

Pontesbury CE Primary School



Preventing Extremism and Radicalisation Policy

Policy reviewed: October 2024

Due for review: October 2026

At the forefront of this policy is the Church of England's vision for education 'Educating for life in all its fullness' and the school's vision 'Aim High, Climb Higher' (which is reflected by Psalm 121 "Lift up my eyes to the mountains— where does my help come from? My help comes from the LORD"). The following procedure and practice outlines how all our school community can prevent extremism and radicalisation to promote the flourishing of children and adults in our school community (whilst ensuring that legislation and guidance are followed).

From 1 July 2015, all schools 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 for Schools.

This means we have a responsibility to protect children from extremist and violent views the same way we protect them from any other harm.

The statutory guidance refers to the importance of Prevent awareness training to equip staff to identify children at risk of being drawn into terrorism and to challenge extremist ideas. The Home Office has developed a core training product for this purpose – Prevent Awareness online Training. Several members of our teaching and non-teaching staff have completed this training, understand what Prevent is about and how to deal with any issues they may see inside or outside school.

What does this look like at Pontesbury CE Primary School?

At Pontesbury CE Primary School, we build pupils' resilience to radicalisation by promoting British values and enabling our pupils to challenge extremist views.

Many of the things we already do in school to help children become positive, happy members of society also contribute to the Prevent strategy. These include:

- Having a strong Vision and Aims which permeates our school.
- Exploring other cultures and religions and promoting diversity.
- Challenging prejudices and racist comments.
- Developing critical thinking skills and a strong, positive self-identity.
- Promoting the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils, as well as British values such as democracy.

We will also protect children from the risk of radicalisation, for example by using filters on the internet to make sure they can't access extremist and terrorist material, or by vetting visitors who come into school to work with pupils.

The school will make sure any discussions are suitable for the age and maturity of the children involved.

Is extremism really a risk in our area?

Staff working with children are advised to maintain an attitude of 'it could happen here' where safeguarding is concerned.

Extremism can take many forms, including political, religious and misogynistic extremism. Some of these may be a bigger threat in our area than others.

We will endeavour to give children the skills to protect them from any extremist views they may encounter, now or later in their lives.

Our Designated Lead for Prevent is: Tom Lowrie-Herz

Deputised by: Sara Andrew and Charlotte Pope.

Further information

Contact the school - If you have any questions or concerns about the Prevent Strategy and what it means for your child, please do not hesitate to contact the school.

External sources - The following sources may also be useful for further information:

- Prevent duty guidance: for England and Wales, HM Government
- [Educate Against Hate - Prevent Radicalisation & Extremism](#)
- Frequently asked questions, Prevent For Schools
- What is Prevent? Let's Talk About It

DfE Counter Extremism Helpline:

Call: 020 7340 7264

Email: counter.extremism@education.gsi.gov.uk

West Mercia Prevent Team:

Call: 01386 591835

Email: prevent@warwickshireandwestmercia.pnn.police.uk

The Channel police practitioner will make an initial assessment and advise

If the person is not suitable from Channel they can be directed to safeguarding and support services.

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Prevent Duty & Anti Terrorism Risk Assessment

The UK Government have classified the risk of terrorism in the UK as 'Severe'. However, currently Shropshire is considered a low-risk area.

Current risks	Level of threat	Action
Islamist Terrorism thematic (political and violent interpretations of Islam used by such groups as Al Qaeda and DAESH).	High	- All staff to complete Prevent training to specified level and adopt the attitude that 'It could happen here.' - Update with current threats as they change. - Promote British Values (e.g. respect, tolerance and diversity) throughout the curriculum. - Children are encouraged to express themselves through discussions, debates and consultations. - The RE (Religious Education), PSHE (Personal, Social and Health Education), and SMSC (Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural) provision is embedded across the curriculum.
Extreme Right Wing Terrorism thematic (cultural nationalism; white nationalism; white supremacism)	Medium	
The Left Wing, Anarchist and Single Issue (LASIT) threat.	Low	

Compliance Requirements	High	Low	Any action required
The risk to our pupils of being drawn into terrorism has been assessed and is considered to be:		X	
The risk to our pupils of being radicalised and supporting terrorism has been assessed and is considered to be:		X	
Training Requirements	Yes	No	Any action required
Have all staff been trained to understand the Prevent duty?	X		Training completed Summer 2024 Governors completed Autumn 2024
Has the role of the Designated lead for child protection been extended to lead on inter-agency liaison in respect of the Prevent duty?	X		Head Teacher
Do all your staff know who to refer to in respect of a child being at risk of radicalisation and extremism?	X		

School Policies	Yes	No	Any action required
Does the Child Protection Policy refer to the new duty of the Designated lead and the Prevent guidance?	X		
Does the E-Safety Policy refer to the requirements of the Prevent guidance?	X		
Does the Behaviour policy encompass expectations of British Values?	X		Whilst not directly mentioned, the Behaviour Policy reflects rule of law, individual liberty, mutual respect, tolerance.
Has your school got a clear statement about the Prevent duty on your website and in the prospectus?		X	This is being developed and will be finalised 23/24
Does the school have clear guidance on the use of prayer rooms for faith related activity?		X	Not required, but guidance would be produced as required.
Does the school have clear guidance for visitors including faith related visiting speakers?	X		
British Values	Yes	No	Any action required
Has the school got a clear strategy for embedding these values and be able to demonstrate how their work with pupils has been effective in doing so?	X		
Pupils have an understanding of how citizens can influence decision-making through the democratic process	X		
Pupils have an understanding that the freedom to hold other faiths and beliefs is protected in law	X		
Pupils have an acceptance that people having different faiths or beliefs to oneself (or having none) should be accepted and tolerated, and should not be the cause of prejudicial or discriminatory behaviour	X		
Pupils have an understanding of the importance of identifying and combatting discrimination	X		
Does the school ensure all pupils have a voice that is listened to, and demonstrate how democracy works by actively promoting democratic processes such as a school council whose members are voted for by the pupils?	X		

Does the school include in suitable parts of the curriculum - as appropriate for the age of pupils - material on the strengths, advantages and disadvantages of democracy, and how democracy and the law works in Britain, in contrast to other forms of government in other countries?	X		
Does the school include in suitable parts of the curriculum - as appropriate for the age of pupils – materials that allow pupils to build understanding (tolerance) of those of different faiths and beliefs?	X		
Does the school use opportunities such as general or local elections to hold mock elections to promote fundamental British values and provide pupils with the opportunity to learn how to argue and defend points of view?	X		
Does the school use extra-curricular activity, including any run directly by pupils, in promoting fundamental British values?	X		Extra-curricular activities contribute to British Values and school ethos.

If a member of staff has a concern about a pupil/s they should follow the school's/settings normal safeguarding procedures, including discussing with the school's/settings designated safeguarding lead as set out in the Child Protection/safeguarding policy.

The designated lead should contact West Mercia Prevent Team:

Sgt Calum Forsyth – 07970 047227

DC Holly Aungiers – 01386 591815

Prevent@westmercia.pnn.police.uk