Blessed Christopher Wharton Catholic Academy Trust

Prevent Duty Risk Assessment
September 2025

Introduction

Everyone who comes into contact with children and their families has a role to play in safeguarding children. Schools have a duty of care to their pupils and staff which includes safeguarding them from the risk of being drawn into terrorism - this includes not just violent extremism but also non-violent extremism, which can create an atmosphere conducive to terrorism and can popularise views which terrorists exploit. Schools should be safe spaces in which 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 these ideas.

School staff are particularly important as they are in a position to identify concerns early and provide help for children, to prevent concerns from escalating. Schools and colleges and their staff form part of the wider safeguarding system for children. This system is described in statutory guidance Working Together to Safeguard Children (2023) and Keeping Children Safe in Education (2024). Schools and colleges should work with social care, the police, health services and other services to promote the welfare of children and protect them from harm. Radicalisation is listed as a specific safeguarding issue within this statutory guidance and is addressed within the Government Prevent Strategy. The Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 places a duty on Schools to 'have "due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism".

The Prevent Strategy has three main objectives:

- Respond to the ideological challenge of terrorism & the threat we face from those who promote it;
- Prevent people from being drawn into terrorism and ensure that they are given appropriate advice and support;
- Work with sectors and institutions where there are risks of radicalisation which we need to address.

Prevent Risk Assessment

Our Schools recognise that it has a duty under Section 26 of the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act, 2015, in the exercise of its functions, to have due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism.

There are threats that can be classed as local and national. In 2025, these are:

National Threat Level

- The current UK national threat level is substantial, meaning an attack is likely.
- The primary threat remains Islamist extremism, accounting for 67% of attacks since 2018.
- Extreme Right-Wing (XRW) radicalisation is the second most prevalent threat, with increasing online activity and youth engagement.
- Online radicalisation is a growing concern, with 92% of convicted individuals in recent years having been influenced online.

Emerging threats include:

- AI-generated extremist content and misinformation.
- Misogynistic ideologies, which are being considered for inclusion under Prevent.
- School massacre and incel-related concerns, which now account for a small but notable percentage of referrals.

Local Risks

- Bradford is a Prevent Priority Area, receiving Home Office funding for targeted interventions.
- The district has a large youth population (approx. 29% under 18), making it particularly vulnerable to online radicalisation and misinformation.
- Far-right extremism continues to be the most common reason for Prevent referrals in West Yorkshire.
- Community tensions linked to international conflicts (e.g. Palestine) have led to increased protest activity. While peaceful, these events can expose young people to polarising narratives and misinformation.
- Issues around flag displays and symbolism have caused concern and may contribute to division or reinforce extremist narratives.
- Cross-border risks exist due to proximity to other Prevent Priority Areas, increasing the potential for regional influence.

Duty	What this means	Action
The values and ethos of the school promote resilience against extremist ideologies and promoting British values	The school values clearly set out our commitment to British values.	• Strong focus on our values and our attributes • Values include a commitment to tolerance, diversity and mutual respect (part of DEI project)

	The school has identified a Prevent Lead (Mrs C Mitchell)	• All staff know who the Prevent Lead is and that this person acts as a source of advice and support.
Governors carry out their role to monitor the school's Prevent strategy effectively.	Governors have a good understanding of their duty.	• All governors have read our child protection policy and Keeping Children Safe in Education (2025). • We have a dedicated safeguarding link governor that oversees our compliance with the Prevent duty. • Governor Hub provides additional training for governors on roles and expectations.
Staff assess the risk of children being drawn into terrorism	Staff can demonstrate a general understanding of the risks affecting children and young people	• All staff attended Safeguarding Training September 2023 • All staff have read "Keeping Children Safe in Education", Sep 2025 • The Prevent Lead has informed staff of their duties as set out in "The Prevent Duty Guidance" (DfE, December 2023). • All staff have completed the online Prevent Training (Home Office)
	Staff can identify individual children who may be at risk of radicalisation and how to support them.	• The Prevent Lead has informed staff about signs and indicators of radicalisation.
	There is a clear procedure in place for protecting children at risk of radicalisation.	• All staff have read the Safeguarding Policy which includes a statement regarding the school's "Prevent" duty. • All staff understand how to record and report concerns regarding risk of radicalisation.
Speakers and Events		
Prohibit extremist speakers and events in the school	The school exercises "due diligence" in relation to requests from external speakers and organisations using school premises.	• Request an outline of what the speaker intends to cover/meet prior to event • Research the person/organisation to establish whether they have demonstrated extreme views/actions. • Visitors are never left alone with children. Deny permission for people/organisations to use school premises if they have links to extreme groups.
Working in Partnership		
The school is using existing local partnership arrangements in	Staff record and report concerns in line with existing policies and procedures.	• All staff record and report concerns to the Prevent Lead or DSL • School leaders stay up to date with local developments and risks.

exercising its Prevent duty.		• The school is in regular communication with local police (PCSO) • Member of the safeguarding core team attends the Milton Keynes forum with other DSLs to discuss extremism and other topics linked • Advice and training is sought from the Trust Safeguarding Lead (Bradford Council)
Staff are confident and capable of working with external agencies and sharing concerns about extremism externally	The Prevent Lead makes appropriate referrals to other agencies including the Multi- Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) and Channel Panel.	• Records of referrals are kept on CPOMS • Referrals are followed up appropriately (and challenged if necessary). • DSL knows the process to contact other agencies and expedite concerns about extremism. • All concerns regarding extremism are reported to the Head of Safeguarding at the Trust • Records of referrals are kept, and referrals are followed up appropriately.
Staff training		
Equip staff to identify children at risk of being drawn into terrorism and to challenge extremist ideas.	Assess the training needs of staff in the light of the school's assessment of the risk to pupils at the school of being drawn into terrorism.	• The designated safeguarding leads and Prevent Lead undertakes Prevent Awareness Training. Ensure that the designated safeguarding lead is able to provide advice and support to other members of staff on protecting children from the risk of radicalisation. • All staff completed online Prevent Training • Relevant staff have completed the "General Awareness Training on Channel". (Referred to in the DfE guidance cited below).
IT Policies		
Ensure that children are safe from terrorist and extremist material when accessing the internet in schools	The school has policies in place which make reference to the "Prevent" duty.	• Online safety policy • Acceptable use policy • Preventing bullying policy • Pupils are encouraged to report any material they come across online which makes them worried or uncomfortable. • IT safety and monitoring systems, for example: • The school IT network has appropriate filters to block sites deemed inappropriate or unsafe • Sensor filtering and monitoring system is in place with summary fed back to school leaders • School email accounts are monitored by IT staff
	Children are taught about on-line safety with specific reference to the risk of radicalisation	• The curriculum reflects this duty.

Building children's resilience to radicalisation		
Ensure that pupils have a "safe environment" in which to discuss "controversial issues".	Pupils develop "the knowledge, skills and understanding to prepare them to play a full and active part in society".	• Through PSHE/RSE and other curriculum activities including CREW, pupils are able to explore political, religious and social issues. • Pupils are taught about the diverse national, regional and ethnic identities in the UK and the need for mutual respect. • Relevant staff are aware of the government guidance : https://www.gov.uk/government/news/guidance- on-promoting-british-values-in-schools- published/
The curriculum promotes British Values and a culture of equality	Clearly identfified opportunities to promote British Values and challenge extremist ideplogies	• Opportunities to promote British values are clearly identified within all curriculum areas and through the full safeguarding curriculum (incl. Jigsaw curriculum) • Use of PSHE or RSE lessons for sensitive and supportive discussions on radical issues and extreme ideologies • Our behaviour policy clearly sets out that hateful behaviour is not tolerated. • Staff know how to respond to witnessing harassment and abusive behaviour. • Pupils are encouraged to challenge harassment or abusive behaviour among their peers

"Keeping Children Safe in Education: Information for all school and college staff" DfE, 2025 "The Prevent Duty: Departmental advice for schools and childcare providers", DfE, 2023