



Sycamore Hall Preparatory School

Prevent Policy

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Prevent Policy

Sycamore Hall Preparatory School is committed to providing a secure environment in which pupils feel safe, valued and supported.

All adults within our school recognise that **safeguarding is everyone's responsibility**, regardless of the role they undertake or whether they have direct contact with children.

This policy forms part of our wider safeguarding arrangements and should be read alongside the school's Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy and other relevant policies and procedures.

Preventing Radicalisation

The Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 places a duty on specified authorities, including education providers, to have due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism. This is known as the Prevent duty.

The current Prevent duty guidance states that the aim of Prevent is to stop people from becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism. It also requires education settings to safeguard pupils who may be susceptible to radicalisation and to support early intervention where concerns arise.

Children and young people can be exposed to extremist influences or prejudiced views, particularly through the Internet and social media. Schools have an important role in protecting children from extremist and violent influences, in the same way that we seek to protect children from other forms of harm.

Early intervention is an important part of safeguarding. We recognise that children and young people may be vulnerable to radicalisation for a variety of reasons and that concerns should always be considered sensitively and in the context of the individual child.

The Prevent Strategy

The Prevent strategy aims to protect people from becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism. It focuses on:

- tackling the ideological causes of terrorism;
- early intervention to support people who may be susceptible to radicalisation; and
- supporting people who have already engaged in terrorism to disengage and rehabilitate.

Although it remains rare for children and young people to become involved in terrorist activity, they can be exposed to extremist influences or prejudiced and intolerant views from an early age.

Sycamore Hall Preparatory School is committed to working with families, local partners and relevant agencies to help keep children safe from the risk of radicalisation and terrorism.

The Government's current definition of extremism describes it as: *the promotion or advancement of an ideology based on violence, hatred or intolerance that aims to negate or destroy the fundamental rights and freedoms of others, undermine or overturn the UK's system of liberal parliamentary democracy and democratic rights, or intentionally create a permissive environment for others to achieve these aims.*

The full Government Prevent Duty Guidance can be found on the GOV.UK website: [Prevent duty guidance: England and Wales](#)

We recognise that our school has a duty of care to pupils and staff which includes safeguarding them from the risk of being drawn into terrorism.

Prevent concerns may include exposure to violent extremism, extremist narratives and online radicalisation. They may also involve hate crime, racism, bullying, online safety and other forms of harmful or intolerant behaviour where there is a potential connection to radicalisation or terrorism.

Our School is Committed To:

- Having a clear safeguarding point of contact through the Designated Safeguarding Lead, **Mrs Susan Nicklin**.
- Assessing and responding appropriately to the risk of pupils being drawn into terrorism or radicalisation.
- Ensuring staff receive appropriate training to recognise signs of radicalisation, extremism and vulnerability.
- Making appropriate referrals where a child or young person may be susceptible to radicalisation, including consideration of the Channel process where appropriate.
- Taking appropriate steps to prevent extremist speakers or events from taking place within the school.
- Managing access to extremist or inappropriate material, including material accessed online.
- Promoting an understanding of fundamental British values.
- Providing a safe environment in which pupils can learn, ask questions and discuss issues appropriately.

Supporting Vulnerable Pupils

We recognise that some young people who are vulnerable to extremist influences may find it difficult to develop a positive sense of self-worth or to view the world in a positive way.

We also recognise that children may experience difficulties in their behaviour, relationships or emotional wellbeing which can increase their vulnerability.

We will therefore take a considered, proportionate and sensitive approach to supporting pupils by:

- Providing a safe and supportive environment for children and young people to learn and develop.
- Identifying children and young people who may be particularly vulnerable to extremist influences or radicalisation and taking appropriate action in accordance with the school's safeguarding procedures.
- Making appropriate referrals to the Local Authority, Prevent services or other relevant agencies where early intervention or additional support is required.
- Ensuring that staff responsible for safeguarding are kept fully aware of their responsibilities through appropriate training.
- Ensuring that staff, parents and pupils know how to raise concerns.
- Responding appropriately to allegations or concerns in accordance with the school's safeguarding procedures and other relevant policies.

Recognising Possible Indicators

The school recognises that there is no single indicator that a child or young person is being radicalised. Concerns should be considered in context and alongside any other safeguarding information.

Possible indicators may include:

- Use of language that is inappropriate, prejudiced, inflammatory or hateful, or which causes distress or alarm.
- Noticeable or unexplained changes in behaviour.
- Expression of extremist or intolerant views.
- Possession or sharing of extremist material.
- Advocating violence or violent actions.
- Attempting to influence or recruit others towards an extremist ideology.
- Increasing secrecy about online activity.
- Accessing websites or online communities associated with extremist or terrorist content.
- Sudden or significant changes in relationships, behaviour, appearance or worldview.
- Expressing rigid or intolerant views towards particular groups.
- Using divisive “them and us” language or rhetoric.
- Justifying the use of violence to resolve social or political issues.
- Withdrawal or isolation from usual friends, family or social groups.
- Unexplained travel or other activity which causes safeguarding concerns.

These indicators do not in themselves demonstrate that a child is being radicalised. Staff should always consider the individual circumstances of the pupil and report concerns through the school's safeguarding procedures.

Building Resilience

We will work to ensure that our pupils develop the knowledge, skills and confidence to think critically, make informed decisions and resist harmful or extremist influences.

We recognise the importance of building resilience and providing pupils with a safe environment in which they can ask questions, explore ideas and develop an understanding of the world around them.

We will therefore provide a broad and balanced curriculum which supports pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.

This development is promoted across the curriculum and through the ethos of our school, where the development of positive attitudes, values, character and respect is central to everything we do.

British Values

The fundamental British values promoted within schools are:

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

It is important that our pupils develop an understanding of these values through a broad and balanced curriculum and through the everyday life and ethos of the school.

This helps pupils to become responsible and respectful members of society and prepares them for adult life in a diverse and changing Britain.

At Sycamore Hall Preparatory School, we promote democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, mutual respect and tolerance for those with different faiths and beliefs.

We encourage pupils to respect one another and to recognise and tolerate differences, including differences of faith, belief and background.

We believe that it is one of our fundamental responsibilities to keep pupils safe and to prepare them for life in modern Britain and the wider world.

Working with Other Agencies

Our school will work closely with the Local Authority, Prevent services, the police and other relevant agencies where appropriate.

We will follow locally agreed procedures for safeguarding individuals who may be vulnerable to extremism or radicalisation.

Prevent concerns will be managed through our existing safeguarding procedures wherever possible.

Reporting a Concern

When a member of staff has a concern about a child, they must report this to the **Designated Safeguarding Lead, Mrs Susan Nicklin**, in accordance with the school's

Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy.

Where concerns relate to possible radicalisation or a child being drawn into terrorism, the Designated Safeguarding Lead will consider whether a Prevent referral or further advice is appropriate.

Staff should not attempt to investigate concerns themselves. Concerns should be reported promptly through the school's established safeguarding procedures.

Channel

Channel is a voluntary, confidential process which provides support to people who may be susceptible to radicalisation.

Where appropriate, a referral may be made to the relevant Prevent/Channel process following discussion with the Designated Safeguarding Lead and in accordance with local procedures.

The purpose of Channel is to provide early support to individuals who may be vulnerable to radicalisation before they become involved in terrorist activity.

Role of the Designated Safeguarding Lead

The Designated Safeguarding Lead is:

Mrs Susan Nicklin

The Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead is:

Helen Grassi

The Designated Safeguarding Lead is responsible for ensuring that Prevent concerns are managed in accordance with the school's safeguarding procedures and that appropriate advice, support and referrals are sought where necessary.

All staff have a responsibility to remain alert to safeguarding concerns and to report them promptly.
