



Policy to Support the Prevention of Extremism and Radicalisation (PREVENT)

Reviewed September 2023

Review September 2024 (latest) Keep up-to-date with changing Government advice and information.

Any member of staff or student at Foundation Futures who have any concerns regarding the issues identified within this guidance policy should report those concerns immediately and no later than the end of the working day to the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) at Foundation Futures and the partner referral organisation

- Designated Senior Person for Safeguarding at Foundation Futures
– Sue Davison
Deputy - Jennie Maughan (nee Dixon)

Introduction

PREVENT is a key part of the Government’s strategy to stop people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism. Early intervention is at the heart of PREVENT in diverting people away from being drawn into terrorist activity. PREVENT happens before any criminal activity takes place. It is about recognising, supporting and protecting people who might be susceptible to radicalisation. The PREVENT strategy objectives are:

Ideology:	respond to the ideological challenge of terrorism and the threat we face from those who promote it.
Individuals:	prevent people from being drawn into terrorism and ensure that they are given appropriate advice and support
Institutions:	work with sectors and institutions where there are risks of radicalisation which we need to address.

Safeguarding children from all risks of harm is an important part of Foundation Future's work and protecting them from extremism is one aspect of that.

The duty to prevent children and young people being radicalised is set out in the following documents:

- Counter Terrorism & Security Act (2015)
- Keeping Children Safe in Education (July 2020)
- Working Together to Safeguard Children (March 2018)
- Prevent Duty Guidance: for England and Wales (March 2015)
- The Prevent duty: Departmental advice for schools and child minders (June 2015)
- The use of social media for on-line radicalisation (July 2015)

The current threat from Terrorism and Extremism in the United Kingdom is real and severe and can involve the exploitation of vulnerable people, including children and young people.

This policy is designed to provide a clear framework to structure and inform our response to safeguarding concerns for those young people who may be vulnerable to the messages of extremism.

Radicalisation is defined as the process by which people come to support terrorism and extremism and, in some cases, to then participate in terrorist groups.

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 our armed forces, whether in this country or overseas (HM Government Prevent Strategy, 2011).

Equality, Diversity and Community Cohesion

Foundation Futures aims to guide our students to understand others, to promote common values and to value diversity, to promote awareness of human rights and of the responsibility to uphold and defend them, and to develop the skills of participation and responsible action. We take extremely seriously our key role in preparing all our young people for life in modern Britain.

We aim to encourage working towards a society with a common vision and sense of belonging by all:

- A society in which the diversity of people's backgrounds and circumstances is appreciated and valued
- A society in which similar life opportunities are available to all
- A society in which strong and positive relationships exist and continue to be developed in the workplace, in schools and in the wider community.

Curriculum

Through a broad and balanced curriculum, we encourage our students to be inquisitive learners who are open to new experiences and are tolerant of others.

Our values support the development of the whole child as a reflective learner within a calm, caring, happy and purposeful atmosphere.

We aim to provide a safe space in which students can understand the risks associated with terrorism and develop the knowledge, skills and confidence to be able to challenge extremist views.

We will include opportunities in the curriculum for students to build resilience to pressure, and to develop the skills they need to recognise and stay safe from abuse and radicalisation. In particular by promoting British values such as tolerance and respect.

Internet Safety

The internet provides children and young people with access to a wide-range of content, some of which is harmful. Extremists use the internet, including social media, to share their messages.

Students will be taught how to stay safe online. They will be taught to understand the risks posed by adults or young people who use the internet and social media to groom, abuse or radicalise other people, especially children, young people and vulnerable adults. We are aware that children and young people have access to unfiltered internet when using their mobile phones and staff are alert to the need for vigilance when students are using their mobile phones or other electronic devices. This will be discussed and agreed as part of the Learner behaviour agreement

All staff must have an awareness of the PREVENT agenda, the various forms of radicalisation which can take place and how to respond appropriately.

All staff will:

Undergo Prevent duty training so that staff have the knowledge and confidence to be able to:

- Understand the general risks of radicalisation affecting students
- Identify individual children who might be at risk of radicalisation (see below) and spot signs of extremism (see below)
- Challenge extremist views
- Provide appropriate advice to children who are at risk of radicalisation;
- Be alert to changes in children's behaviour which could indicate that they may be in need of help or protection;
- Use their professional judgement in identifying children who might be at risk of radicalisation and act proportionately.

Vulnerability/Risk Indicators

The following lists are not exhaustive and all or none may be present in individual cases of concern. Nor does it mean that vulnerable young people experiencing these factors are automatically at risk of exploitation for the purposes of extremism. The accepted view is that a complex relationship between the various aspects of an individual's identity determines their vulnerability to extremism.

There is no such thing as a 'typical extremist' and those involved in extremism come from a range of backgrounds and experiences. The following indicators may help to identify factors that suggest a young person or their family may be vulnerable or involved with extremism:

There are no known definitive indicators that a young person is vulnerable to radicalisation, but there are a number of signs that together increase the risk.

Signs of vulnerability include but are not limited to:

- Underachievement
- Being in possession of extremist literature
- Poverty
- Social exclusion
- Traumatic events
- Global or national events
- Religious conversion
- Change in behaviour
- Extremist influences
- Conflict with family over lifestyle
- Confused identity
- Victim or witness to race or hate crimes
- Rejection by peers, family, social or faith groups.
- Criminality

Recognising Extremism

A part of our wider safeguarding responsibilities to identify signs of abuse we will be alert to early indicators of radicalisation or extremism which may include:

- Showing sympathy for extremist causes
- Glorifying violence
- Making remarks or comments about being at extremist events or rallies outside school
- Evidence of possession of illegal or extremist literature
- Advocating messages similar to those coming from illegal organisations or other extremist groups
- Out of character changes in dress, behaviour and peer relationships (but there are also very powerful narratives, programmes and networks that young people can come across online so involvement with particular groups may not be apparent);
- Secretive behaviour
- Online searches or sharing extremist messages or social profiles
- Intolerance of difference, including faith, culture, gender, race or sexuality
- Graffiti, art work or writing that displays extremist themes
- Attempts to impose extremist views or practices on others
- Advocating violence towards others.
- Verbal or written support of terrorist attacks
- First-hand experience of racial or religious hate crime
- Extended periods of travel to international locations known to be associated with extremism
- Pending a decision on their immigration/national status

Visitors and Visiting Speakers

Foundation Futures staff have responsibility for ensuring that all visitors and visiting speakers and volunteers, whether invited by staff or students, are suitable and appropriately supervised. Where appropriate the DSL will make enquiries of the agency/person who introduced the individual to the School and/or will undertake appropriate due diligence. On the rare occasion that a visitor or visiting speaker or volunteers will have unsupervised access to students they will need to be DBS checked.

Referral and Intervention Process

Any identified concerns as the result of observed behaviour or reports of conversations to suggest that the young person supports terrorism and/or extremism, must be reported to the named designated safeguarding professional immediately and no later than the end of the working day.

This can be done using the Record of Concern Form.

Where a young person is thought to be in need/or at risk of significant harm, and/or where investigations need to be carried out (even though parental consent may be withheld), **a referral to Children's Social Care should be made in line with the partner school's Child Protection Policy.** However, it should be recognised that concerns of this nature, in relation to violent extremism, are most likely to require a police investigation (as part of the Channel process). As part of the referral process, the designated professional will also raise an electronic referral to Channel (prevent@northumbria.pnn.police.uk)

Channel referral process

Some concerns which are identified may have a security dimension to them. For this reason, it is important that liaison with the police forms an early part of all investigations. Northumbria Police will carry out an initial assessment and, if appropriate, set up a multi agency meeting to agree actions for supporting the individual. If it is deemed that there are no concerns around radicalisation, appropriate and targeted support will be considered for the young person.