



**St Edward's
School**

Unity - Achievement - Faith

PREVENT Policy

**Reviewed and Approved by the Personal Development, Behaviour and Attitudes
Committee**

On 26th March 2024

Reviewed and Ratified at the Full Governing Body

On: 25th April 2024

Next review date: Spring 2025

SLT are responsible for oversight of this policy's implementation

Mission Statement

MAY WE BE ONE

In purpose – educating for life in all its fullness

In faith – encountering God who lives among us, calling us to unity

In dignity – nurturing confidence and maturity

In community – striving together for justice, love and peace

Our Mission statement calls us to educate for life in all its fullness. Safeguarding our students by equipping them to keep themselves safe and to make good decision is key to the formation of each person. We want all our students to be aware of the world around them and to thrive in the settings they are growing up in. Through the development of the whole person, we see young people who look out for each other, keep themselves and others safe and make decisions which will have a positive impact on their community and their future.

Ethos

Children have a fundamental right to learn how to keep safe and to be protected from abuse or harm. It is the responsibility of all adults to protect and to support those at risk or who are in need, by acting in accordance with current Safeguarding Children's Legislation.

St Edward's is fully aware of its responsibility under the Prevent Duty (update issued on 7 September 2023 under Section 29 of the Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015 which came into force on 31 December 2023). We recognise our responsibility to prevent and protect children from extremism, and this fits within our duty of child protection and safeguarding.

Vision

- Create a culture of high expectation where all adults protect and support those at risk from extremism. The Prevent duty is the responsibility of everyone.
- All staff understand the dangers and signs of extremism and radicalisation.
- All staff understand the procedures involved in reporting concerns about possible extremist or radicalised behaviour and follow our Prevent 'notice, check and share' procedure.

Aims of the Policy

- Raise awareness within the school of the threat from violent extremist groups and the risks for young people
- Provide information about what can cause violent extremism and preventative actions taking place locally and nationally and where we can get additional information and advice.
- Help schools understand the positive contribution they can make to empower young people to create communities that are more resilient to extremism and protect the wellbeing of particular students or groups who may be susceptible to being drawn into violent extremist activity.
- Provide advice on managing risks and responding to incidents locally, nationally or internationally that might have an impact on the school community. This includes sharing the school's Prevent risk assessment with school staff.

St Edward's School will use these principles to guide our work in all areas including building on our work in:

- Promoting good outcomes for all students including their spiritual, moral, social and cultural development
- Promoting students' wellbeing, sense of security, equality and community cohesion.
- Building resilience in school, working with partners, to prevent students becoming the victims or causes of harm.
- Working with external agencies including ~~education~~ child protection services, social care, the police, parents and community and religious leaders to develop and build community links and enhance positive networks.

Context

Prevent does not target a specific faith or ethnic group. It addresses the ideological causes of terrorism and deals with all kinds of terrorist threats to the UK. It sits alongside other safeguarding duties and aims to help young people make better choices and stay safe.

Prevent is a strategy that works to prevent the development of a culture that creates a climate which facilitates radicalisation. It strives to create an environment of mutual trust in which young people grow and develop. Prevent aims to eradicate social isolation that can cause susceptibility to exploitation by those who wish to further a radical agenda.

Extremism in all its forms has no place at St Edward's School. Extremist materials and influences are detrimental to the development of our students. Education at St Edward's School is a powerful tool against extremism that equips students with knowledge, skills, sound judgement and the ability to critically evaluate materials to challenge and debate these issues in a secure and safe environment.

Definitions:

Extremism and terrorism: are sometimes used interchangeably. Both pose a threat to people, but they have very distinct definitions.

Radicalisation: is the process of a person legitimising support for, or use of terrorist violence. It's where terrorism begins.

Extremism: is the vocal or active opposition to fundamental British values, of

- democracy
- the rule of law
- individual liberty
- mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs

Terrorism: an action or threat designed to influence the government or intimidate the public. Its purpose is to advance a political, religious or ideological cause.

An ideology: a set of beliefs or narratives for the purpose of supporting a particular worldview.

An extremist ideology is one that is intolerant of generally accepted values of society.

(definitions from www.gov.uk)

Challenging Extremism

As part of the safeguarding protocols and procedures staff will use the notice, check and share procedure:

1. Notice behaviours: teaching staff and parents and carers are often the first to notice if someone displays changes in their behaviour. There could be many different factors causing a change in behaviours, so it is important to understand the context before jumping to conclusions.

- Online behaviour: more than one online identity, spending more time online, downloading propaganda material.
- Persuasive behaviour: attempts to impose extremist views or practices on others.
- Anti-democratic behaviour: anti-Western or Anti-British views
- Increasingly agitated or violent behaviour: more argumentative in their viewpoints, abusive to others, justifying violence to solve societal issues.
- Changing associations: change in friendship groups, altered style of dress and appearance to fit in with an extremist group, new vocabulary, isolation from friends and family.
- Increasing anti-social behaviour: unwilling to engage with people/ groups who are different based on, but not exclusive to gender, disability, sexuality, race, colour or cultural difference.
- Increase in secretive behaviour: an unwillingness to share their whereabouts, adoption of the use of certain symbols associated with terrorist organisations.

2. Checking Concerns:

When staff notice behaviour that gives cause for concern, and they feel a student might be at risk of radicalisation, they will check with the following people that they agree it is a cause for concern:

- Line Manager
- The Prevent Lead (Mrs Pirie)
- The Designated Safeguard Leads (DSL) or Deputy DSL

Checking before sharing is a way of making sure all relevant information has been gathered before making a referral to Prevent or passing a concern on to the police. By checking staff should be able to demonstrate the risk relevant to Prevent. It allows time for reflection on the initial judgement and on the student's context.

3. Sharing:

- Prevent sits alongside other safeguarding duties designed to protect people from harm such as substance abuse, involvement in gangs and physical and sexual exploitation. Although people sometimes worry about over sharing information and comprising a person's privacy, when it comes to the Prevent duty, the need to support a person at risk of radicalisation takes priority.
- When sharing information staff have regard for the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).
- We will help and support learners who may be **vulnerable** to such influences as part of our wider safeguarding responsibilities and if necessary, refer students through the local authority "Channel" process.

Other actions and support:

- St Edward's actively promotes the British Values as defined by Ofsted:
"acceptance and engagement with the fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, mutual respect and tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs; the

pupils develop and demonstrate skills and attributes that will allow them to participate in and contribute positively to life in modern Britain.”

- We will **tackle any myths and assumptions** that can lead to some young people becoming alienated and disempowered.
- We will ensure **support and approaches** are in place to help our students build resilience to extremism and give them a positive sense of identity through the development of critical thinking and evaluative bias.
- **Staff training:** the statutory guidance refers to the importance of Prevent awareness training to equip staff to identify children at risk of being drawn into terrorism and to challenge extremist ideas. Key staff have received specialist individual training in accordance with their role in school. All our teaching and support staff receive training on Prevent as part of staff training in September.
- **Internet Safety:** the statutory guidance makes clear the need for schools to ensure that children are safe from terrorist and extremist material when accessing the internet in schools. We ensure that suitable filtering is in place, and this is monitored by the DSL
- **Internet safety:** is integral to our curriculum and is also embedded in our PSHE programme, tutor programme and safeguarding calendar.

What happens if there is a concern?

Once staff have noticed concerning behaviours, they will follow the notice, check, and share protocol and follow the school's safeguarding and child protection procedures. They will check and report their concerns on the My Concern reporting system to the school's Designated Safeguarding Lead/ Prevent Lead, Mrs V Pirie Mr D Hurley, and DSLs Miss Morgan or Mrs Lord.

Possible Channel referrals will be discussed by the school's safeguarding team if appropriate and in accordance with government guidelines. We/you may contact Dorset Police or dial 101 (the non-emergency number). They can talk to you in confidence about your concerns and help you gain access to support and advice.

Links to other documents:

- Safeguarding policy
- E-Safety policy
- ICT Acceptable Use policy
- Equality and Diversity policy
- Positive Mental Health and Wellbeing policy