



SANDWELL ACADEMY



PREVENTING RADICALISATION

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1.6	February 2025	Reviewed, no changes to policy

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Preventing Radicalisation Policy

Policy Statement

Sandwell Academy is fully committed to safeguarding and actively promoting the welfare of all its pupils. As a school we recognise that safeguarding against radicalisation is no different to safeguarding against any other vulnerability. The Preventing Radicalisation Policy sets out our beliefs, strategies and procedures to protect vulnerable individuals from being radicalised or exposed to extremism, by identifying who they are and providing them with support.

What is the Prevent duty?

The Prevent duty requires **all** schools to "have due regard to the need to prevent people being drawn into terrorism", under the [Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015](#). The duty covers all types of extremism, whether political, religious or ideological.

What does it mean for our school?

We need to protect pupils from the risk of radicalisation, as part of our wider safeguarding duties and duty to promote the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils.

To achieve this we:

- Promote the fundamental British values in our curriculum
- Make sure school is a safe space for pupils to discuss sensitive topics, including terrorism and extremism
- Ensure we have robust safeguarding procedures to identify children at risk
- Engage with our local authority's (LA's) risk assessment to determine the potential risk of individuals being drawn into terrorism in your local area
- Make sure we have measures in place to protect pupils from harmful online content, including setting up appropriate filtering systems
- Make sure staff receive training to help them identify pupils at risk, challenge extremist ideas, and know how to act if they have a concern

Links to other related policies

Sandwell Academy's anti-radicalisation policy links to the following policies:

- Child Protection and Safeguarding
- Behaviour policy
- Anti-Bullying policy
- Acceptable Use of IT
- British Values policy
- SMSC policy

Aims and Principals

Sandwell Academy anti-radicalisation policy is intended to provide a framework for dealing with issues relating to vulnerability, radicalisation and exposure to extreme views. It clearly sets out how the school will deal with such incidents and identifies how the curriculum and ethos underpins our actions.

The objectives are that:

- All governors, teachers, teaching assistants and non-teaching staff will have an understanding of what radicalisation is and why we need to be vigilant in school.
- All governors, teachers, teaching assistants and non-teaching staff will know what the school policy is on anti-radicalisation and will follow the policy when issues arise.
- All parents and pupils will know that the school has policies in place to keep pupils safe from harm and that the school regularly reviews its systems to ensure they are appropriate and effective.

The main aims of this policy are to ensure that staff are fully engaged in being vigilant about radicalisation; that they overcome professional disbelief that such issues will not happen here and ensure that we work alongside other professional bodies and agencies to ensure that our pupils are safe from harm. Staff will be given training to comprehend exactly what is meant by harm and given a comprehensive action plan to follow in the case of any incident. This action plan will follow our safeguarding procedures.

Definitions and indicators

Radicalisation is defined as the act or process of making a person more radical or favouring of extreme or fundamental changes in political, economic or social conditions, institutions or habits of the mind. Extremism is defined as the holding of extreme political or religious views.

There are a number of behaviours which may indicate a child is at risk of being radicalised or exposed to extreme views. These include:

- Spending increasing time in the company of other suspected extremists.
- Changing their style of dress or personal appearance to accord with the group.
- Changes to their usual behaviour.
- Their day-to-day behaviour becoming increasingly centred on an extremist ideology, group or cause.
- Loss of interest in other friends and activities not associated with the extremist ideology, group or cause.
- Possession of materials or symbols associated with an extremist cause.
- Attempts to recruit others to the group/cause.
- Communications with others that suggests identification with a group, cause or ideology.

- Using insulting to derogatory names for another group.
- Increase in prejudice-related incidents committed by that person – these may include physical or verbal assault, provocative behaviour, damage to property, derogatory name calling, possession of prejudice related materials, prejudice related ridicule or name calling, inappropriate forms of address, refusal to co-operate, attempts to recruit to prejudice related organisations, condoning or supporting violence towards others.
- Family network; disclosures regarding any family members or extended family holidays to locations.

Procedures for referrals

Although serious incidents involving radicalisation have not occurred at Sandwell Academy to date, it is important for us to be constantly vigilant and remain fully informed about the issues which affect the area in which we teach. Staff are reminded to suspend any 'professional disbelief' that instances of radicalisation 'could not happen here' and to refer any concerns through the appropriate channels.

We believe that it is possible to intervene to protect people who are vulnerable. Early intervention is vital, and staff must be aware of the established processes for front line professionals to refer concerns about individuals and groups. Staff must be aware that there is a shared ownership and a duty of care to safeguard all of the children. We will ensure that any concerns are shared with staff, so as to ensure everyone is aware. We must have the confidence to challenge, the confidence to intervene and ensure that we have strong safeguarding practices.

The DSL will deal swiftly with any referrals made by staff or with concerns reported by staff. DSL and safeguarding team will discuss the most appropriate course of action on a case-by-case basis and will decide when a referral to external agencies is needed (see appendix 1 – Dealing with referrals)

To refer people under 18, please submit the National Prevent Referral Form (NRF) to MASH and CTU (Counter Terrorism Unit) at the same time so any safeguarding concerns that are not Prevent related can be picked up by MASH. There is no need to fill in a separate MARF form with a referral for under 18s.
For over 18s, please submit the National Prevent Referral Form to CTU.

The referral form is an appendix in this policy, alongside the Sandwell Prevent referral process map, The referral form and referral process map will be available on Sandwell Council's Prevent web page by 1st December 2023 - www.sandwell.gov.uk/prevent

If you have any questions/concerns in relation to Prevent for pupils or a setting you can still reach out for support to myself justin_nixon@sandwell.gov.uk or prevent_inbox@sandwell.gov.uk however when a referral is appropriate / required please use the above National Referral Form process.

Channel Process

All Prevent referrals are triaged in the first instance by specialist police officers and staff. These officers determine whether there is reasonable cause to suspect that an individual is vulnerable to being drawn towards any terrorism offences, and therefore appropriate for support through Prevent. This 'gateway assessment' draws upon police databases and other resources to determine the level of vulnerability and risk around the referred individual, and whether the referral/ case will move into (or out of) Prevent.

After this gateway assessment, the primary route for individuals identified as having Prevent relevant vulnerabilities is support through local authority-led, multi-agency Channel panels.

Roles and Responsibilities Staff and Governors

The Governing Body will support the ethos and values of the school. In line with KCSIE September 2024 the Governing Body will challenge Senior Leadership on the delivery of the policy and monitor its effectiveness. The Governing Body has a nominated person who will liaise with H/T to protect students from radicalisation.

[Channel Duty Guidance: Protecting people vulnerable to being drawn into terrorism \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk)

Role of DSL

The DSL is responsible for referrals relating to radicalisation. In the event of her absence, concerns will be reported to the DDSL's. Staff will be fully briefed about what to do if they are concerned about the possibility of radicalisation relating to a pupil, or if they need to discuss specific children whom they consider to be vulnerable to radicalisation.

The DSL will work in conjunction with the DDSL's, SMT and external agencies to decide the best course of action to address concerns. Any cases of PREVENT will be reported to the Governing Board.

Prejudicial behaviour can be a factor in radicalisation.

Role of the staff

Role of staff to understand radicalisation, recognise signs and how to refer.

Staff training

Through INSET opportunities in school, we will ensure that our staff are fully aware of the threats, risks and vulnerabilities that are linked to radicalisation; are aware of the process of radicalisation and how this might be identified early on and are aware of how we can provide support as a school to ensure that our children are resilient and able to resist involvement in radical or extreme activities.

Staff are trained in PREVENT every 2 years and when new staff join the Academy. Regular updates and information are shared as necessary.

The role of the curriculum

Our curriculum promotes mutual respect, tolerance of others with different faiths and beliefs and diversity. Children are encouraged to share their views through individual liberty and democracy and recognise that they are entitled to have their own different beliefs which should not be used to influence others.

Our PSHE provision is embedded across the curriculum and underpins the ethos of the school. It is recognised that children with low aspirations are more vulnerable to radicalisation and therefore we strive to equip our pupils with confidence, self-belief, respect and tolerance as well as setting high standards and expectations for

themselves. We complete SDQ questionnaires with all students and the Boxall Profile for students with and identified SEND. This enables us to recognise vulnerable children, children who aren't feeling completely happy in school, or children with low self-esteem or confidence. Upon analysing the results of profiles, we can place children into relevant, personalised nurture intervention groups, so as to address individual needs.

As outlined in our online safety policy, children are regularly taught about how to stay safe when using the internet and are encouraged to recognise that people are not always who they say they are online. They are taught to seek adult help if they are upset or concerned about anything they read or see on the internet.

Use of premises

If an agreement is made to let the premises to people from outside of the staff, appropriate checks will be made before agreeing the contract. Usage will be monitored and in the event of any behaviours not in-keeping with the anti- radicalisation policy, the school will contact the police and terminate the contract.

Policy monitoring and review

The Preventing radicalisation policy will be reviewed annually as part of the overall Child Protection and Safeguarding policy review or in line with guidance updates.

Appendix

Prevent Referrals Pathway and Poster
Prevent Referral Form

Sandwell Prevent Referral Process

Possible risk identified. If you notice a concern about an individual or situation, you should check your concern in confidence with a trusted colleague to understand the situation. If appropriate, share your concern by making a Prevent referral

If there is immediate danger of a crime being committed, or imminent risk of travel to a conflict zone - dial 999
If the risk presents an urgent safeguarding issue call 101

If risk relates to a child under 18

Submit referral to CTU & MASH
ctu_gateway@westmidlands.police.uk &
Access_Team@sandwellchildrenstrust.org

If risk relates to an adult over 18

Submit referral to CTU
ctu_gateway@westmidlands.police.uk

Referral received by CTU for de-confliction and to assess if the referral is MALICIOUS, MISGUIDED, MISINFORMED. For under 18s, MASH consider other safeguarding concerns

CT risk identified

CTU case manager fills in a Vulnerability Assessment Form and sends information request to Channel members

Case manager adds case to the multi-agency Channel panel agenda

Case presented to Channel Panel for discussion where panel agrees intervention / support plan

Family/individual consent to intervention

Channel Panel oversees intervention plan

Family/individual declines intervention

Referred to CTU as Police led Prevent case

No CT concerns

If non-CT concerns exist, CTU feedback to: referring agency / MASH (under 18)

Referring agency / MASH to inform Prevent team:
Prevent_inbox@sandwell.gov.uk

Alternative support/intervention put into action if appropriate

CTU = Counter Terrorism Unit
CT = Counter Terrorism

NATIONAL PREVENT REFERRAL FORM

In Sandwell, we will be using the National Prevent Referral form as of **1st December 2023**. Download the form and the new referral process map here:

<https://www.sandwell.gov.uk/prevent>

If you're concerned about possible terrorist activity or risk of radicalisation and there is no immediate threat, you can refer by using the national referral form.

For further information contact:
prevent_inbox@sandwell.gov.uk



