well as within other subject areas and assemblies. For teaching resources:
<https://www.educateagainsthate.com/category/school-leaders/advice-and-training-school-leaders/>
- Respect learner and staff diversity, encouraging freedom and openness
- Assess the risk of students in our schools/ settings/ activities being drawn into terrorism
- To adhere to the Notice, Check, Share, procedure as described in the Government Prevent Training to ensure that sufficient 'context' is established and considered
- Maintain robust safeguarding policies which take into account the policies and procedures set out by Buckinghamshire Safeguarding Children Partnership and identify extremism/ radicalisation as issues to be reported promptly to the Designated Safeguarding Leads; Mrs Mairead Carney in Prep/SH and Miss Rebecca Rose in EYFS, or a member of the safeguarding team
- Support staff to understand the need for a cultural vigilance to be present in the school to support safeguarding. This includes awareness and sensitivity to changes in the attitudes of students, which may indicate they are at risk of radicalisation
- To work in partnership and to share information in a proportionate manner that complies with the requirements of data protection legislation
- Train all staff so that they have the knowledge and confidence to identify students at risk of being drawn into terrorism, and to challenge extremist ideas which can be used to legitimise terrorism - <https://www.support-people-susceptible-to-radicalisation.service.gov.uk/portal#awareness-course>
- Conduct due diligence checks on groups/individuals seeking to hire or use school premises
- Conduct due diligence checks on visitors to school, particularly visiting speakers, whether invited by students or staff
- Conduct due diligence checks on contractors working on the school sites
- To have in place and monitor appropriate web filtering systems so that the students cannot view potentially extreme material
- Review our policies annually

POSSIBLE INDICATORS OF RISK

This list is not exhaustive and you should apply professional curiosity to any changes to, or concerning, behaviour.

- Racist graffiti/symbols/comments made in School
- Speaking out or writing in favour of extremist ideas in school work
- Extreme comments shared on social media
- Distribution of extreme or terrorist propaganda among other students
- Vulnerable students being influenced by others (although we are aware of a need to avoid over-simplified assessments of who might be 'vulnerable'), because of the existence of one or more factors, which may include:
 - o An identity crisis, involving an individual's distance from their cultural/ religious heritage, including peer/family/faith group rejection
 - o A personal crisis, including family tension/social isolation/friendship issues
 - o Personal circumstances, such as migration, experience of racism
 - o Unmet aspirations
 - o Criminality
 - o Experience of poverty, disadvantage, discrimination or social exclusion
 - o Students with SEND and those who identify as LGBT
- Association with those known to be involved in extremism (including via the internet)
- A significant shift in the child/ young person's behaviour or outward appearance, particularly involving conflict with his/her family and/or faith group
- Travel for extended periods of time to international locations known to be associated with extremism
- Disguising of a child's identity, e.g. in documentation
- A simplistic or flawed understanding of religious/political/global issues.
- A significant adult or other in the child/young person's life who has extremist views or sympathies
- Critical risk factors, being:
 - o Contact with extremist recruiters
 - o Articulation of support for extremist causes/leaders
 - o The possession of extremist literature
 - o Using extremist narratives and a global ideology to explain personal disadvantage
 - o Justifying the use of violence to solve societal issues
 - o Membership of extremist organisations




SUPPORTIVE INTERVENTIONS

- Channel is the multi-agency approach to protect people at risk from radicalisation and aims to: identify individuals at risk of being drawn into terrorism; assess the nature and extent of that risk; develop the most appropriate support plan for the individuals concerned
- Should concerns require support from other agencies, the following are ways in which terrorism and extremism can be reported:
 - o Anti terrorist hotline: 0800 789 321
 - o Crime stoppers: 0800 555 111
 - o Relevant police force: 101
 - o www.gov.uk/report-suspicious-activity-to-mi5
- To report any online terrorist-related material: www.gov.uk/report-terrorism
- Bucks County Council Prevent Officer - alison.watts1@buckinghamshire.gov.uk

Appendix 1

Risk factors to radicalisation

- Experiencing racism, bullying or discrimination
- Need for identity, meaning and belonging
- Anger, trauma or sudden loss
- Curiosity or boredom
- Mental health issues
- Connections to someone expressing extremist views
- Accidental or intentional exposure to extremist content



Decorative elements include a zigzag line at the top right, a starburst between the first two risk factors, a starburst between the third and fourth risk factors, a zigzag line between the fifth and sixth risk factors, and a starburst between the sixth and seventh risk factors. A cursive signature 'elle:' is at the bottom left.

INSERT RISK ASSESSMENT AND ACTION PLAN HERE?