



St Edmundsbury and Ipswich
Diocesan Multi Academy Trust

PREVENT POLICY

Date Approved and Minuted	MAT Directors	16th October 2025
Date of Next Review		15th October 2028

PREVENT Policy

The Diocese of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich multi-academy trust is fully committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all its pupils. As a Trust we recognise that safeguarding against radicalisation is no different from safeguarding against any other vulnerability. All staff are expected to uphold and promote the fundamental principles of British values, including democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect, and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs.

1 Aims and Principles

- 1.1 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.
- 1.2 The principal objectives are that:
 - All Staff, Governors and Trustees will have an understanding of what radicalisation and extremism are and why we need to be vigilant.
 - All Staff, Governors and Trustees will know what the policy is on anti-radicalisation and extremism and will follow the policy when issues arise.
 - All pupils and parents/carers will know that there are policies in place to keep pupils safe from harm and that systems are regularly reviewed to ensure they are appropriate and effective.

2 Definitions and Indicators

- 2.1 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.
- 2.2 Extremism is defined as the holding of extreme political or religious views.

3 Procedures for Referrals

- 3.1 Although serious incidents involving radicalisation are rare, it is important for us to be constantly vigilant and remain fully informed about the issues which affect the location in which we teach.
- 3.2 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 (via the Designated Safeguarding Lead and/or Headteacher).
- 3.3 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/or groups. We must have the confidence to challenge, the confidence to intervene and ensure that we have strong safeguarding practices based on the most up-to-date guidance and best practice.
- 3.4 The Designated Prevent/Safeguarding Lead and/or the Headteacher will deal swiftly with any referrals / concerns reported by staff.

- 3.5 The Headteacher will discuss the most appropriate course of action on a case-by-case basis and will decide when a referral to external agencies and/or Channel is needed.

4 Protecting Children from Radicalisation

In the St Edmundsbury and Ipswich Diocesan Multi-Academy Trust we:

- include radicalisation in our safeguarding policies which are updated annually
- include radicalisation in our annual safeguarding training
- ensure staff also access specific Prevent Training via Edu-Care or Gov UK resources every two years so that they are kept up to date and informed on the latest guidance
- include radicalisation in our safeguarding procedures
- identify those at risk and make sure everyone knows when and how to report a concern
- promote positive messages of tolerance and community cohesion through Collective Worship, RE and PHSE lessons
- help parents and children get support if affected by radicalisation

In our individual schools we are responsible for assessing potential risks of radicalisation in our local communities. In this respect, we work alongside our partners in the police, local authority, MASH and Prevent Team. Under Suffolk Prevent Strategy 2024-2027, judgement about the likelihood of terrorist or extremist threat levelled nationally and this information is shared with schools on occasion.

All our MAT schools use online filtering systems to block inappropriate content which could be viewed online by pupils and to monitor their online behaviour. These digital safeguarding systems can play a role in preventing radicalisation by monitoring online activity for signs of vulnerability and alerting designated staff to potential risks. They detect behaviours indicative of radicalisation and aim to enable timely intervention and support for pupils who may be at risk through:

- **Early detection:** The systems' behavioural analysis technology can detect subtle shifts in online behaviour that may suggest a student is becoming vulnerable to radicalisation.
- **Human-moderated monitoring:** The systems are human-moderated, ensuring that potential risks are assessed in context and false positives are avoided.
- **Real-time alerts:** Staff are alerted in real-time when pupils' digital behaviour suggests a potential vulnerability, enabling prompt intervention.
- **Evidence-based reporting:** Immediate alerts and on-line reporting provide staff with the information they need to understand the situation and take appropriate action.

Monitoring detects and reports digital activities which could be a sign of someone being exposed to radicalising content. This could include:

- **Access to extremist content:** The systems we use can block access to extremist websites and content, preventing pupils from encountering harmful materials.

- **Engagement with extremist groups:** Online interactions and communication with individuals or groups who may be involved in radicalisation can be monitored
- **Expression of extremist views:** Instances where students express extremist views or sentiments online can also be detected and then followed up with individuals concerned

By identifying these early indicators, our schools can be helped to take proactive steps to support pupils who may be at risk of radicalisation via the on-line world.

5 Role of the Curriculum

- 5.1 The curriculum in each Trust school promotes respect, tolerance and diversity. We are committed to ensuring that our pupils are offered a broad and balanced curriculum that aims to prepare them for life in modern Britain.
- 5.2 Children are encouraged to share their views and recognise that they are entitled to have their own different beliefs which should not be used to influence others.
- 5.3 The Biblical Visions and Values of each Trust School underpin the ethos. Together with the PSHE (Personal, Social and Health Education) curriculum, Citizenship and SMSC (Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural) provision, the Biblical Vision and Value underpin the welcoming, inclusive ethos of each school.
- 5.4 The Biblical Visions and Values alongside the fundamental British values supports quality teaching and learning, whilst making a positive contribution to the development of a fair, just and civil society.
- 5.5 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.

6 Role of the Trust Board

- 6.1 The Trust Board will undertake appropriate training to ensure that they are clear about their role and the parameters of their responsibilities as Trustees, including their statutory safeguarding duties.
- 6.2 The Trust Board will support the ethos and values of the Trust and will support the Local Governing Body of each school in tackling extremism and radicalisation. In line with the provisions set out in the DfE guidance 'Keeping Children Safe in Education 2018' the Trust Board will challenge the Trust's senior leadership team on the delivery of this policy and monitor its effectiveness.

7 Role of Local Governing Body

- 7.1 The Local Governing Body of each School will undertake appropriate training to ensure that they are clear about their role and the parameters of their responsibilities as Governors, including their statutory safeguarding duties.
- 7.2 The Local Governing Body will support the ethos and values of their school and will support the school in tackling extremism and radicalisation. In line with the

provisions set out in the DfE guidance 'Keeping Children Safe in Education 2018' the local governing body will challenge the school's senior leadership team on the delivery of this policy and monitor its effectiveness.

8 Recruitment

- 8.1 The arrangements for recruiting all staff, permanent and volunteers, within our Trust will follow The Trust's guidance for safer recruitment.
- 8.2 This includes, but is not limited to, ensuring that DBS checks are always made at the appropriate level, that references are always received and checked and that we complete and maintain a single central record of such vetting checks.
- 8.3 We will apply safer recruitment best practice principles and sound employment practice in general and in doing so will deny opportunities for inappropriate recruitment or advancement.
- 8.4 We will be alert to the possibility that persons may seek to gain positions within our Trust so as to unduly influence the character and ethos of our Trust / schools.
- 8.5 We are aware that such persons seek to limit the opportunities for our pupils thereby rendering them vulnerable to extremist views and radicalisation as a consequence. Therefore, by adhering to safer recruitment best practice techniques and by ensuring that there is an ongoing culture of vigilance within our school and staff team we will minimise the opportunities for extremist views to prevail.

9 Staff Training

- 9.1 Through training opportunities in school and centrally, 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.

10 Links to other Policies and Documents

- Child Protection
- Anti-bullying policy
- Behaviour policy
- Online Safety Policy (also known as Computing and ICT policy and Acceptable use policy)
- Code of Conduct
- PREVENT Risk Assessment

This Policy also draws upon the guidance contained in DfE "Keeping Children Safe in Education, 2025", "Prevent: Resources Guide", "Tackling Extremism in the UK" and DfE's "Teaching Approaches that help Build Resilience to Extremism among Young People".

11 Procedures for referrals

- 11.1 Any member of staff with a concern will speak to the Designated Prevent/Safeguarding Lead and/or the Headteacher. The concern will be logged and a timeline started. Guidance for professionals will be sought on **0800 917 1109**.

12 Useful Websites

Prevent Duty Guidance: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/prevent-duty-guidance>

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

Suffolk Prevent: <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/care-and-support-for-adults/protecting-people-at-risk-of-abuse/supporting-people-at-risk-of-radicalisation>