




## Prevent Policy

Signed	
Position	Head of School
Date Agreed	26 <sup>th</sup> January 2025
Next Review	26 <sup>th</sup> January 2026

### Equality Statement

Centre Academy London is committed to a policy of equality and aims to ensure that no employee, job applicant, pupil or other member of the school community is treated less favourably on grounds of sex, race, colour, ethnic or national origin, marital status, age, sexual orientation, disability, or religious belief. We provide a safe, supportive, and welcoming environment.

*Centre Academy London is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff to share this commitment.*



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# 1. What is Prevent?

Prevent is about stopping people from being radicalised and becoming terrorists supporting terrorism. At the heart of Prevent is safeguarding children and adults and providing early intervention to protect and divert people away from being drawn into terrorist activity. Safeguarding vulnerable learners from radicalisation is no different from safeguarding from other forms of harm.

To fulfil the Prevent duty, it is essential that staff at Centre Academy London identify pupils who may be susceptible to radicalisation and know what to do when they are identified. Protecting children from the risk of radicalisation is part of all of our wider safeguarding duties and is similar in nature to protecting children from other harms (e.g. drugs, gangs, neglect, sexual exploitation), whether these come from within their family or are the product of outside influences.

We can also build pupils' resilience to radicalisation by promoting fundamental British Values and enabling them to challenge extremist views. We do not intend to stop pupils talking about or debating controversial issues. In school, we want to provide a safe space in which our pupils and staff can understand the risks associated with terrorism and develop the knowledge and skills to be able to challenge extremist arguments.

## 2. What is extremism?

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. Included in the definition of extremism are calls for the death of members of the armed forces, whether in this country or overseas. Terrorist groups very often draw on extremist ideas developed by extremist organisations.

Early indicators of extremism may include:

- Showing sympathy for extremist causes.
- Glorifying violence.
- Evidence of possessing illegal or extremist literature.
- Advocating messages similar to illegal organisations such as 'Muslims Against Crusades' or other non-prescribed extremist groups such as the English Defence league.
- Out of character changes in dress, behaviour and peer relationships.

## 3. Risk Assessment

We should be aware of the increased risk of online radicalisation, as terrorist organisations such as ISIL seek to radicalise young people through the use of social media and the internet.

There is no single way of identifying an individual who is likely to be susceptible to a terrorist ideology. As with managing other safeguarding risks, we should be alert to changes in children's behaviour, which could indicate that they may be in need of help or



protection. Children at risk of radicalisation may display different signs or seek to hide their views.

- School staff should use their professional judgment in identifying children who might be at risk of radicalisation and act proportionately.
- Even very young children may be susceptible to radicalisation by others, whether in the family or outside, and display concerning behaviour.
- The Prevent duty does not require teachers or childcare providers to carry out unnecessary intrusion into family life but as with any other safeguarding risk, they must take action when they observe behaviour of concern.
- Procedures are in place for protecting children at risk of radicalisation. These procedures are set out in our Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy on the school website.

## 4. Working in Partnership

The Prevent duty builds on existing local partnership arrangements. Local Safeguarding Children Boards (LSCBs) are responsible for co-ordinating what is done by local agencies for the purposes of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in our local area. The prevent duty requires specified authorities to help prevent the risk of people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism (5/12/24). Wandsworth Prevent Counter-terrorism and counter-extremism Team work in conjunction with other partners, in particular the police.

## 5. 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. Through training opportunities including yearly online access to the National College as well as staff meetings in school, we will ensure our staff are fully aware of the threats, risks and vulnerabilities that are linked to radicalisation and are aware of the process of radicalisation and how this might be identified early on.

## 6. Safer recruitment

We ensure our recruitment processes are rigorous, in line with statutory requirements, best practice guidance and the school's safer recruitment policy. These processes include the use of the DBS checks and online searches for all employees, governors, and regular volunteers.

The Safer Recruitment policy can be found on the school website.

## 7. IT policies

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 and monitoring is in place
- Internet safety is integral to our IT curriculum and is also embedded in SMSC.

Please also refer to our online safety policy, which is on the school website.

## 8. Building children's resilience

We promote the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils and, within this, fundamental British values, (see our SMSC policy on the website). This is effective in providing pupils with me to explore sensitive or controversial issues and equipping them with the knowledge and skills to understand and manage difficult situations. The subject teaches pupils to recognise and manage risk, make safer choices, and recognise when pressure from others threatens their personal safety and wellbeing.

## 9. What happens if there is a concern?

- Follow the school's safeguarding and child protection procedures, including discussing with the school's Designated Safeguarding Lead/Prevent Duty Lead, or her Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads.
- The school does not need consent to share information about a pupil who might be susceptible to radicalisation.
- Possible Channel referrals will be discussed by the school Safeguarding Team if appropriate and in accordance with government guidelines.
- We/you may contact our local police force 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.

The Department for Education has dedicated a telephone helpline 020 7340 7264 to enable you to raise concerns relating to extremism directly or concerns can also be raised by email to [counter.extremisim@educaon.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:counter.extremisim@educaon.gsi.gov.uk)

Please note that the helpline is not intended for use in emergency situations, such as a child being at immediate risk of harm or a security incident, in which case the normal emergency procedures should be followed.

## 10. Related policies

This health and safety policy links to the following policies:

- Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy
- Online Safety Policy
- Equal Opportunities Policy
- Anti-Bullying Policy
- Safer Recruitment Policy
- Spiritual Moral Social and Cultural Policy