



Prevent Policy

Rationale

The National Prevent Strategy aims to stop people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism. Edgbaston High School, working with other local partners, families and communities, seeks to play a key role in ensuring that the children and young people who attend the school/settings or make use of the school and its facilities are safe from the threat of terrorism.

The Prevent strategy identifies that young people are more likely to be vulnerable to violent extremist or terrorist narratives, including non-violent extremism, which can create an atmosphere conducive to terrorism and can popularise views which terrorists exploit. The Government's Prevent Strategy defines extremism as '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'.

Linked Policies:

- Safeguarding Policy
- No Platform Policy

Objectives

- To tackle the ideological causes that lead to radicalisation by early intervention and support
- To respect learner and staff diversity, encouraging freedom and openness.
- To assess the risk of pupils, whether in school and its immediate facilities or engaged in school related activities off site, being drawn to terrorism.
- To train all staff so that they have the knowledge and confidence to identify children at risk of being drawn into terrorism, and to challenge extremist ideas which can be used to legitimise terrorism.
- To ensure that children are safe from terrorist and extremist material when in school.
- To ensure that the Prevent Action Plan is always fit for purpose. **See appendix 1**

Success Criteria

- Edgbaston High School continues to be a safe place where children and young people can understand and discuss sensitive topics, including terrorism and the extremist ideas that are part of the terrorist ideology, and learn how to challenge such ideas.
- The early identification and intervention of those who are susceptible to radicalisation
- Fundamental British Values promoted (many of which have always underpinned our school's ethos), including mutual respect, tolerance and democratic participation.
- Robust safeguarding policies in place which take into account the policies and procedures set out by Birmingham Safeguarding Children Partnership and identify extremism/radicalisation as issues to be reported promptly to the Designated Safeguarding/Prevent lead.

Methodology

1. Implementation

Prevent has introduced a simple yet effective procedure for addressing concerns about someone getting involved in terrorism: Notice, Check, Share.

Notice:

ALL staff are encouraged to observe for signs such as advocating extremist messages or refusing to listen to different points of view.

Identify possible Indicators of Risk

- Racist graffiti/ symbols/ comments made in School.
- Speaking out or writing in favour of extremist ideas in school work.
- Extreme comments shared on social media.
- Distribution of extreme or terrorist propaganda among other pupils.
- Vulnerable students being influenced by others (although we are aware of a need to avoid over-simplified assessments of who might be 'vulnerable'), because of the existence of one or more factors, which may include:
 - *An identity crisis, involving an individual's distance from their cultural/ religious heritage, including peer/ family/ faith group rejection.*
 - *A personal crisis, including family tension/ social isolation/ friendship issues.*
 - *Personal circumstances, such as migration, experience of racism.*
 - *Unmet aspirations.*
 - *Criminality.*
 - *Experience of poverty, disadvantage, discrimination or social exclusion.*
- Association with those known to be involved in extremism (including via the internet).
- A significant shift in the child/ young person's behaviour or outward appearance, particularly involving conflict with her family and/or faith group.
- Travel for extended periods of time to international locations known to be associated with extremism.
- Disguising of a child's identity, eg in documentation.
- A simplistic or flawed understanding of religious/ political/ global issues.
- A significant adult or other in the child/ young person's life who has extremist views or sympathies.
- Critical risk factors, being:
 - *Contact with extremist recruiters.*
 - *Articulation of support for extremist causes/ leaders.*
 - *The possession of extremist literature.*
 - *Using extremist narratives and a global ideology to explain personal disadvantage.*
 - *Justifying the use of violence to solve societal issues.*
 - *Membership of extremist organisations.*

CHECK

Those working closely with young people are well-placed to notice changes in behaviour. If you think a child or young person might be at risk of being radicalised into terrorism, you should share your concerns with the designated safeguarding lead (DSL).

Ask yourself or a colleague:

- Is there an alternative explanation?
- Has there been a change of circumstances at home?
- Are your colleagues seeing these behaviours?

SHARE

In the event of a concern, staff should follow standard safeguarding procedures and share their concerns with the DSL. The DSL, in turn, should be familiar with local procedures for making a Prevent referral. Remember to share information early to help reduce risk and get support for the young person if needed.

The school uses the Birmingham City Council Prevent Screening Tool if there are any concerns with a child at the school in relation to Prevent.

https://www.birminghamchildrenstrust.co.uk/downloads/file/253/trust_prevent_screening_tool_september_2023

Education

The school has a comprehensive PSHEE programme that allows pupils a safe place within which they can understand and discuss sensitive topics, including terrorism and the extremist ideas that are part of the terrorist ideology, and learn how to challenge such ideas. Other subject areas, such as Religious Education also address these issues, as do assemblies.

Training needs and Checks on visitors

There is a designated safeguarding lead in all sections of the school, as well as a Governor Representative. **Appendix 2.** Training needs are identified by all, but the Deputy Head Pastoral in the Senior School, who is a DSL, leads the whole school training on Prevent.

It is the responsibility of all members of staff to ensure that all people who visit the school site are checked in relation to Prevent. This will include;

- due diligence checks on groups/ individuals seeking to hire or use school premises,
- due diligence checks on visitors to school, particularly visiting speakers, whether invited by children or staff and ensure speakers are accompanied at all times,
- due diligence checks on contractors working on the school sites.

Supportive Interventions

- Channel is the multi-agency approach to protect people at risk from radicalisation and aims to identify individuals at risk of being drawn into terrorism, assess the nature and extent of that risk, inform the Deputy Head Pastoral in the senior school, who is the DSL with responsibility for Prevent and develop the most appropriate support plan for the individuals concerned.

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/651e71d9e4e658001459d997/14.320_HO_Channel_Duty_Guidance_v3_Final_Web.pdf

- Advice and support about extremism can be obtained in the government publication Counter Extremism Strategy

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/counter-extremism-strategy>

- Should concerns require support from other agencies, the following are ways in which terrorism and extremism can be reported:
 - Anti terrorist hotline: 0800 789 321
 - Crime stoppers: 0800 555 111
 - Relevant police force: 101

- www.gov.uk/report-suspicious-activity-to-mi5
- To report any online terrorist-related material: www.gov.uk/report-terrorism
- National Prevent referral form ([National Prevent referral form](#))

2. Monitoring

- Any identified risk factors will be reported on My Concern.
- The Deputy Head Pastoral will also use Lightspeed to track any internet activity that might cause concern. This will also be documented in My Concern
- All staff training will be maintained and any updates communicated via the safeguarding updates in staff briefings/meetings

Evaluation and Review

This policy is evaluated after any incident involving the Birmingham City Council Prevent screening tool, and is reviewed every two years regardless of any incident. Safeguarding updates are monitored by the DSL and the Safeguarding Policy are updated annually. Governors are also made aware of any updates relating to safeguarding, including Prevent.

Signed by the Headmistress

CAMauro

Approved by the Governing Body:

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The Governing Body

Date:

1/9/25

Review Date: August 2027

Appendix 1

“Prevent” Action Plan

Edgbaston High School for Girls recognises that it has a duty under Section 26 of the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act, 2015, in the exercise of its functions, to have due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism.

Duty	What this means	Action	By whom
Risk assessment			
Assess the risk of children being drawn into terrorism	Staff can demonstrate a general understanding of the risks affecting children and young people	- All staff have read “Keeping Children Safe in Education”, September 2025 - The Prevent Lead has informed staff of their duties as set out in “The Prevent Duty” (DfE, July 2019). - Prevent Training for DSL plus Prevent referral training 29/08/2024 - Online training completed by all staff 03/09/24	All staff DSL ALL STAFF
	Staff can identify individual children who may be at risk of radicalisation and how to support them.	- The Prevent Lead has informed staff about signs and indicators of radicalisation. - As above	DSL
	There is a clear procedure in place for protecting children at risk of radicalisation.	- All staff can locate the Safeguarding and Prevent Policy which includes a statement regarding the school’s “Prevent” duty. - All staff understand how to record and report concerns regarding risk of radicalisation. - All staff are aware of The Notice, Check, Share procedure 02/09/2024	All staff All staff
	The school has identified a Prevent Lead.	- All staff know who the Prevent Lead is and that this person acts as a source of advice and support. - Prevent Lead is the DSL	All staff
Prohibit extremist speakers and events in the school	The school exercises “due diligence” in relation to requests from external speakers and organisations using school premises.	- Request an outline of what the speaker intends to cover - Research the person/organisation to establish whether they have demonstrated extreme views/actions. - Deny permission for people/organisations to use school premises if they have links to extreme groups or movements. - Provide justification for their decisions in writing.	DSL PS

Working in Partnership			
The school is using existing local partnership arrangements in exercising its Prevent duty.	Staff record and report concerns in line with existing policies and procedures.	All staff record and report concerns on My Concern	All staff
	The Prevent Lead makes appropriate referrals to other agencies including the Childrens Advice and Support Service (CASS), Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) and Channel Panel.	- Records of referrals are kept in the DSL office and also stored on My Concern - Prevent Duty Extremism Screening Tool will be used to determine whether a referral to Channel needs to be made. https://www.birminghamchildrenstrust.co.uk/downloads/file/253/trust_prevent_screening_tool_september_2023	DSL
		Referrals are followed up appropriately.	
Staff training			
Equip staff to identify children at risk of being drawn into terrorism and to challenge extremist ideas.	Assess the training needs of staff in the light of the school's assessment of the risk to pupils at the school of being drawn into terrorism.	Ensure that the designated safeguarding lead with Prevent responsibility undertakes Prevent Awareness Training. http://www.support-people-susceptible-to-radicalisation.service.gov.uk/portal#referrals-course	DSL
		- Ensure that the designated safeguarding lead with Prevent responsibility is able to provide advice and support to other members of staff on protecting children from the risk of radicalisation. - Staff completed online training again in September 2024 http://www.support-people-susceptible-to-radicalisation.service.gov.uk/portal#awareness-course	All Staff
		Any updates will take place during the safeguarding segment of all staff meetings that occur every term https://www.support-people-susceptible-to-radicalisation.service.gov.uk/onboarding/refresher-awareness-course/country	

IT Policies				
Ensure that children are safe from terrorist and extremist material when accessing the internet in schools	The school has policies in place which make reference to the “Prevent” duty.	• Online safety policy • Acceptable use policy • Anti-bullying policy • Safeguarding Policy • Lightspeed filter on the school network and ipads	NS DSL	
Building children’s resilience to radicalisation				
Ensure that pupils have a “safe environment” in which to discuss “controversial issues”.	Pupils develop “the knowledge, skills and understanding to prepare them to play a full and active part in society”.	• Through PSHEE and other curriculum activities, pupils are able to explore political, religious and social issues. • Pupils are taught about the diverse national, regional and ethnic identities in the UK and the need for mutual respect. • Relevant staff are aware of the government guidance : https://www.gov.uk/government/news/guidance-on-promoting-british-values-in-schools-published/	PSHEE staff Other relevant staff	

References:

"Keeping Children Safe in Education: Information for all school and college staff" DfE, September 2025
"The Prevent Duty Guidance, 2023

Appendix 2

EHS Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSL)

Antonietta Cirillo-Campbell	Deputy Head Pastoral Senior School	0121 4545831
Naomi Jones Owen	Deputy DSL Senior School	01214545831
Claire Robinson	Deputy Head Pastoral	Prep School 0121 4542401
Helena Robinson	Senior Teacher EYFS	(Westbourne) 0121 4542401

EHS Designated School Governor

Anne Howarth	Whole School	0121 4545831
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EHS Chair of Council

Martin Chitty	Whole School	0121 4545831
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Birmingham Safeguarding Children Partnership

Birmingham <http://www.lscpbirmingham.org.uk>

Children's Advice and Support Service (CASS) 0121 3031888
cass@birmingham.gov.uk

Education: Early Help and Safeguarding Team 0121 3032291
(For Advice)
educationsafeguarding@birmingham.gov.uk

Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) 0121 3031888
MASH@birmingham.gov

Out of Hours contact 0121 6754806
Early Help Support Team 0121 3031888
Early Help Action 0121 3038117
Think Family Service 0121 3035522

Prevent

Police (or 999 in case of emergency) 101