



Prevent Policy

Risk Assessment and Action Plan

The policy is written with due regard to the following:

Prevent Duty Guidance: for England and Wales (2023) (Prevent), Keeping Children Safe in Education (September 2024) (KCSIE), Channel Duty Guidance (2020) (Channel)

What is Prevent?

Prevent is part of the UK's counter terrorism strategy preventing people from becoming radicalised, involved in terrorism or supporting terrorism. It is the only aspect of the counter-terrorism strategy that operates before a crime has been committed. Prevent aims to identify children, young people and families at risk and to assess and reduce that risk. It includes non-terrorist forms of radicalisation including a range of extremist beliefs. It is part of the safeguarding agenda and links to our understanding of respecting and upholding British Values.

What is the Prevent duty?

[The Prevent duty](#) requires all education providers 'to help prevent the risk of people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism'. This includes safeguarding learners from extremist ideologies and radicalisation.

Most importantly, providers should consider the needs of children, young people and adult learners at each stage of the safeguarding process. Providers should consider radicalisation concerns in line with their existing safeguarding processes, skills and experience. This duty is known as the Prevent duty.' Merley First School recognises its duty to implement procedures to fulfill its duties under Prevent. Prevent is part of the school's wider responsibility for Safeguarding and Child Protection. The Headteacher has tasked the designated Safeguarding Lead as the person responsible for implementing the Prevent duty.



These duties are:

1. Risk Assessment – see Risk Assessment at Appendix 2.

- Assess the general level of risk, depending on geographical area or intake, of pupils being subject to radicalisation or drawn into terrorism/extremist activity.
- Put in place means to identify individual children who may be at risk of radicalisation or being drawn into terrorism/extremist activity.

2. Policies and Procedures

- Update safeguarding policies and procedures to identify children at risk of radicalisation and protect them. Such policies to include:
 - indicators of vulnerability (Channel Duty Guidance Annex C);
 - when it is appropriate to make a referral, whether to Children's Services in the normal way or to make a referral to the Channel programme;
 - protocols to ensure that visiting speakers, whether invited by staff or pupils, are suitably supervised;
 - procedures when a child goes missing;
 - a single point of contact to oversee and coordinate the school's implementation of the Prevent duty.

3. Training

- Provide training to staff on the Prevent duty. *See Appendix 1 for general information given to staff.*
- The DSL and Deputy DSLs have all undertaken the online Prevent training (<https://www.elearning.prevent.homeoffice.gov.uk/>) in order to advise and train staff.

4. Building Resilience to Radicalisation

- In part through the existing duty to promote fundamental British values.



- In part through the Life and Culture (PSHE) curriculum teaching pupils to manage risk, resist pressure, choices and seek help if necessary.
- In part through the citizenship, religious education and other relevant subject syllabus with focus on democracy, diversity, mutual respect and managing debate of political issues in a non-partisan manner.

5. IT Policies and Training

- Ensure that children are safe from terrorist and extremist material when accessing the internet in school.
- Check filters and revise ICT acceptable use policies.
- Equip (ie training) children to stay safe online, both in school and outside of school.
- Ensure teaching staff are aware of the risks posed by online activity of extremist and terrorist groups.

6. Working in Partnership

- Liaise with LCSB to establish what advice and support they can provide and for their assessment of general levels of risk within the local area.

The following link is to the above guidance:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/prevent-duty-guidance/revised-prevent-duty-guidance-for-england-and-wales>



Appendix 1 – Guidance to Staff on Prevent Duty

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Behavioural indicators

The following are possible signs that someone is being radicalised or drawn into terrorism:

- Change in behaviour or appearance;
- Adopting styles of clothes associated with groups with whom they have had no previous contact;
- Becoming isolated from friends, peers or family members;
- Becoming involved with groups of pupils who have strong ideologies;
- Viewing websites which contain extremist ideologies or symbols;
- Attempting to recruit others to an extremist ideology or cause;
- Vocalising extremist ideologies or using extreme language;
- Questioning identity and sense of belonging;
- Glorifying current terrorist activity seen in the media;
- Displaying extreme behaviour related to ideology and/or religion;



- Requesting extended holidays to unsafe places or places not associated with the family;
- Possessing or discussing extremist material; and
- Family not being aware of absence.

Motivators for such behaviours could be wide ranging. Terrorism is very unlikely but not impossible. Whatever the reason for a pupil's behaviour, remember that young people can be vulnerable and will benefit from our support. Please remember that the most important thing is to **do** something.

What do you do if you have a concern?

- Record your concern on 'My Concern'.
- At Merley First School the Designated Safeguarding Lead is Carolyn Waldron and is also the Prevent Lead. The Deputy DSLs are Katharine Anstey and Rebecca Baldwin
- The concerns may result in a referral to the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH), who will carry out a risk-assessment and pass the concern onto the **Channel** Programme if they deem it to meet the required threshold. Channel is a programme which focuses on providing appropriate support at an early stage to people who are identified as being vulnerable to being drawn into terrorism.
- Remember that anyone can make a referral, but in the majority of cases staff would consult with the DSL in the first instance.



Appendix 2 - “Prevent” Risk Assessment and Action Plan

Merley First school recognises that it has a duty under section 26 of the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act, 2015, in the exercise of its functions, to have due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism.

| Duty | What this means | Action | By whom |
|--|--|---|---|
| Risk assessment | | | |
| Assess the risk of children being drawn into terrorism | Staff can demonstrate a general understanding of the risks affecting children and young people | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All staff have read “Keeping Children Safe in Education”, September 2024. The Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) has informed staff of their duties as set out in “The Prevent Duty: Departmental advice for authorities in England and Wales”, 2023 Be aware of ‘Dawah’ (invitation or preaching of Islam in order to convert) which has caused issues nationally. This is not thought to be an issue in BCP/Dorset yet but staff should be vigilant for the signs. All staff to be aware of local far right wing extremists (both Bournemouth and Weymouth have seen EDL activity over the past few years). Staff need to know the local issues. | <p>All staff</p> <p>DSL</p> |
| | Staff can identify individual children who may be at risk of radicalisation and how to support them. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The DSL has informed staff about signs and indicators of radicalisation including those from extreme right wing organisations. No local risks are known | DSL |



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| | <p>There is a clear procedure in place for protecting children at risk of radicalisation.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All staff understand how to record and report concerns regarding risk of radicalisation. • Prevent training takes place on joining the school and annually thereafter. • DSLs to be aware of the work by the Pan-Dorset Poole and Bournemouth Prevent Board | <p>All staff</p> |
| | <p>The school has identified a DSL, who takes overall responsibility for Prevent.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All staff know who the DSL is and that this person acts as a source of advice and support. • Safeguarding Board in the staff room has updated names and numbers | <p>All staff</p> |
| <p>Prohibit extremist speakers and events in the school</p> | <p>The school exercises “due diligence” in relation to requests from external speakers and organisations using school premises.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All visiting speakers to have a nominated point of contact at the school (the Organiser) • Conducting research on the person/organisation to establish whether they have demonstrated extreme views/actions. • Refusal to allow people/organisations to use school premises if they have links to extreme groups or movements. Justification of the school’s decision will be provided to the person/organisation in writing. • Visitors to provide photo ID upon arrival at School. • Ensuring visiting speakers are accompanied at all times and are not left unsupervised with pupils at any point. • Red or Green lanyards to be worn by visiting speakers, as appropriate. | <p>DSL</p> |
| <p>Working in Partnership</p> | | | |



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| <p>The school is using existing local partnership arrangements in exercising its Prevent duty.</p> | <p>Staff record and report concerns in line with existing policies and procedures.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All staff record and report concerns on 'My Concern'. • DSLs are aware of the work of the Pan-Dorset Poole and Bournemouth Prevent Board. • The DSL is aware of local issues specific to the school and disseminates information accordingly. | <p>All staff</p> |
| | <p>The DSL will make appropriate referrals to other agencies including the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) and Channel Panel.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Records of referrals to be kept on 'My Concern'. • Referrals are followed up appropriately. | <p>DSL</p> |



| Staff Training | | | |
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| Equip staff to identify children at risk of being drawn into terrorism and to challenge extremist ideas. | Assess the training needs of staff in the light of the school's assessment of the risk to pupils at the school of being drawn into terrorism. | <p>The school should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure all staff have undertaken Prevent Awareness Training as part of their Safeguarding Training. • The DSL ensures that all staff are aware of the Prevent Duty and provides further information and resources. • Relevant staff have access to the government online Prevent awareness training and the Designated Safeguarding Lead is able to provide advice and support to other members of staff on protecting children from the risk of radicalisation. • Key members of staff have also completed the 'Channel General Awareness module' | <p>DSL</p> <p>Relevant staff identified by the DSL</p> |
| IT Policies | | | |
| Endeavour to ensure that children are safe from terrorist and extremist material when accessing the internet in schools | The school has policies in place which support the "Prevent" duty. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safeguarding Policy • Behaviour Policy • Policy on Pupils' Use of ICT, Mobile Phones and other (home based) Electronic Devices | DSL |
| | Children are taught about on-line safety with age appropriate reference to the risk of radicalisation. | The curriculum reflects this duty. | <p>DSL/ IT Lead</p> <p>PSHE Lead</p> <p>SLT</p> |



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| | Measures are taken to minimise the risk of pupils accessing extremist material | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Merley First School uses Initio filtering systems. The School filters and blocks known harmful categories, within the school environment | DSL/IT LEAD WAT Tech team |
| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The School logs all browsing activity The web filtering has an “extremism” category. It blocks extremist sites for all pupils and keeps a log of all searches for up to one year. The DSL and online safety Lead are alerted by email of any suspicious web browsing or key strokes on the network. | |
| Building children’s resilience to radicalisation | | | |
| Ensure that pupils have a safe environment in which to discuss controversial issues. | Pupils develop the knowledge, skills and understanding to prepare them to play a full and active part in society. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Through PSHE, RE and other curriculum activities, pupils are able to explore political, religious and social issues. Pupils are taught about the diverse national, regional and ethnic identities in the UK and the need for mutual respect. Staff are aware of the importance of promoting fundamental British values. Local issues specific to Poole are discussed during PSHE. | Head of PSHE Other relevant staff |

References:

“Keeping Children Safe in Education: Information for all school and college staff” Dfe, September 2024

“The Prevent Duty: Departmental advice for authorities in England and Wales”, 2023

