



St Wilfrid's
Church of England Academy

Prevent Policy

Non-Statutory Policy

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Date presented to governors: September 2022

Review Date: September 2024

Link to other policies:

- Attendance policy
- Behaviour for Learning Policy
- Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy
- Children missing in education
- Data Protection
- E- safety
- Health and Safety Policy
- Health and Wellbeing Policy
- Physical intervention and the use of reasonable force
- Privacy notice for Parents – use of students' data
- SEN Policy
- Whistleblowing

St. Wilfrid's C of E Academy
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1. The Purpose of a Prevent Policy

An effective Prevent Policy should identify direction to staff, parents, volunteers and governors about procedures to respond to the ideological challenge we face from terrorism and aspects of extremism, and the threat we face from those who promote these views. It makes explicit the Academy's commitment to the Government's PREVENT counter-terrorism strategy whose aim is to stop people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism. Prevent addresses all forms of terrorism but continues to prioritise according to the threat they pose to the country's national security. Prevent involves the identification and referral of those susceptible to violent extremism into appropriate interventions.

2. Introduction

St Wilfrid's, as a Christian Academy, recognises the moral and statutory responsibility to protect and support students, each of whom we believe has been made as an individual in God's image. The academy's responsibility to safeguard and promote the welfare of children is of paramount importance and everyone's responsibility. St Wilfrid's will endeavour to provide a safe and welcoming environment where children are respected, valued and given encouragement to 'live life to the full' John 10:10 no matter their faith, no faith or own spiritual journey.

This policy has been drawn up in accordance with HM Government Prevent Duty Guidance: England and Wales (March 2015, updated April 2021); The Prevent duty. Departmental advice for Academics and childcare providers, (DfE, June 2015); DfE guidance Keeping Children Safe in Education, (September 2022); Working Together to Safeguard Children (DfE, July 2018 also updated in December 2020 but retaining 2018 date) and DCSF resources Tackling Extremism in the UK, DfE's Teaching Approaches that help Build Resilience to Extremism among Young People and Peter Clarke's Report of July 2014.

St Wilfrid's Academy recognises its duty under section 29 of the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 to have "due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism". This duty is known as the Prevent duty. Since 2011, when the Government published the Prevent Strategy, there has been an awareness of the specific need to safeguard children, young people and families from extremism. "Extremism" is defined in the Prevent duty guidance, June 2015 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". Also included in the definition of extremism are calls for the death of members of our armed forces, whether in this country or overseas.

Prevent involves the identification and referral of those susceptible to violent extremism into appropriate interventions. These interventions aim to divert the susceptible and vulnerable from embarking down the path to radicalisation. The aim of the Prevent strategy is to:

- Respond to the ideological challenge we face from terrorism and aspects of extremism, and the threat we face from those who promote these views.
- Provide practical help to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism and ensure they are given appropriate advice and support.
- Work with a wide range of sectors (including education, criminal justice, faith, charities, online and health) where there are risks of radicalisation.
- staff should have a general understanding of how to identify a student who may be at risk of radicalisation
- staff should be alert to changes in student's behaviour which could indicate that they may be in need of help or protection.

- staff should use professional judgement in identifying students who might be at risk of radicalisation and act proportionately
- staff will undertake training appropriate to their role (the DSL will undertake Prevent Workshop to Raise Awareness of Prevent (WRAP) training)
- the Academy ICT policy will ensure the safety of children by ensuring they cannot access terrorist and extremist material when using the internet and that suitable filtering software is in place
- staff must speak to the DSL if they have concerns and complete a Academy safeguarding incident using CPOMS and by speaking to the POD support team if there is an immediate risk to a student
- the DSL must follow CSAP procedures in relation to obtaining advice and/or making a referral to Channel.

There have been several occasions both locally and nationally in which extremist groups have attempted to radicalise vulnerable children and young people to hold extreme views including views justifying political, religious, sexist or racist violence, or to steer them into a rigid and narrow ideology that is intolerant of diversity and leaves them vulnerable to future radicalisation.

Terrorist groups very often draw on extremist ideas developed by extremist organisations which may lead to the exploitation of vulnerable people by involving them in terrorism or in activity in support of extremism and terrorism. The normalisation of extreme views may also make children and young people vulnerable to future manipulation and exploitation.

This policy should be read in conjunction with the Child Protection and Safeguarding policy, the Behaviour and Discipline policy and the ICT policy.

3. Definitions

The following definitions create clarity when discussing radicalisation and extremism:

Ideology – a set of beliefs.

Extremism – a 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.

Radicalisation – the process by which a person comes to support terrorism and forms of extremism leading to terrorism.

Terrorism – an action that endangers or causes serious violence damage or disruption and is intended to influence the Government or to intimidate the public and is made with the intention of advancing a political, religious or ideological cause.

When applying this guidance we use the following accepted Government definition of extremism, which is:

‘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’.

The full Government Prevent Strategy can be viewed at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/prevent-duty-guidance/revised-prevent-duty-guidance-for-england-and-wales>

There is no place for extremist views of any kind in St Wilfrid's Academy, whether from internal sources – pupils, staff, governors or external sources – school community, external agencies or individuals. Pupils need to see St Wilfrid's as a safe place where they can explore controversial issues openly and where teachers encourage and facilitate this. We have a duty to ensure this happens.

4. The Academy Ethos

St Wilfrid's Academy promotes the values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, mutual respect and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs. The Academy teaches and encourages students to respect one another and to respect and tolerate differences, especially those of a different faith or no faith. All staff strive to eradicate the myths and assumptions that can lead to some young people becoming alienated and disempowered, especially in situations where children may find it harder to challenge or question radical influences.

The Academy values freedom of speech and the expression of beliefs or ideologies as fundamental rights underpinning our society's values. Both students and teachers have the right to speak freely and voice their opinions. However, the Academy acknowledges that freedom comes with responsibility and free speech that is designed to manipulate the vulnerable or that leads to violence and harm of others goes against the moral principles in which freedom of speech is valued. Free speech is not an unqualified privilege; it is subject to laws and policies governing equality, human rights, community safety and community cohesion.

It is our most fundamental responsibility to keep our students safe and prepare them for life in modern, multi-cultural Britain and globally. Therefore, it is imperative that students and parents see the Academy as a safe place where they can discuss and explore controversial issues such as terrorism safely and in an unbiased way and where teachers encourage and facilitate this.

5. Roles and Responsibilities

The Academy's Prevent Single Point of Contact (SPOC) is the Academy's Designated Safeguarding Lead. The SPOC is the lead within the organisation for safeguarding in relation to protecting individuals from radicalisation and involvement in terrorism. For further information, please see Appendix A.

All members of staff, including visiting staff, volunteers and students on placement have a duty to report instances where they believe a child may be at risk of harm or neglect. If they have concerns that a student may be at risk of radicalisation or involved in terrorism they should inform the DSL, and the Principal.

The DSL has undertaken Prevent awareness training and Channel General Awareness training in order to provide advice and support to other members of staff on protecting children from the risk of radicalisation. All members of staff undertake regular training in preventing extremism and radicalisation.

As part of wider safeguarding responsibilities Academy staff will be alert to:

- Disclosures by students of their exposure to the extremist actions, views or materials of others outside of Academy, such as in their homes or community groups, especially where students have not actively sought these out.
- Graffiti symbols, writing or artwork promoting extremist messages or images
- Students accessing extremist material online, including through social networking sites.
- Parental reports of changes in behaviour, friendship or actions and requests for assistance

- Local schools, Local Authority services, and police reports of issues affecting students in other schools or settings
- Students voicing opinions drawn from extremist ideologies and narratives
- Use of extremist or 'hate' terms to exclude others or incite violence
- Intolerance of difference, whether secular or religious or, in line with our equalities policy, views based on, but not exclusive to, gender, disability, homophobia, race, colour or culture
- Attempts to impose extremist views or practices on others
- Anti-Western or Anti-British views

At St Wilfrid's we follow any locally agreed procedure as set out by the Local Safeguarding Children Board, including criteria for safeguarding individuals vulnerable to extremism and radicalisation. In the event of concerns about a person at risk of becoming radicalised, contact will be made with Lancashire Constabulary's Prevent Team to consider whether it is appropriate to refer the individuals to the Channel process. Channel is a bespoke multi-agency approach, which uses early intervention to protect and divert people away from the risks they face. Referrals can be made by anyone who has concerns. The Channel Panel is chaired by the local authority and meets at regular intervals to discuss referrals on individuals who have been identified as being at risk of radicalisation but have not committed any terrorism offence. For further details visit:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/channel-guidance>

For further information regarding referral procedures, please refer to Appendix B.

6. Risk Assessment

The Principal, the DSL, the SLT and Governors assess if any student is at risk of becoming drawn into extremism and radicalised and put actions in place to reduce that risk as identified in the Academy Prevent risk assessment. The Academy will assess the risk on a case-by-case basis taking into consideration an individual's engagement with a group, cause or ideology and their intent and capability to cause harm

The assessment may result in referral to the Channel programme which focuses on providing support at an early stage to people who are identified as being vulnerable to being drawn into radicalisation and terrorism.

7. Safeguarding Students from Extremism and Radicalisation

7.1 The Curriculum – teaching approaches

The Academy recognises that extremism and exposure to extremist materials and its influences can lead to poor outcomes for students. The Academy also recognises that if it fails to challenge extremist views it is failing to protect its students. Extremists of all persuasions aim to develop destructive relationships between different communities by promoting division, fear and mistrust of others based on ignorance or prejudice and thereby limiting the life chances of young people.

Education is a powerful weapon against this; equipping young people with the knowledge, skills and critical thinking, to challenge and debate in an informed way. The Academy aims to build students' resilience to radicalisation by providing a safe environment for debating controversial issues and helping them to understand how they can influence and participate in decision-making.

St Wilfrid's Cof E Academy provides a broad and rich curriculum which promotes the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of our students, delivered by skilled professionals. This helps students to understand and become tolerant of difference and diversity and ensure that they thrive, feel valued and are not marginalised.

The majority of work done on promoting fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance for those of different faiths and beliefs is carried out across the curriculum but particularly in RE, PSHE and Enrichment.

St Wilfrid's may use external agencies or speakers to enrich the experiences of their students. There will be a thorough process to assess their suitability and effectiveness to ensure that:

Any messages communicated to students are consistent with the ethos of the Academy and do not marginalise any communities, groups or individuals;

Any messages do not seek to glorify criminal activity or violent extremism, or seek to radicalise students through extreme or narrow views of faith, religion, culture or other ideologies;

Activities are properly embedded in the curriculum and clearly mapped to schemes of work to avoid contradictory messages or duplication.

Activities are matched to the needs of students.

7.2 Acts of Worship and Assemblies

The promotion of respect and tolerance for those of different faiths and beliefs along with the reinforcement of other fundamental British values will take place in both individual Form group, Year group, and House assemblies. Assemblies will not only be led by SLT and staff but may also be by clergy from the local community.

7.3 Pastoral Care

Students deemed to be at risk would be supported and monitored by Form Tutors and Pastoral team staff (PODs), under the guidance of the SPOC.

7.4 Behaviour Policy

The Behaviour policy upholds the values of the rule of law, freedom of speech and respect and tolerance for those of different faiths or beliefs. All students are expected to behave in a reasonable manner both to themselves and others, showing consideration, courtesy and respect for students, teachers and members of the public.

7.5 ICT Policy and E-Safety

St Wilfrid's recognises its duty to safeguard students from online radicalisation as terrorist organisations such as ISIL who seek to radicalise young people through the use of social media and the internet.

The ICT policy includes an Acceptable Use policy that all students are required to read and understand on entry to the Academy and students learn about e-safety as part of the Year 7 ICT curriculum. E-safety messages are reinforced continually through the pastoral system and across all subject areas. Staff take all reasonable precautions to ensure that students access only appropriate material. The Academy provides a filtered internet service and has wireless internet connection (Wi-Fi), giving laptop

and iPad users access to login via Remote Learning. Use of mobile phones by students within the Academy premises is not permitted without explicit permission from a member of staff.

Further safeguards are provided to prevent access to unsuitable material. For example, access to the internet is logged through Smoothwall alerts and is reviewed by the DSL regularly for any misuse.

7.6 External Agencies

The Academy is committed to work in partnership with Lancashire Prevent Partnership Board, CPAS, the BwD CADs, external agencies, parents and families, wherever possible, to safeguard and promote the welfare of its students. the Academy should seek external support from the Local Authority Prevent Coordinator and the Education Safeguarding Officer.

8. Safeguarding the Academy and its community from Extremism and Radicalisation

The Lettings Policy states that the St Wilfrid's can refuse permission for a proposed event to take place. Events are visited/attended by Site Operation staff. An event can be halted at any time if the Academy is unhappy with its content.

Staff are required to wear their identity badge at all times and official visitors wear visitor badges. The Academy site is monitored by CCTV and is surrounded by a perimeter fence.