



St Francis' College

PREVENT Policy

Introduction

The 'College' refers to all the staff and pupils of the Prep Department and Senior School, which includes Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS), Pre-Prep (Key Stage 1), Prep (Key Stage 2), and Senior School (Key Stages 3-5).

The National Prevent Strategy aims to stop people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism. St. Francis' College, 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 College or use its services are safe from the threat of terrorism. Prevent is part of the College's wider responsibility for safeguarding and this policy is therefore linked to the College's Safeguarding Policy.

The Prevent strategy identifies that young people can 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*'.

We believe that St. Francis' College should 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 Designated Prevent Lead is Mr James Nichols the Deputy Head and Designated Safeguarding Lead.

This policy aims to inform parents and staff.

In order to fulfil our Prevent Duty, we undertake to do the following:

- Actively promote fundamental British Values, including mutual respect, tolerance and democratic participation, as part of our wider PHSE education programme as well as within other subject areas, tutor times and assemblies;
- Respect learner and staff diversity, encouraging freedom and openness;
- Assess the risk of children in our College's activities being drawn into terrorism;
- Maintain robust safeguarding policies which consider the policies and procedures set out by Hertfordshire County Council Safeguarding Children Board and identify extremism/radicalisation as issues to be reported promptly to the Designated Safeguarding Lead.

- Train 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;
- Conduct due diligence checks on groups/individuals seeking to hire or use College premises;
- Conduct due diligence checks on visitors to the College, particularly visiting speakers, whether invited by children or staff;
- Conduct due diligence checks on contractors working on the College site and external lets;
- Endeavour to ensure children are safe from terrorist and extremist material when accessing the internet in College;
- Review our policies annually.

Possible Indicators of Risk

- Racist graffiti/symbols/comments made in College;
- 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 and/or social media apps);
- A significant shift in the child/young person's behaviour or outward appearance, particularly involving conflict with his/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, e.g. 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.

Supportive Interventions

- Channel is the multi-agency approach to protect people at risk from radicalization and aims to: identify individuals at risk of being drawn into terrorism; assess the nature and extent of that risk; develop the most appropriate support plan for the individuals concerned.
- 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

Reviewed By	James Nichols
Effective From	May 2022
Next Review Due	May 2023