



Avonbourne Boys' & Girls' Academies
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United Sixth Form
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Extremism Policy

Spring 2025

Extremism Policy

Introduction

The Government revised the 'Prevent duty' statutory guidance for schools in September 2023, under Section 29 of the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act, 2015. This came into force on 31st December 2023, replacing the 2015 guidance that came into force in July 2015. The Government's 'Prevent duty' requires schools to *'help prevent the risk of young people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism'*.

The overall aim of the Government's counter-terrorism strategy, CONTEST, is to reduce the risk from terrorism to the UK, its citizens and interests overseas, so that people can go about their lives freely and with confidence. Prevent remains one of the key pillars of CONTEST, alongside the other three 'P' work strands:

- Prevent: to stop people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism
- Pursue: to stop terrorist attacks
- Protect: to strengthen our protection against a terrorist attack
- Prepare: to mitigate the impact of a terrorist attack

The Government defines:

Radicalisation as *'the process by which a person comes to support terrorism and extremist ideologies associated with terrorist groups.'*

Extremism is *'the vocal or active opposition to our fundamental values, including democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and the mutual respect and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs. This also includes calling for the death of members of the armed forces.'*

Terrorism is defined as *'an action that endangers or causes serious violence to a person/people; causes serious damage to property; or seriously interferes or disrupts an electronic system. The use or threat must be designed to influence the government or to intimidate the public and is made for the purpose of advancing a political, religious or ideological cause.'*

Related Policies

This policy should be read in conjunction with the following policies:

- IT Acceptable Use Policy
- Staff Code of Conduct Policy
- Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy
- PSHE
- Whistleblowing Policy

Staff Training

All appropriate staff are expected to confirm they have received, read and understood the Prevent anti-extremism and radicalisation government training ([Prevent duty training - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/prevent-duty-training)). A record of this will be held on the SCR by HR. A refresher course is also completed every three years to ensure staff have knowledge of recent updates ([Prevent Refresher Training](#)). All staff additionally receive training annually on INSET day and are expected to complete a quiz confirming their understanding of statutory guidance. All new staff directly working with children also receive face to face training with the Designated Safeguarding Lead.

This training ensures staff are able to recognise the signs of vulnerability or radicalisation and know how to refer their concerns (see Academy Safeguarding Policy). Support staff may not be required to complete the Government training but will still be expected to read annual updates and complete the Safeguarding quiz to confirm they have understood their PREVENT duty. Staff will be updated as necessary in staff briefings, CPD, by email and other appropriate means. Key staff will update their training as required.

Staff should follow the Academy's normal referral processes (see safeguarding and child protection policy) when there are concerns about children who may be at risk of being drawn into terrorism. This may include a referral to Prevent or Children's Social Care depending on the level of risk. A referral to Prevent is top access support for a young person and will not appear on individuals criminal record ([Prevent | BCP \(bpcouncil.gov.uk\)](https://www.bpcouncil.gov.uk))

[ACT Early](#) provides information on certain behaviours staff can watch out for and signs that someone may be vulnerable to radicalization. However, if staff have concerns that there is an immediate/significant risk to life or a crime is taking place, the police must be notified on 999.

Further guidance can be found in the contact list below:

Dorset Police Prevent

TEL: 01202 222777

EMERGENCY: 999

NON-EMERGENCY NUMBER: 101

EMAIL: dorsetprevent@dorset.police.uk

Channel referrals:

The Channel program offers support to young people who have been identified as being at risk of radicalisation but has not engaged with terrorist activity.

For professionals:

TEL: 01202 229337 (referrals)

EMAIL: PreventReferrals@Dorset.pnn.police.uk

[2019-07-24-Prevent-National-Referral-Form-v-2-4.pdf \(bpcouncil.gov.uk\)](#)

National Police Prevent advice line:

0800 011 3764

Professionals can share concerns, in confidence, with specially trained officers.

Department for Education

NON-EMERGENCY NUMBER: 020 7340 7264

EMAIL: counter.extremism@education.gov.uk

Online material promoting extremism or terrorism, can be reported online: [Report online material promoting terrorism or extremism - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

Safer recruitment

The school takes steps to ensure that staff appointed to the school are suitable, that its recruitment procedures are rigorous and follow the statutory guidance published in *Keeping Children Safe in*

Education. Vetting and barring checks are undertaken on relevant people, including Governors and volunteers, and a single central register of appointments is maintained.

Visiting Speakers

Visitors who are invited to speak to students will be informed about the school policies as necessary, and staff should use their professional judgement when choosing speakers. It is expected that:

- Messages communicated to students should be consistent with the ethos of the school and do not marginalize any communities, groups or individuals.
- Speakers will always be supervised and will not normally be allowed to speak to students without a member of staff being present.
- The content of presentations and resources are submitted and reviewed in advance of any visits.
- Staff will have checked with a member of LM before inviting a speaker.

Teaching Staff

All members of staff must adhere to the Teachers' Standards, including these elements in Part 2 of the Standards: 'showing tolerance of and respect for the rights of others' 'not undermining fundamental British values, including democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and respect, and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs' 'ensuring that personal beliefs are not expressed in ways which exploit pupils' vulnerability or might lead them to break the law.' Teachers must not promote partisan political views in the teaching of any subject and are required to ensure that whenever political issues are brought to the attention of students, a balanced presentation of the opposing views are also explained.

The Curriculum and Combating Extremism

The core values of the Academies inform the curriculum, as it does all aspects of our work. The values include the following – respect and community which we expect all stakeholders to uphold throughout their dealings at the Academies. We endeavour to promote personal responsibility and understanding the differences between right and wrong. We also promote respect and the understanding of the need for rules. The Academies takes every opportunity for the development in the personal and spiritual aspects of the students so enabling them to become positive and emotionally resilient adults with the knowledge and confidence to challenge ideas that they do not agree with. Some of the most valuable work in combatting extremism at Avonbourne Boys' and Girls' Academies and USF is carried out in structured PSHE sessions, Religious Studies and History lessons and regular focus on British Values within assemblies and tutor time. We try to ensure that tolerance and understanding are championed through learning about diversity. The Academies aims to be a safe place for students to share their views within the acknowledged respectful culture of the learning environment.

The use of the Internet and other Electronic Means

It is strictly forbidden to use the Academies website, IT facilities or other elements of the information management systems or processes for the promotion, planning or execution of violent extremism in the name of ideology or belief. The Academies reserves the right to exercise control over all activities on its IT facilities and networks, including the monitoring of systems and electronic communications and access to external electronic resources. The Academies recognises its obligations under legislation relating to the prevention of terrorism, in particular the requirement to respond within two working days to requests from the Police to remove or amend any statement published on the Academies hosted website that may appear to encourage or promote terrorism. Students' content and Internet use is monitored in line with Keeping Children Safe in Education. Avonbourne Academies and USF use the SENSO program to monitor and filter the Internet and students accounts. The safeguarding team review concerns and act promptly where appropriate, in response to extremist or radicalised content.

Freedom of Speech within the Academies premises

The Academies are committed to the principle of free speech. Therefore, so far as it is reasonably practicable, access to the Academy premises is not denied to any student or employee or any individual or body of persons invited to the Academy by a student or member of staff on any grounds related to the beliefs or views of the student, employee or invited persons. Nor is access denied due to the policies or objectives of that body. Where the expression of such beliefs, views, policies or objectives are unlawful and where it is deemed these might be expressed on the Academy site, the Academies reserve the right for these beliefs not to be expressed on the Academy site. The Academies recognises the needs to balance the rights of the freedom of speech with the provisions of the Racial and Religious Hatred Act 2006 which outlaws the use of threatening words or behavior, or the display of any threatening written material, with the intent to stir up religious hatred.

Reporting Arrangements

The Academies recognises the importance of identifying and taking action to prevent or remove behaviour or activity described in this policy. All staff and other individuals connected with the Academies play a vital role in reporting concerns relating to the behaviour described in this policy. Academy staff follow the Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy and report to the safeguarding team and ensure a written report is logged on MyConcern.

The Designated Safeguarding Leads act as the single point of contact for the school on matters relating to radicalisation and extremism and liaises as required with local Prevent and Channels leads. Staff and visitors to the school must refer all concerns about children and young people who show signs of vulnerability or radicalisation to the Designated Safeguarding Leads using the usual methods for reporting safeguarding concerns. All such referrals will be dealt with by the Designated Safeguarding Leads in line with the Academies Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy and procedures.

Monitoring and Review

This policy is to be reviewed annually or sooner, if necessary, in the light of specific events or relevant statutory changes.

Useful links:

Dorset Police help and advice on Prevent.

https://www.dorset.police.uk/advice/advice-and-information/t/prevent/prevent/? t id=tlKNww9ZzpPuLhLwslevow%3d%3d& t uuid=i1W9 rELQuGPH-FEreMORA& t q=extremism& t tags=language%3aen%2csiteid%3a9a7e26e6-9ba2-42bf-80ec-103507e5aec9%2candquerymatch& t hit.id=Cds_Soh_Web_Models_Pages_Standard/ f17bc86f-5c4c-4173-8a15-e15491c1cf84 en-GB& t hit.pos=2

Information on the signs of radicalisation.

[What are the signs of radicalisation? | ACT Early](#)

Information and advice for families and friends of potentially vulnerable individuals to radicalisation and extremism.

[ACT Early | Prevent radicalisation](#)

Resources to safeguarding young people can be found here:

[Educate Against Hate - Prevent Radicalisation & Extremism](#)

Government information on statutory duties in relation to Prevent.

[Revised Prevent duty guidance: for England and Wales - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

Government advice and trusted resources for schools.

[Educate Against Hate - Prevent Radicalisation & Extremism](#)

Date of this review	Spring 2025	Review period	1 Year
Date of next review	Spring 2026	Author	Designated Safeguarding Lead/s
Type of policy	Statutory	Approval M Dyer 2.4.2025	