



# Prevent Policy

The Diamond Learning Partnership  
Trust

This policy will be checked annually and revised accordingly or where  
there is a change in the law or circumstances

## **PREVENT POLICY**

### **This policy should be read alongside:**

- The Safeguarding Policy;
- 'The Prevent duty: Departmental advice for schools and childcare providers' (June 2015);
  - The Whistle Blowing Policy.

### **What is the Prevent Duty?**

From 1 July 2015 all schools, registered early years childcare providers and registered later years childcare providers are subject to a duty under section 26 of the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015, in the exercise of their functions to have "due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism". This duty is known as the Prevent duty. The UK Counter Terrorism strategy is known as CONTEST and part of this process of prevention is called Channel which is about early intervention. The objective is to protect and divert people away from the risk they may face of being drawn into any terrorist-related activity.

### **What is Radicalisation and Extremism?**

Radicalisation refers to the process by which a person comes to support terrorism and forms of extremism leading to terrorism. 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. We also include in our definition of extremism, calls for the death of members of British armed forces, whether in this country or overseas.

Terrorist groups very often draw on extremist ideas developed by extremist organisations.

(Prevent Duty advice, June 2015, DfE).

### **Legal Obligations**

General safeguarding principles apply to keeping children safe from the risk of radicalisation as set out in the relevant statutory guidance, "Working together to safeguard children" and "Keeping children safe in education". All staff working within and for the School have a legal obligation to ensure that they do all they can to protect children from the risk of radicalisation.

During a process of radicalisation, it is possible to intervene in order to prevent vulnerable people being drawn into terrorist-related activity.

### **The Role of Schools in preventing Radicalisation**

Children and young people are particularly vulnerable to exploitation of any sort and as such, Schools are well placed to monitor potential radicalisation of pupils. School staff are on the 'front line' in terms of protecting young persons from becoming radicalised. It is important that staff members are able to identify children who may be vulnerable to radicalisation. Protecting children from the risk of radicalisation should be seen as part of the School's wider safeguarding duties (similar in nature to protecting children from other harms such as drugs, neglect, sexual exploitation, gang culture), whether these come from within their family or are the product of outside influences. The Designated Safeguarding Lead should undertake Prevent awareness training and be able to provide advice and support to other members of staff on protecting children from the risk of radicalisation.

### **How does the School carry out this obligation?**

Being familiar with the typical behaviour of each and every pupil will allow teachers to note any behavioural changes which may be of concern. It is imperative for Schools to monitor where possible, pupil usage of websites which may contain information of an extremist nature or terrorism.

### **Indications of potential radicalisation and extremism**

There is no single profile of the type of person who may be at risk of being drawn into terrorism. They can come from any ethnic group, race or religion, or background. Risk evaluation should be undertaken within a local context, but should also consider the increased risk of online radicalisation as terrorist organisations may seek to radicalise young people through the use of social media and the internet.

As there is no one way of identifying an individual who is likely to be susceptible to a terrorist ideology, you 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 be:

- Insular and isolated
- Have learning difficulties
- Showing an engagement in terrorist ideology

- Looking for identity and belonging
- Demonstrating a concerning level of control and domination
- Referring to 'them and us' and dehumanising groups or persons
- Acting in a frustrated and / or angry manner
- Demonstrating feelings of being under threat and grievance about injustice
- Looking for excitement

Obvious signs may be that they demonstrate an increased interest in extremist ideology and seek to discuss this within the school. Or, during discussion about extremism, they may become guarded and seek to hide their views.

Even very young children may be vulnerable 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.

Where you find evidence that a pupil is engaged with such views, combined with intent and the ability to cause harm, you must raise your concerns immediately.

You should use your professional judgement in identifying children who might be at risk of radicalisation. If in doubt, you must seek guidance from the School Safeguarding Lead.

### **How to manage discussions about extremist ideology**

It is important for pupils to have a safe environment within which they can discuss terrorism and extremist ideology. Teacher led classes and programmes regarding these topics are encouraged in order to allow pupils to debate controversial issues and for Teachers to provide them with support to help them understand how they can participate in decision making. Schools must provide pupils with knowledge and key skills to allow them to understand and manage difficult situations and develop effective ways of resisting pressures, including knowing when, where and how to get help. Having an age appropriate open and constructive dialogue about such matters; building pupil's self-esteem as well as teaching them the importance of mutual respect and tolerance of diversity, should reduce the risk of pupils from becoming radicalised.

### **What you do if you believe a pupil is becoming radicalised or is at risk of radicalisation?**

Treat the incident as you would a Safeguarding concern and in the first instance, speak to the Designated Safeguarding Lead within the School about your concerns.

Complete a Log of Concern form, marking the top with Prevent. The Designated Safeguarding Lead may then decide to refer these concerns to the Social Care Call centre or the Police if there is an immediate risk.

If necessary the Designated Person can also contact the Safeguarding advice line or call 101 (the non-emergency number) for support and advice.

If employees feel a colleague or other staff member at the School is becoming radicalised then the whistle blowing policy should be followed.

### **Civil Liberties**

The Prevent Duty does not attempt to restrict pupils, Teachers or support staff within the School from holding any religious or ideological beliefs and any such beliefs will be respected.

All pupils in the School must be treated with dignity at all times. The School will not refer any pupil to Channel without due consideration and substantial evidence. The School will endeavour not to infringe the right to freedom of expression.

Chair of The Directors of The Diamond Learning Partnership Trust