



St Ambrose Barlow RC High School & Sixth Form College

A National Teaching School
A National School of Creativity

Prevent Duty & Promoting British Values

(a draft appendix to the Safeguarding Policy)

1. Context

All schools have a duty, under section 26 of the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015, to have “due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism”. This is known as the Prevent duty. It includes protecting children and young people from the threat of radicalisation and the influence of extremist ideology. Extremism is officially defined 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; and/or calls for the death of members of our armed forces, whether in this country or overseas’.¹

The full updated Government Prevent Strategy can be viewed at:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/97976/prevent-strategy-review.pdf

In addition schools are expected to promote British Values actively in all aspects of their work.

British values are defined as²:

- democracy.
- the rule of law.
- individual liberty.
- mutual respect for and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs and for those without faith.

The Prevent duty is a key aspect of our safeguarding strategy and includes ‘actions taken to protect children from other harms (e.g. drugs, gangs, neglect, sexual exploitation), whether these come from within their family or are the product of outside influences.’³

Official government advice suggests that schools can address the Prevent duty through risk assessment, partnership working, staff training and development, policies (particularly those relating to the use of IT), building young people’s resilience, the development of a strong and positive school ethos and reporting procedures.

¹ *Prevent Strategy (2011), HM Government available from: https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/97976/prevent-strategy-review.pdf*

² *Promoting Fundamental British Values as part of SMSC in schools (2014), HM Government available from: https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/380595/SMSC_Guidance_Maintained_Schools.pdf*

³ *The Prevent Duty: departmental advice for schools and childcare providers (2015), HM Government available from: https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/439598/prevent-duty-departmental-advice-v6.pdf*

Although this appendix deals with two specific issues, it must be emphasised that the application of the school's general safeguarding principles and the exercise of our vision, mission and values as a Catholic school are fundamental to keeping young people safe from extremism and promoting British values.

2. Prevent

a. Risk Assessment

This school is committed to assessing the risk to children and young people of being drawn into terrorism and supporting extremist views. Staff are expected to understand the risks affecting our students and have an understanding of how to identify individual children who may be at risk. As with other matters related to safeguarding staff should look for particular signs such as changes in behaviour and demeanour - the exercise of professional judgment informed by appropriate training is crucial for this. When such children are identified our safeguarding procedures as set out in the existing policy should be applied and the relevant agencies involved, including possible referral to the Channel⁴ programme.

b. Partnership

We will continue to work closely and effectively in partnership with the local authority, Local Safeguarding Children Board, police, social work and other agencies to promote the safety and wellbeing of our children. We will also ensure that the strong relationships that exist between the school and our students' families are maintained and that appropriate advice and support is given or accessed.

c. Staff Training

We undertake regular training on safeguarding of which a part is concerned with Prevent. We will ensure that the Designated Safeguarding Officer undertakes Prevent awareness training, and that other staff are identified for similar development. Staff will be made aware of who to speak to regarding any concern about extremism or radicalisation. Key members of staff also have the contact details of specific staff in partner agencies such as the police and can use these as appropriate.

d. IT policies

Our current IT security ensures that pupils are not exposed to terrorist and extremist materials when accessing the internet in school. Our IT curriculum places a strong emphasis on teaching pupils to use IT responsibly and stay safe online. We also remind parents and guardians of their role in ensuring online safety and provide advice when required.

⁴ Channel is a multi-agency approach at local and national level to identifying and supporting people who are at risk of being involved in terrorism and extremist activity https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/425189/Channel_Duty_Guidance_April_2015.pdf

3. The Promotion of British Values

We undertake our Prevent duty and promote British Values in a number of ways. As an excellent Catholic school we believe that our ethos and values in many respects exceed the expectations of British Values. For example, we go beyond tolerance, teaching our all members of our community that we must love, accept and respect the God-given uniqueness of others.

a. Specific Actions and Procedures

Our staff and students will be alert to and will report and take action in relation to:

- Symbols, literature and artwork or graffiti that promote extremist ideology or seek to influence others in the school community to adopt extremist views
- Instances when extremist material is accessed online
- Any disclosure by a young person that they have been exposed to extremist actions or ideology outside school, in the home or at school
- Young people voicing extremist opinions
- The use of extremist ideas or material to bully, belittle or exclude others
- Any intolerance of others for any reason
- Specifically Anti-Western or Anti-British views

The action taken by staff may not be formal or disciplinary, it may in fact be to challenge or debate extremist ideas so that they are confronted and seen as unacceptable. However, such instances may be logged and, if necessary, shared with the relevant agencies through normal safeguarding procedures.

b. External Speakers and Guests in school

In addition, we will always risk assess external speakers and visitors to the school to ensure that they do not have a platform on which to promote extremist views or ideology to our young people. We expect that all visitors to the school act in accordance with our Catholic vision and mission as set out in our Mission Statement.

c. The Curriculum

Through our inclusive, broad and balanced curriculum we promote our Catholic ethos, Gospel values and, by extension, British Values. We offer a wide range of PSHE (Personal, Social, Health, Citizenship Education) and SMSC (Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural) activities and always prioritise the wellbeing and development of the 'whole child' over narrow academic attainment. This means that we place a strong emphasis on developing confidence, resilience, empathy, creativity, charity, social responsibility, character and values through all learning experiences.

The Ofsted Inspection Handbook states that schools should encourage in all

members its community, “acceptance and engagement with the fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, mutual respect and tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs; the pupils develop and demonstrate skills and attributes that will allow them to participate fully in and contribute positively to life in modern Britain”.⁵

Examples of some of the ways we do this include:

- Inclusive worship, assemblies and daily prayer in form time
- Through our school expectations
- Consulting with students on their views and ideas
- Specific projects relating to debate, free speech and community cohesion on PSHE days and through the curriculum as a whole
- Participation in charitable activities and fundraising
- Application for UNICEF Rights Respecting School status level 1
- Leadership roles for students
- Membership of and contributions to the School Council
- Mock elections and campaigns for the British Youth Parliament and the local Youth Council
- Presentations from invited guests such as members of Parliament, business people, members of the clergy

We believe that every interaction in school is important and we expect that staff model British values in their behaviour towards others, especially pupils. All of our policies and strategies are informed by our Catholic ethos and, specifically, by the Diocese of Salford’s 5Ws.

