



13.7

## **PREVENT POLICY**

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## Statement of intent

St Chads Community Project Recognises that children and young people can be vulnerable to extremist ideology and radicalisation, and we are committed to protecting children and young people from this risk as part of our safeguarding responsibilities.

Our commitment to safeguarding children and young people against extremism, radicalisation and terrorism includes interventions and collaboration with other agencies including the police and the LA where appropriate and as required.

We support and will adhere to guidance from the DfE which requires childcare settings to actively promote fundamental British values in order to enable pupils to challenge extremist views and ensure that pupils are encouraged to regard people of all faiths, races and cultures with respect and tolerance.

This policy relates to the potential radicalisation of children and young people in this organisation. For guidance on specific terrorist incidents, please see our Invacuation, Lockdown and Evacuation Policy and procedures.

### 1. Legal framework

This policy has due regard to all relevant legislation and statutory guidance including, but not limited to, the following:

- Children Act 1989
- Education Act 1996
- Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015
- Childcare Act 2006
- Data Protection Act 2018
- UK GDPR

This policy also has due regard to statutory and non-statutory departmental advice, including, but not limited to, the following:

- DfE (2015) 'The Prevent duty'
- HM Government (2021) 'Revised Prevent Duty Guidance: for England and Wales'
- DfE (2021) 'Keeping children safe in education 2021' (KCSIE)
- DfE (2018) 'Working Together to Safeguard Children'
- Home Office (2021) 'Channel Duty guidance: protecting people vulnerable to being drawn into terrorism'



This policy operates in conjunction with the following organisation policies and documents:

- Invacuation, Lockdown and Evacuation Policy
- Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy
- Radicalisation Risk Assessment
- Data Protection Policy
- Risk of Radicalisation – Incident Register
- Online Safety Policy
- Equality Information and Objectives Policy

## 2. Definitions

For the purpose of this policy:

**Extremism** – is defined as vocal or active opposition to fundamental British values, including democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and the mutual respect and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs. This includes calling for the death of members of the armed forces.

**Radicalisation** – is defined as the process by which an individual or group comes to support terrorism and extremist ideologies associated with terrorist groups.

**Terrorism** – is defined as violent threats or actions designed to influence government or intimidate the public with the purpose of advancing a political, religious or ideological cause. This includes endangering or causing serious violence to a person or people, serious damage to property, and seriously interfering or disrupting an electronic system.

## 3. Roles and responsibilities

The CEO is responsible for:

- The overall implementation and management of this policy.
- Ensuring every staff member and volunteer is familiar with the scope of this policy.
- Ensuring children and young people are taught about British values through the curriculum of activities.
- Ensuring the organisation is a safe space in which children and young people can understand and discuss sensitive topics, including terrorism and extremism, and are able to challenge these ideas.
- Undertaking a risk assessment to determine whether children or young people are at risk of being drawn into terrorism.
- Identifying extremist risks in the local area.



- Ensuring any visitors and speakers at the organisation are appropriate and vetted prior to them having access to children and young people.

The Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL), and any deputies, are responsible for:

- Handling any referrals to the Channel programme and supporting staff who make referrals to Channel.
- Following up any referrals made to the Channel programme.
- Provide advice and support to staff on protecting children and young people from the risk of radicalisation.
- Ensuring staff receive training on the Prevent duty.
- Working with external agencies to support children and young people at risk of being drawn into terrorism.
- Providing guidance to other staff members to help them support children and young people at risk of being drawn into terrorism.
- Understanding local procedures for making a Prevent referral and making Prevent referrals where appropriate.
- Considering if it would be appropriate to share any information with a new setting, school or college in advance of a child or young person leaving, e.g. if the child or young person is currently receiving support through the 'Channel' programme and the information would allow the new setting to have support in place for when the child or young person arrives.

All staff members are responsible for:

- Being alert to the risk factors of extremism and radicalisation and any changes in a child or young person's behaviour which could indicate that they may be in need of help or protection.
- Raising any concerns with the DSL (or any deputies, in their absence).
- Notifying the DSL (or any deputies, in their absence) when they make any referrals to the Channel programme.
- Engaging in staff training on the Prevent duty.
- Using their professional judgement to identify children and young people who may be at risk of radicalisation and acting proportionately.

#### **4. Safeguarding from extremism**

The organisation protects the right to freedom of expression. This policy is not intended or designed to restrict or prevent legitimate and lawful congregation or debate.



The organisation has a dedicated DSL who deals with any incidents of extremism and/or terrorism within our own setting's community. As is the organisation's responsibility under law, we will do our utmost to safeguard our children and young people from being drawn into extremism and terrorism.

The organisation has strong relationships with our local safeguarding partners, and will involve them at the earliest opportunity if safeguarding issues arise.

The organisation encourages any child, young person, parent, staff member, volunteer or member of the wider community to speak to the DSL if they have concerns about:

- Children and young people becoming radicalised.
- Groups, clubs or societies with extremist or radical views.
- Friends and/or families of pupils becoming radicalised or involved in extremism.
- Children or young people planning to visit known areas of conflict.
- Members of the organisation and wider community attempting to draw young and/or vulnerable children and young people into extremism.

Visitors and speakers coming into the setting will be vetted prior to them having access to children and young people. All materials handed out to children and young people, whether by practitioners, staff, volunteers or visitors and speakers, will be checked by the CEO and/ or the Childcare Manager.

Children-led groups, clubs and societies will be subject to unannounced inspections by our DSL.

## **5. 'Channel' and 'Prevent'**

Channel, a key element of the Home Office's Prevent strategy, is a multi-agency approach to protect people at risk from radicalisation. The organisation will work with the LA, local law enforcement, and religious and community leaders, to identify children and young people vulnerable to radicalisation and to challenge extremism if it arises. This includes identifying children and young people to whom any of the following criteria applies:

- Displaying feelings of grievance and injustice
- Feeling under threat
- Searching for identity, meaning and belonging
- Displaying a desire for status amongst their peers
- Displaying a desire for excitement and adventure
- Displaying a need to dominate and control others
- Displaying a susceptibility to indoctrination
- Displaying a radical desire for political or moral change
- Appearing susceptible to opportunistic involvement



- Having family or friends involved in extremism
- Appearing susceptible to being influenced or controlled by a group
- Displaying relevant mental health issues

The organisation will cooperate with local panels involved in the Channel process. A representative of the organisation will attend meetings as required to aid the mitigation of identified risk and vulnerabilities. This includes contributing towards the support plan and sharing information necessary and proportionate to the effective working of the panel.

## **6. Preventing radicalisation**

The organisation will assess the risk of children and young people being drawn into terrorism through identifying the factors that affect children and young people in the local area and knowing how to identify those at risk.

Allegations and concerns of radicalisation and/or terrorism will always be taken seriously and staff will act proportionately, which may include making a Prevent referral.

Where appropriate, children and young people will be helped to channel their desire for excitement and adventure into suitable and healthy activities.

Extremist propaganda is widely available online – the organisation will ensure that British values are promoted regularly to encourage children and young people to develop an appreciation of society. The organisation will work with local religious and cultural organisations to instil a strong sense of identity in our children and young people, as well as a clear place and purpose within the organisation.

The organisation recognises that children and young people's parents and families are best-placed to spot signs of radicalisation and, as such, will promote effective engagement with parents and families.

All internet activity that takes place on the premises will be recorded, as well as activity on any organisation-owned computers, laptops and tablets off site, and appropriate filters will be installed to protect children from terrorist and extremist material online, in accordance with the Online Safety Policy. In accordance with KCSIE and our Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy, children and young people will be taught about the importance of staying safe online through activity sessions.

We will always aim to integrate and engage every child within the St Chads community, and in the wider community. A range of different religious and cultural festivals will be celebrated across the year giving every child and young person the opportunity to take part.

The organisation will monitor and assess incidents which suggest children and young people are engaging, or are at risk of engaging, in extremist activity and/or radicalisation. Where a



child or young person has been identified as at risk of radicalisation, the organisation will take action proportionate to the incident or risk.

## 7. Making a judgement

Although extremist behaviour can be presented in many forms, the organisation recognises the following as potential indicators of radicalisation or a susceptibility to radicalisation:

- Disclosure about extremist or radicalised behaviour by children and young people – this could include exposure to materials outside of the setting
- Use of specific terms associated with certain ideological views, e.g. 'hate' language
- Intelligence reports from local and national agencies regarding the radicalisation of groups of people in the local area
- Focus on specific narratives that highlight particular extremist views
- Evidence of accessing online materials that include extremist materials
- Refusal to accept views expressed by others which is counter to the school's Equality Information and Objectives Policy
- Documented concerns raised by parents or family members about the changing behaviour of the child or young person
- References to an extremist narrative in the child or young person's own creative work i.e. drawings, stories
- Disassociation from existing friendship groups
- A loss of interest in activities in which they previously engaged
- Behavioural characteristics, such as low self-esteem, isolation, and perceptions of failure and injustice
- Family tensions
- Events affecting their country or region of origin
- Alienation from UK values
- Grievance triggered by personal experience of discrimination
- Property damage
- Refusal to cooperate with the requests of practitioners or other adults

When assessing whether a child or young person is at risk of radicalisation, staff and volunteers will ask themselves the following questions:

- Does the child or young person have access to extremist influences through the internet?
- Does the child or young person possess or actively seek extremist material?
- Does the child or young person sympathise with, or support, extremist groups or behaviour in their speech or written work?



- Does the child or young person's demeanour suggest a new social, religious or political influence, e.g. through jewellery or clothing?
- Has the child or young person previously been a victim of discrimination or a religious crime?
- Has the child or young person experienced any major disagreements with their peers, family or faith groups, leading to rejection, isolation or exclusion?
- Does the child or young person display an irregular and distorted view of religion or politics?
- Does the child or young person display a strong objection towards specific cultures, faiths or race?
- Is the child or young person a foreign national awaiting a decision regarding deportation or immigration?
- Is there an irregular pattern of travel within the child or young person's family?
- Has the child or young person witnessed or suffered from trauma or violence in a war zone or through sectarian conflict?
- Is there evidence of a relative or family friend displaying extremist views?
- Has the child or young person travelled for extended periods of time to international locations?
- Does the child or young person have experience of poverty, disadvantage, discrimination or social exclusion?
- Does the child or young person display a lack of affinity or understanding for others?
- Is the child or young person a victim of social isolation?
- Does the child or young person have insecure, conflicted or absent family relationships?

Critical indicators include where a child or young person is:

- In contact with extremist recruiters.
- Articulating support for extremist causes or leaders.
- Accessing extremist websites.
- In possession of extremist literature.
- Using extremist narratives and a global ideology to explain personal disadvantage.
- Justifying the use of violence to solve societal issues.
- Joining extremist organisations.
- Making significant changes to their appearance and/or behaviour.

The DSL, and any deputies, will undergo annual Prevent awareness training in order to provide advice and support to staff and volunteers on protecting children and young people from the risk of radicalisation. Staff and volunteers will undergo annual Prevent awareness training, in order to ensure that they are up-to-date to recognise indicators of radicalisation. Staff,



volunteers, including the DSL and any deputies, will also undergo regular training in response to any updates.

The organisation will encourage staff and volunteers to engage with online government resources, including the website Educate Against Hate, and the Prevent e-learning modules provided by the Home Office.

## **8. Making a referral**

In accordance with the organisation's Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy, if any member of staff or volunteer has any concerns about a child or young person, they will raise this with the DSL, or any Deputies in their absence.

Parents will be contacted to discuss the issue and investigate where there are any mitigating home circumstances, unless doing so would put the child or young person at further risk of harm. A decision will be made at this meeting to determine whether a referral should be made to the Channel programme. In most cases, the DSL will refer the case to the Channel programme where there is a radicalisation concern, as appropriate.

Staff members and volunteers may make referrals to the Channel programme if they deem it necessary – the DSL will be notified in all cases and will support staff members and volunteers who do so. Staff members will be informed that they may be asked to attend a Channel panel to discuss the child or young person who has been referred to determine whether support is required. The LA's Channel panel will decide which support, if any, is required and arrange for this support to be implemented.

The DSL will follow up any referrals and the child or young person will be monitored for a period of time to determine whether there have been any changes in behaviour. Parents will be consulted during this period, unless doing so would put the pupil at further risk of harm.

If any concerns are raised, the DSL will contact the Channel programme to discuss further steps.

The DSL will record and retain all incidents for organisation records in accordance with the Data Protection Act 2018 and the UK GDPR, as outlined in the Data Protection Policy.

## **9. Promoting fundamental British values**

Through our social, moral, spiritual and cultural programme of educational activities, the organisation will:

- Include a broad and balanced international history.
- Represent the cultures of all of our children and young people.
- Offer a wide range of English and non-English literature



- Commemorate World War 1 and 2.
- Discuss the UK's relations with the rest of Europe, the Commonwealth and the wider world.
- Enable children and young people to develop their self-knowledge, self-esteem and self-confidence.
- Enable children and young people to distinguish right from wrong and to respect the civil and criminal law of England.
- Encourage children and young people to accept responsibility for their behaviour, show initiative, and to understand how they can contribute positively to the lives of those living and working in the locality of the setting and to society more widely.
- Enable children and young people to acquire a broad general knowledge of, and respect for, public institutions and services in England.
- Further tolerance and harmony between different cultural traditions by enabling children and young people to acquire an appreciation of, and respect for, their own and other cultures.
- Encourage respect for other people.
- Encourage respect for democracy and support for participation in the democratic processes, including respect for the basis on which the law is made and applied in England.

The organisation will do this by:

- Including material on the strengths, advantages and disadvantages of democracy, and how democracy and the law work in Britain.
- Ensuring that all children within the setting have a voice that is listened to, e.g. by demonstrating how democracy works via a childcare council whose members are voted for by the children and young people.
- Using opportunities such as general or local elections to hold mock elections to offer children the chance to engage in politics from an early age.
- Offering a debate club to provide children and young people with the opportunity to learn how to argue and defend points of view.
- Using resources from a wide variety of sources to help children and young people understand a range of faiths.
- Considering the role of extra activities, including any activity run directly by children or young people, in promoting fundamental British values.



## **10. Community links**

The organisation will engage in round-table discussions with local community and religious leaders, and local law enforcement. Board of Trustees meetings will include discussion about extremism and terrorism where appropriate.

The organisation will operate an open-door policy for community members to report concerns.

The organisation will, where appropriate, partake in community festivals, religious celebrations and other events.

## **11. Monitoring and review**

This policy is reviewed annually by the CEO, DSL and Deputy's. The next scheduled review date for this policy is June 2025.