

PREVENT STRATEGY

Extremism, Radicalisation, Terrorism and the Prevent Agenda and Duty

1 Introduction

The Government's counter terrorism strategy CONTEST is to reduce the risk from terrorism in the UK so people can live freely and with confidence. Prevent remains one of the key pillars alongside:

- Pursue – to stop terrorist attacks
- Protect – to strengthen our protection against attacks
- Prepare – to mitigate any impact

As part of this strategy, Halesowen College has a Prevent duty – to help prevent the risk of people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism of any sort. This strategy sets out how we will discharge this duty (section 26 of the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015) as part of our overall approach to safeguarding and welfare.

This strategy covers all forms of terrorism.

The College has developed a culture of safety and respect for its students, staff, governors and visitors. As part of this ethos the College has considered the Prevent Duty and the importance of collaborative working between College staff, local authorities, police, other educational institutions, policy makers and health providers to identify, detect and safeguard vulnerable people throughout the organisation.

When carrying out the Prevent duty, Halesowen College will ensure compliance with other legal obligations not least the Equality Act 2010, Data Protection and duties to protect freedom of speech and academic freedoms.

2 The Prevent Duty

The Prevent Duty is grouped into the themes of:

- Leadership and management
- Capabilities
- Reducing permissive environments

3 Objectives

Our strategy objectives below ensure our compliance with this duty and support College values of inclusion, care, ambition and respect.

Leadership

We have a designated person (Designated Safeguarding Lead) in a leadership position and part of the College Leadership Team who is responsible for overseeing Prevent delivery, including ensuring that relevant staff have appropriate training and induction.

All staff have mandatory training so that they understand the risk of radicalisation that results in support for terrorism or involvement in terrorism.

There are clear procedures and a pathway to escalate concerns and refer through to Prevent.

We promote the importance of Prevent and the role staff play in countering terrorism.

We put in place welfare and pastoral support for all learners.

Partnership

We will have active engagement with multi agency partners including the Police and local authority Prevent Co-ordinators.

Our safeguarding arrangements ensure sharing of information across the College, with a single point of contact for operational delivery of Prevent related activities.

Risk Assessment

We have clear and visible policies in place covering staff, students, teaching and learning and use of our estates which identify where students or staff may be at risk of being drawn into terrorism.

We ensure our risk assessment process addresses the physical management of the College's estate, including policies and procedures for events held by staff, students or visitors and relationships with external bodies and community groups who may use premises and/or work in partnership with the College.

Wherever the College subcontracts delivery of courses, there are robust procedures in place to ensure this does not lead to inadvertently funding extremist organisations.

Awareness Raising

We ensure that all staff and students, including apprentices and those with special educational needs, understand the risks of radicalisation and extremism.

The College is committed to the pursuance of British Values and uphold and promote those values to staff, students and external stakeholders.

We have a clear referral process for concerns which staff and students understand. Everyone is aware of how and to whom to raise a concern and this contributes to the creation of an environment where all students are and feel safe.

Speakers and Events

We have policies and procedures in place for the management of events held on College premises and a system for assessing and rating risks associated with any planned events.

On Line Safety

On line resources are often the preferred avenue for those seeking terrorist contacts of information. As such we have robust acceptable use policies relating to the use of digital systems which contain specific reference to the Prevent duty. There are effective monitoring processes in place for

identifying any online behaviours which may cause concern. These are acted upon by our Safeguarding team.

Students are taught how to stay safe online.

Identify Risk

There is no single way of identifying who is likely to be vulnerable to being drawn into terrorism. Factors that may have a bearing on someone becoming vulnerable include: peer pressure, influence from other people or via the internet, bullying, crime against them or their involvement in crime, anti-social behaviour, family tensions, race/hate crime, lack of self esteem or identity and personal and political grievances. Everyone is encouraged and reminded to ALWAYS REFER even if you are unsure. Often, it is small pieces of information that help us build a picture of an individual's vulnerability.

We never promise confidentiality as it is likely we will have to (legally) share the information.

4 British Values

Halesowen College embeds British Values into the curriculum offer and into the ethos of the College, they are:

- Democracy
- The rule of law
- Individual liberty
- Mutual respect
- Tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs

British Values are understood and embedded by all and are integral to the College's culture.

5 Roles and Responsibilities

Whilst this is a standalone strategy, it is integral to our Safeguarding Policy and should be applied as an extension to the College's current and established safeguarding procedures.

The Corporation

All Board Members have a legal responsibility under the Prevent Duty to make sure they have undertaken training in the Prevent Duty. Additionally, the Board must ensure that:

- all College staff have undertaken training in the Prevent Duty;
- all College staff are aware of when it is appropriate to refer concerns about students, learners or colleagues to the Safeguarding Officer;
- all College staff exemplify British Values into their values;
- policies and procedures to implement the Prevent Duty are in place and acted on where appropriate.

Prevent Leads for the College

The Designated Safeguarding Lead holds the responsibility for ensuring that our Prevent Strategy is implemented across the College and that any concerns are shared with the relevant organisations, in order to minimise the risk of our students becoming involved with terrorism. PREVENT updates are provided at the termly Safeguarding Forum

Staff

All staff at the College have a responsibility to:

- create and support an ethos that upholds the College's purpose, vision and values including British Values, to create an environment of respect, equality and inclusion;
- embed the principles of anti-racist, trauma informed and restorative practice across all activity;
- attend Prevent training in order to have the skills to recognise those who may be vulnerable to radicalisation, involved in violent or non-violent extremism, and to know the appropriate action to take if they have concerns;
- report any concerns around extremism or radicalisation via the safeguarding reporting channels;
- report and remove any literature displayed around the College that could cause offense or promote extremist views;
- support the development of staff and student understanding of the issues around extremism and radicalisation through activities such as training, awareness campaigns and tutorials;
- participate in engagement with local communities, schools and external organisations as appropriate.

Employers and Subcontractors

College has a statutory duty to “prevent people from being drawn into terrorism” and as such all link employers and sub-contractors should support and comply with this duty. Employers have a responsibility to:

- Alert Halesowen College to any concerns regarding an apprentice / work-based learner to allow us to explore what the causes might be.
- Provide opportunities for your apprentice / work-based learners to discuss their own concerns about extremism / radicalisation / events in the news.
- Uphold British values and have expectations of all your apprentice / work-based learners in respecting others.

6 Internal Referral Procedure

College staff should be aware of signs of radicalisation and have the confidence to report their concerns to their line manager.

The line manager should then inform the Designated Safeguarding Lead, Lynn Pass, or a member of the College's Safeguarding Team, who will discuss the matter with other Senior Managers and external agencies as necessary.

7 External Referral Procedure

In Dudley:

Mark Wilson (Dudley Prevent Education Officer) Dudley Prevent Team

Office 01384 816883

Mobile 07966 503370

Email Mark.Wilson@dudley.gov.uk

John Hodt (Prevent Coordinator) Dudley Prevent Team

Office 01384 814736

Mobile 07557 323157

Email John.Hodt@dudley.gov.uk

Alamgir Sheriyar

Prevent Regional HE/FE Co-ordinator – South East of England and West Midlands

Department for Education

Email: alamgir.sheriyar@education.gov.uk

Mobile:07468 714372

Any concerns that are brought to the Designated Senior Safeguarding Lead, or a member of the College's Safeguarding Team will be considered and, where appropriate, reported under the CHANNEL procedure.

8 CHANNEL Procedure

The Police Authority has a CHANNEL procedure in place.

The Police CHANNEL procedure is a partnership focused structure and is similar to existing, successful initiatives which aim to support individuals and protect them from harm - such as involvement in drug, knife or gun crime.

CHANNEL is about supporting those most at risk of being drawn into violent extremism is about diverting people away from potential threat at an early stage - which prevents them from being drawn into criminal activity.

Partnership involvement ensures that vulnerable individuals have access to a wide range of support from diversionary activities through to providing access to specific services such as education, housing and employment. Each multi-agency panel varies according to local circumstances but partners (who are all signed up to an Information Sharing Protocol) can include:

- Statutory partners such as education, NHS, probation, housing and the police service
- Social Care
- Children's services (eg Common Assessment Framework co-ordinators)
- Youth offending services

- Credible and reliable members of the community

The College will engage in the CHANNEL process as necessary and will contact the Prevent contact should it have any concerns about a student, member of staff, Governor or visitor.

Statutory Guidance

This strategy is based on the statutory guidance from the Home Office issued under section 29 of the CTSA 2015 which came into force on 31 December 2023.

Reviewed / Approved	By	Date
Reviewed by	Jacque Carman / Jo Williams / Sarah Bullus	February 2024
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Prevent Risk Assessment 2023/4 - see separate document