



Prevent Policy

Lionel Walden Primary School

Updated:
April 2025

Review Date:
April 2026

Prevent Policy Statement

Lionel Walden Primary School is fully committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all its pupils. As a school we recognise that safeguarding against radicalisation is no different from safeguarding against any other vulnerability. All staff are expected to uphold and promote the fundamental principles of British values, including democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect, and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs.

AIMS AND PRINCIPLES

The main aims of this policy statement are to ensure that staff are fully engaged in being vigilant about radicalisation; that they overcome professional disbelief that such issues will not happen here and ensure that we work alongside other professional bodies and agencies to ensure that our pupils are safe from harm. The principle objectives are that:

- All Staff and Governors will have an understanding of what radicalisation and extremism are and why we need to be vigilant in school.
- All Staff and Governors will know what the school policy is on anti-radicalisation and extremism and will follow the policy when issues arise.
- All parents and pupils will know that the school has policies in place to keep pupils safe from harm and that the school regularly reviews its systems to ensure they are appropriate and effective.

WHAT IS THE PREVENT STRATEGY ALL ABOUT?

The PREVENT Strategy is a cross-Government policy that forms one of the four strands of CONTEST: the United Kingdom's Strategy for Counter Terrorism. It includes the anti-radicalisation of vulnerable adults and children.

CONTEST as a counter-terrorism strategy is organised around four work streams, each comprising a number of key objectives:

PURSUE: To stop terrorist attacks;

PREVENT: To stop people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism;

PROTECT: To strengthen our protection against a terrorist attack; and

PREPARE: To mitigate the impact of a terrorist attack.

Prevent addresses radicalisation to all forms of extremism and terrorism, including the extreme right-wing, for example, and seemingly non-violent extremism, which can popularise divisive and harmful views that terrorists exploit. Action to address forms of extremism such as these should be prioritised locally according to the risks faced. To assist in this the objectives of the Prevent strategy, as from 2018, are to:

- Tackle the causes of radicalisation and respond to the ideological challenge of terrorism
- Safeguard and support those most at risk of radicalisation through early intervention, identifying them and offering support
- Enable those who have already engaged in terrorism to disengage and rehabilitate

WHAT DO WE MEAN BY THE TERM PREVENTION?

Prevention means reducing or eliminating the risk of individuals or groups becoming involved in terrorism. Prevent involves the identification and referral of those susceptible to violent extremism into appropriate interventions. These interventions are aimed to stop the vulnerable being radicalised.

Extremists will always target the vulnerable in a bid to spread their firmly held, but flawed, ideologies, but we must tackle them at source and prevent people being brainwashed into terrorism.

WHAT DO WE MEAN BY THE TERM TERRORISM?

Although there is no generally agreed definition of terrorism internationally, in the United Kingdom the Terrorism Act 2000 defines terrorism as:

The use or threat of action designed to influence the government or an international governmental organisation or to intimidate the public, or a section of the public; made for the purposes of advancing a political, religious, racial or ideological cause; and it involves or causes:

serious violence against a person; serious damage to a property; a threat to a person's life; a serious risk to the health and safety of the public; or serious interference with or disruption to an electronic system.

WHAT DO WE MEAN BY THE TERM RADICALISATION?

Radicalisation is the process by which an individual, influenced by internal and external factors, starts to develop increasingly extremist ideals and aspirations to disrupt society that can lead to violent extremism or terrorism.

There is no obvious profile of anyone likely to become involved in extremism or a single indicator of when a person might move to adopt violence in support of extremist ideas.

The process of radicalisation is different for every individual and can take place over an extended period or within a very short time frame.

THE ROLE OF THE CURRICULUM

Our curriculum promotes respect, tolerance and diversity. We are committed to ensuring that our pupils are offered a broad and balanced curriculum that aims to prepare them for life in modern Britain.

Children are encouraged to share their views and recognise that they are entitled to have their own different beliefs which should not be used to influence others. Our PSHE (Personal, Social and Health Education), Citizenship and SMSC (Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural) provision is embedded across the curriculum, and underpins the ethos of the school.

Teaching the schools' core values alongside the fundamental British values supports quality teaching and learning, whilst making a positive contribution to the development of a fair, just and civil society.

Children are regularly taught about how to stay safe when using the Internet and are encouraged to recognise that people are not always who they say they are online. They are taught to seek adult help if they are upset or concerned about anything they read or see on the Internet.

ROLE OF GOVERNING BODY

The Governing Body of our School will undertake appropriate training to ensure that they are clear about their role and the parameters of their responsibilities as Governors, including their statutory safeguarding duties.

The Governing Body will support the ethos and values of our school and will support the school in tackling extremism and radicalisation. In line with the provisions set out in the DfE guidance 'Keeping Children Safe in Education 2022' the governing body will challenge the school's senior management team on the delivery of this policy and monitor its effectiveness.

RECRUITMENT

The arrangements for recruiting all staff, permanent and volunteers, to our school will follow Lionel Walden's guidance for safer recruitment best practice in education settings, including, but not limited to, ensuring that DBS checks are always made at the appropriate level, that references are always received and checked and that we complete and maintain a single central record of such vetting checks.

We will apply safer recruitment best practice principles and sound employment practice in general and in doing so will deny opportunities for inappropriate recruitment or advancement.

We will be alert to the possibility that persons may seek to gain positions within our school so as to unduly influence our school's character and ethos. We are aware that such persons seek to limit the opportunities for our pupils thereby rendering them vulnerable to extremist views and radicalisation as a consequence.

Therefore, by adhering to safer recruitment best practice techniques and by ensuring that there is an ongoing culture of vigilance within our school and staff team we will minimise the opportunities for extremist views to prevail.

STAFF TRAINING

Through INSET opportunities in school, we will ensure that our staff are fully aware of the threats, risks and vulnerabilities that are linked to radicalisation; are aware of the process of radicalisation and how this might be identified early on.

Links to other policies:

- Child Protection
- Anti-bullying policy
- Behaviour policy
- IT and Acceptable Usage policy

Guidance is also sought from the following sources: DfE Guidance "Keeping Children Safe in Education, 2024"; and specifically DCSF Resources "Learning Together to be Safe", "Prevent: Resources Guide", "Tackling Extremism in the UK", DfE's "Teaching Approaches that help Build Resilience to Extremism among Young People".

PROCEDURES FOR REFERRALS

Although serious incidents involving radicalisation have not occurred at Lionel Walden Primary School to date, it is important for us to be constantly vigilant and remain fully informed about the issues which affect the region in which we teach. Staff are reminded to suspend any professional disbelief that instances of radicalisation 'could not happen here' and to refer any concerns through the appropriate channels (currently via the Designated Safeguarding Lead or Headteacher).

We believe that it is possible to intervene to protect people who are vulnerable. Early intervention is vital and staff must be aware of the established processes for

front line professionals to refer concerns about individuals and/or groups. We must have the confidence to challenge, the confidence to intervene and ensure that we have strong safeguarding practices based on the most up-to-date guidance and best practice.

One of the key requirements of the Prevent Duty is that staff know how to identify people at risk of radicalisation or extremism and the safeguarding pathways they should use. If you are concerned that an individual may be at risk of radicalisation, you should treat this as you would any other safeguarding issue; and escalate it using your normal, internal procedures, such as informing your safeguarding lead and/or LADO or by contacting the Prevent team: Prevent@cambs.pnn.police.uk or telephone 01480 422596

The Designated Lead for Child Protection and Safeguarding (Headteacher) and other Designated Leads will deal swiftly with any referrals made by staff or with concerns reported by staff.

The Headteacher will discuss the most appropriate course of action on a case-by-case basis and will decide when a referral to external agencies is needed.

If a referral is then made to the Prevent team, and it is determined that there are concerns around radicalisation and violent extremism in relation to the referred individual, they can be supported through Channel (an early intervention multiagency process)

Anyone with concerns can speak to the Designated Safeguarding Lead –Steve Abey (Headteacher), Natalie Bayes (Deputy Headteacher) or Claire Covill (Pre-School Leader). Mr Steve Abey is the Prevent Lead for the school.

Concerns can be logged via the MyConcern safeguarding portal that the school uses. These concerns can be marked clearly with PREVENT in the summary. The concern will be logged and a timeline started.

USEFUL NUMBERS/WEBSITES:

Prevent Duty Guidance: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/prevent-dutyguidance>

Channel Guidance: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/channel-guidance>

Prevent team: Prevent@cambs.pnn.police.uk or telephone 01480 422596