EMBARK
FEDERATION

Howitt Primary Community School

our school is part of the Embark Federation.

The shared vision for our trust is to “create schools that ‘stand out’ at the heart of their communities.” Our trust has four core beliefs; Family, Integrity, Teamwork and Success that are integral to everything we do. The purpose is to enable everyone to be able to ‘Love Learning, Love Life.’

Our policies are underpinned by our vision, beliefs and purpose.

Extremism and Radicalisation Policy

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Document owner	Derbyshire Prevent (multi-agency steering group)
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Change Log

Date	Version	Details of amendment	Author
16/03/2023	1.1 to 2.0	Author amendment and header date changes	A Chandler
16/03/2023		Addition of 'making a referral social care' section 5 (last para.)	R Mellors
04/03/2024	3.0	Amendments as a result of the updated Prevent Duty and independent review of Prevent.	A Chandler
18/04/2024	4.0	Update to the definition of extremism	A Chandler
17/02/2025	5.0	Update definitions of radicalisation and terrorism	J Dean
17/02/2025	5.0	Updated "Section 2 – Duties and responsibilities", in line with the Prevent duty guidance: England and Wales (2023) - GOV.UK. Previous versions of this section had met the old guidance (Revised Prevent duty guidance: for England and Wales (2015) - GOV.UK)	J Dean
27/02/26	6.0	Updated Appendix A – Referrals Pathway	J Dean

1. Purpose

For Howitt Primary Community School to fulfil the Prevent duty, it is essential that our staff can identify children who may be vulnerable to radicalisation and know what to do when they are identified. Protecting children from the risk of radicalisation is part of our wider safeguarding duties and is similar in nature to protecting 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.

We should also build pupils' resilience to radicalisation by promoting fundamental British values and enabling them to challenge extremist views. It is important to emphasise that the Prevent duty is not intended to stop pupils talking about or debating controversial issues, but to tackle the ideological causes of terrorism. In School, we want to provide a safe space in which children, young people and staff can understand the risks associated with terrorism and develop the knowledge and skills to be able to challenge extremist arguments at an age-appropriate level.

What is Extremism?

"Extremism" is the promotion or advancement of an ideology based on violence, hatred or intolerance, that aims to;

1. Negate or destroy the fundamental rights and freedoms or others; or
2. Undermine, overturn or replace the UK's system of liberal parliamentary democracy and democratic rights; or
3. Intentionally create a permissive environment for others to achieve the results in the points above

Extremism is relevant if it can be reasonably linked to terrorism or is used to encourage people into participating or supporting terrorism.

What is Radicalisation?

Radicalisation is the process of a person legitimising support for, or use of, terrorist violence.

Individuals can be 'radicalised' by other people (sometimes by people they trust, sometimes by strangers, in real life or online), or could be 'self-initiated' by things they read on the internet or influenced by world events they see in the news.

What is Terrorism?

Terrorism is the threat of serious violence against a person or serious damage to property, designed to influence any international government organisation or to intimidate the public. It must also be for the purpose of advancing a political, religious, racial, or ideological cause.

It is important to note that to be convicted of a terrorism offence a person doesn't have to commit what could be considered a terrorist attack. Planning, assisting and even collecting information on how to commit terrorist acts are all crimes under British terrorism legislation.

2. Duties and Responsibilities

Section 26 of the Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015 places a duty upon Local Authorities and all specified settings including schools in the exercise of their functions to have "due regard to the need to prevent people from becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism".
We are required in our functions under section 26 to:

- Know about and identify early indicators in pupils.
- Develop the confidence to challenge and intervene.
- Assess the risk of our pupils being drawn into terrorism and terrorist ideology.
- Have clear protocols & keep records.
- Be monitored by Ofsted in how we exercise these duties.

The statutory guidance on the Prevent duty summarises the requirements on us in terms of four general themes: **Leadership and partnership, Capabilities, Reducing permissive environments and Monitoring and assurance**.

Leadership and partnership

We have a designated lead in a senior management role who is responsible for Prevent. Currently this is **Alison Spencer.** They will ensure that our staff understand the role and importance of Prevent, and act as a single point of contact for operational delivery of Prevent activity.
Our Prevent lead will work with the local authority-led Channel panel when a Prevent referral is adopted, to ensure that susceptibility, vulnerabilities, risk and support needs of our pupils can be fully assessed and met.

Capabilities

Our capabilities as a school to comply with the Prevent duty can be separated into 3 aspects: **Understanding risk, managing risk and Sharing information**.

- **Understanding risk** means that our staff will be sufficiently trained to understand factors that lead people to support terrorist ideologies, recognise susceptibility to terrorism and be confident in knowing what actions to take in response. We will follow the recommendations of the Local Authority and ensure staff undertake Prevent training every two years.

- **Managing risk** means that we will have a good understanding of the threat and risk in our local area. We will engage with the local authority and Police to stay up-to-date with the latest Counter-Terrorism Local Profile and any current developments. We will perform a risk assessment into how our pupils may be at risk of being radicalised, including online, using government guidance. We set out the process for how learners or staff can raise concerns regarding radicalisation internally and the approach for submitting a Prevent referral in Section 4: Referral Procedure.

- **Sharing information** is a key part of safeguarding learners vulnerable to radicalisation. Information sharing will be treated in the same way as wider safeguarding.

Reducing permissive environments

We will take action to ensure that our school, its facilities and its equipment will not be used to facilitate the potential harm of our pupils and amplify the influence of radicalisers. We will ensure that we capture these risks, such inappropriate use of the school's IT equipment or hireable venues, in our organisation's risk assessment and policies, with actions to minimise the risk of harm. We will build resilience in our pupils through our curriculum, supporting them to build critical thinking skills, respect difference and have an understanding of fundamental British values.

Monitoring and assurance

We are accountable to OFSTED, who will ensure that we are fulfilling our statutory Prevent duties as part of their inspection. Inspectors will evaluate the extent to which the setting has a culture of safeguarding that supports effective arrangements to identify learners who may need early help or who are at risk of harm or exploitation, including radicalisation. Our Governors will ensure that the school's arrangements for safeguarding meet statutory requirements.

We will engage with the local authority and Police Prevent team to keep up-to-date with current counter-terrorism developments, seek support and assurance about our concerns and offer reflections on our Prevent duty practice through the local authority annual safeguarding audit.

The Role of the Curriculum

We will work to ensure that our pupils are skilled and equipped to be resilient and resist involvement in extreme or radical activities. Therefore, we recognise the need to build resilience in our pupils to make them less susceptible. We aim to include in the curriculum learning around threat and risk and online radicalisation.

We will therefore provide a broad and balanced curriculum within which we aim to support pupils' Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural development (SMSC).

In primary schools, SMSC is an essential part of Personal, Social, Health and Economic (PSHE) education. Students learn about different cultures and religions, how to be a responsible citizen, and how to respect and appreciate others.

Fundamental British Values underpinning public life in the UK have been summarised as democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, mutual respect, and the tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs. It is important that our pupils understand this through different approaches using a balanced and broad curriculum. This supports our pupils to be responsible citizens and prepares for an adult life living and working in Britain which is diverse and changing.

Our School will ensure the promotion of British values and that these efforts are inclusive and promote unity between pupils, parents/carers and the local community. We will ensure that Prevent is embedded across the setting, in a proportionate way to risk.

3. Indicators, Help and Support

There are many factors that can make someone susceptible to radicalisation. They can apply to any age, social class, religion, ethnic or educational background. More important than any one specific sign is the sense that something is not quite right with the person you're worried about. You could spot one sign or a combination of signs that are increasing in intensity. Sometimes they can be indicators of other underlying issues or challenges that are not connected to radicalisation. We will ensure that our staff undertake Prevent training every 2 years in line with the recommendation of the local authority, to be confident in understanding some of the factors that can contribute towards radicalisation and identifying those signs that a pupil may be supporting terrorist ideologies.
Help identifying a concern can be found on the following websites;

- Act Early
- Educate Against Hate
- Safer Derbyshire

For advice relating to a particular issue follow the referral process in Appendix A

4. Referral Procedure

We will treat any worry or concern that a child or young person in the School may be exposed to possible extremism, extremist ideology and or radicalisation as a possible safeguarding concern and will seek advice where appropriate.

All Prevent concerns and incidents will be bought to the attention of the Designated Safeguarding Lead, who will follow the agreed procedures, as described in Appendix A.

Where a referral is needed, we will use the Prevent referral form to share Prevent related concerns about any child, young person or adult within the school, with the Police Prevent Team, as described in Appendix A.

Where a concern or incident is judged to be immediate and serious an appropriate lead in the school will contact the Police directly using 999.

We will ensure that we keep accurate and up-to-date records of any additional safeguarding concerns in line with our school's recording Policies.

We understand that the Channel Programme is an element of the Prevent Strategy aimed at stopping susceptible people being drawn into terrorism. Our pupils who are referred to Prevent may receive a programme of personalised support from this multi-agency group and we may be asked to work with and attend Channel Panel(s) to progress this support.

A Prevent Referral does not replace a safeguarding referral to the Local Authority. Where safeguarding concerns are present, a referral should be made to children's social care via 01629 533190. (See Making a referral to Childrens Social Care).

5. Related Policies and guidance

This Extremism & Radicalisation Policy is linked to the following policies:

- Child Protection & Safeguarding Policy
- Equality & Diversity Policy
- Anti - bullying Policy including Cyberbullying
- Behavioural Policy
- Online Safety Policy
- A British values statement
- Lettings Policy
- School Prevent Risk assessment and Action Plan

Furthermore, we will follow the procedures set out by the Derby and Derbyshire Safeguarding Children's Partnership with reference to Safeguarding Children and Young people against radicalisation and violent extremism.

National guidance in relation to Keeping Children Safe in Education;

- Keeping Children Safe in Education
- Working together to safeguard children
- Information sharing advice for safeguarding practitioners

In tackling extremism and radicalisation, we will take account of the following national guidelines and legislation:

- Counter-terrorism strategy (CONTEST) 2023
- Prevent duty guidance: Guidance for specified authorities in England and Wales 2023
- The Prevent duty: safeguarding learners vulnerable to radicalisation - GOV.UK
- Channel Duty Guidance 2023
- Counter Terrorism & Border Security Act 2019
- Use of Social Media for online radicalisation

6. Management of this Policy

The Head Teacher of our School will implement the policy and will ensure staff including volunteers and governors have read this policy and understand their responsibilities.

The Governing Body will oversee the policy; ensure its implementation and compliance to statutory duties reviewing its content on an annual basis.

We will undertake a regular audit and review of this policy and consider any changes in guidance /legislation how these changes will be implemented within the School.

The Head Teacher will report on and discuss progress within the school to the Governing Body on an annual basis.

A record of the minutes is recorded on the School Governing Report covering the discussion of the Policy of Extremism and Radicalisation, detailing how proactive the School is in ensuring this policy is reflected in the School's ethos and curriculum.

APPENDIX A

Prevent Referrals – Pathway

Are there worries about a young person's change in appearance and behaviour, their ideology or online activity?

Are you worried about the behaviours and actions of an adult in the School?

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Take advice from your School Safeguarding Lead.

If further advice is required, contact Derbyshire County Council's Prevent Lead 01629 535646 or

if you want some general advice you can also email prevent@derbyshire.gov.uk

call the Police Prevent team 0300 122 8694 or the Starting Point Advice Line 01629 535353.

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Make the Prevent referral using the referral form on the Police website.

Police receive all Prevent referrals – investigations are then undertaken.

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If the child is considered to be at immediate risk of harm, a telephone call to 999 should be made.

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A Prevent referral does not replace a Social Care referral.

Where safeguarding concerns are present, a telephone referral to (Call Derbyshire) Social Care should be made via 01629 533190

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A Social Worker will review the presenting information within the referral to determine further actions for Social Care or Targeted Early Help services. An officer from the Police Prevent team will be included in the Strategy discussions if they are required.

NB – Whilst the Police Prevent Team can recognise vulnerabilities and support the safeguarding process, they are primarily focused on Counter Terrorism and Domestic Extremism risk. Please make sure other safeguarding measures (including Early help Assessments) are progressed in a timely manner.