



## **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 2025) (KCSIE), Channel Duty Guidance (2023) (Channel), Terrorism (Protection of Premises) Act 2025, and Statutory Attendance Guidance 2025.*

#### **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 to the Police Prevent Team using a National Prevent Referral Form 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 and use of AI.

#### *6. Working in Partnership*

- Liaise with the BCP Safeguarding Children Partnership (BCPSCP) and the Dorset Community Safety Partnership to establish local advice, support, and their assessment of general levels of risk within the Bournemouth, Christchurch, and Poole area. Maintain contact with the Dorset Police Prevent Team to understand the "Local Counter Terrorism Profile" (LCTP).

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**

### **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 fulfil 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.

### **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.
- Persistent absentees

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 Ashleigh Stone and Rebecca Baldwin
- The concerns may result in a referral using a **National Prevent Referral Form**. This form is usually sent to the **Police Prevent Team** first, who then liaise with 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 in line with Home Office Guidance.
- The 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
<b>Risk assessment</b>			
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"> <li>● All staff have read and signed to confirm they understand <b>Part One of “Keeping Children Safe in Education” (September 2025)</b>.</li> <li>● The Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) has briefed all staff on their statutory duties as outlined in <b>“The Prevent Duty Guidance for England and Wales” (2023/24 update)</b>, with a specific focus on <b>tackling the ideological causes of terrorism</b> and reducing <b>permissive environments</b>.</li> <li>● Staff are aware of the <b>Terrorism (Protection of Premises) Act 2025 (Martyn’s Law)</b> and the school’s <b>Public Protection Procedures</b>, including evacuation, invacuation, and lockdown protocols.</li> <li>● Staff must remain vigilant to all forms of radicalisation, including <b>Islamist Extremism</b> and <b>Extreme Right-Wing</b> ideologies.</li> <li>● In line with national trends, staff should be alert to any attempt to use <b>ideological narratives</b>—such as those found in some</li> </ul>	<p><b>All staff</b></p> <p><b>DSL</b></p>



		<p>'Dawah' (preaching) activities—where they promote <b>intolerant or divisive narratives</b> that can reasonably be linked to terrorism.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Following the national unrest and localized protests in 2024 (e.g., Bournemouth, Weymouth, and Southport-related activity), staff must be particularly alert to <b>misinformation, disinformation, and conspiracy theories</b> used by extremist groups to target vulnerable individuals.</li> </ul>	
	Staff can identify individual children who may be at risk of radicalisation and how to support them.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The DSL has informed staff about the signs of radicalisation, including <b>Islamist</b> and <b>Extreme Right-Wing</b> ideologies. Staff are briefed on the specific local context, including the 2024 regional unrest, and remain vigilant to <b>online radicalisation</b> and <b>anti-minority narratives</b> that may affect the local community.</li> </ul>	<b>DSL</b>
	There is a clear procedure in place for protecting children at risk of radicalisation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All staff understand how to record and report concerns regarding risk of radicalisation.</li> <li>Prevent training takes place on joining the school and annually thereafter and includes updating prevent content such as Ideologies.</li> </ul>	<b>All staff</b>
	The school has identified a DSL, who takes overall responsibility for Prevent.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All staff know who the DSL is and that this person acts as a source of advice and support.</li> <li>Safeguarding Board in the staff room has updated names and numbers</li> </ul>	<b>All staff</b>



<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"> <li>● All visiting speakers to have a nominated point of contact at the school (the Organiser)</li> <li>● Conducting research on the person/organisation to establish whether they have demonstrated extreme views/actions.</li> <li>● 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.</li> <li>● Visitors to provide photo ID upon arrival at School.</li> <li>● Ensuring visiting speakers are accompanied at all times and are not left unsupervised with pupils at any point.</li> <li>● Red or Green lanyards to be worn by visiting speakers, as appropriate.</li> </ul>	<p><b>DSL</b></p>
<p><b>Working in Partnership</b></p>			
<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"> <li>● All staff record and report concerns on ‘My Concern’.</li> <li>● DSLs are aware of the work of the BCP Safeguarding Children Partnership and the Dorset Community Safety Partnership in relation to local Prevent priorities.</li> <li>● The DSL is aware of the specific local threat picture and disseminates information accordingly.</li> </ul>	<p><b>All staff</b></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"><li>• Records of referrals to be kept on 'My Concern'.</li><li>• Referrals are followed up appropriately.</li></ul>	<p><b>DSL</b></p>
--	--	---	-------------------





	Children are taught about on-line safety with age appropriate reference to the risk of radicalisation.	The curriculum reflects this duty.	<b>DSL/ IT Lead</b>  <b>PSHE Lead</b>  <b>SLT</b>
	Measures are taken to minimise the risk of pupils accessing extremist material	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Merley First School utilizes the <b>Initio filtering system</b>, which is configured to meet the <b>DfE's 2025 Filtering and Monitoring Standards</b>.</li> <li>The School filters and blocks known harmful categories, within the school environment</li> </ul>	<b>DSL/IT LEAD</b>  <b>WAT Tech team</b>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The School logs all browsing activity</li> <li>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.</li> <li>The DSL and online safety Lead are alerted by email of any suspicious web browsing or key strokes on the network.</li> </ul>	
<b>Building children's resilience to radicalisation</b>			
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"> <li>Through PSHE, RE and other curriculum activities, pupils are able to explore political, religious and social issues.</li> <li>Pupils are taught about the diverse national, regional and ethnic identities in the UK and the need for mutual respect.</li> <li>Staff are aware of the importance of promoting fundamental British values.</li> <li>Local issues specific to Poole are discussed during PSHE.</li> </ul>	<b>Head of PSHE</b>  <b>Other relevant staff</b>



**References:**

“Keeping Children Safe in Education: Information for all school and college staff” Dfe, September 2025

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

Reviewed by DSL and Head teacher

Date: 22nd January 2026

To be reviewed on 22nd January 2027