



Prevent Policy

Protecting Children from Extremism and Radicalisation

2025/2026

Approved by: Karen Pickles
Designated Safeguarding Lead

Date: 1st September 2025

POLICY REVISION RECORD (annual reviews)

Date	Section	Revision	Name
19/06/19		Original policy	Karen Pickles
25/07/20		Edited and reviewed	Karen Pickles
20/07/21		Edited and reviewed	Karen Pickles
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01/09/25		Edited and reviewed	Karen Pickles

Legislation and Statutory Guidance

- Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 (section 26 duty to prevent radicalisation)
- Prevent duty guidance: for England and Wales (7 September 2023; updated 6 March 2024)
- Keeping Children Safe in Education (September 2024)
- Channel duty guidance (Home Office, 2023)

Full Prevent guidance is available at:

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

Introduction

Berkeley Guardians is committed to safeguarding children and young people in its care from the risks of extremist ideology, radicalisation and terrorism. Under section 26 of the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015, we must have “due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism.” The 2023 Prevent duty guidance expands on this duty, requiring all specified authorities—including education and guardianship agencies—to:

1. Tackle the ideological causes of terrorism.
2. Intervene early to support people susceptible to radicalisation.
3. Enable people who have engaged in terrorism to disengage and rehabilitate.

Aims and Principles

- Ensure staff, host families and parents understand the Prevent duty and their role in recognising and reporting risks.
- Promote fundamental British values: democracy, rule of law, individual liberty, mutual respect and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs.
- Protect freedom of speech, while challenging extremist narratives that incite violence or hatred.
- View radicalisation as a safeguarding concern, akin to exploitation, grooming or other forms of abuse.
- Safeguard against all forms of violent extremism, including Islamist, far-right, white supremacist, paramilitary or other ideologies.

Definitions

- Radicalisation – Process by which an individual adopts extremist views and may support or carry out terrorism.
- Extremism – Vocal or active opposition to fundamental British values, including calls for the death of armed forces personnel, or glorification of terrorist violence.

- Terrorism – The use of violence for political, religious or social objectives, intended to influence a wider audience beyond the immediate victims.

Roles and Responsibilities

- Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL): Overall responsibility for Prevent, policy maintenance, staff training and liaison with external agencies.
- Single Point of Contact (SPOC): First port of call for staff concerns about radicalisation; coordinates referrals to the Police Prevent Team and Channel. (Currently the DSL fulfills this role.)
- Staff & Host Families: Remain vigilant for children showing signs of radicalisation, challenge extremist narratives and report concerns without delay.
- Parents/Guardians: Support Prevent principles at home, discuss online content with their children and notify Berkeley Guardians of any worries.

Indicators of Vulnerability

Children may display vulnerability to radicalisation through:

- Sudden changes in behaviour, appearance or social circles
- Unexplained absences from activities or refusal to engage
- Expression of extremist views (online or offline)
- Use of inappropriate or hateful language towards groups or individuals
- Searching for or sharing propaganda online
- Increasing isolation or rejection of previous friends and family

No single indicator confirms radicalisation; staff should consider the whole child and context.

Further Indicators of vulnerability may include:

- **Identity Crisis** – the child is distanced from their cultural/religious heritage and experiences discomfort about their place in society
- **Personal Crisis** – the child may be experiencing family tensions; a sense of isolation; and low self-esteem; they may have dissociated from their existing friendship group and become involved with a new and different group of friends; they may be searching for answers to questions about identity, faith and belonging
- **Personal Circumstances** – migration; local community tensions; and events affecting the child's country or region of origin may contribute to a sense of grievance that is triggered by personal experience of racism or discrimination or aspects of Government policy
- **Unmet Aspirations** – the child may have perceptions of injustice; a feeling of failure; rejection of civic life;
- **Experiences of Criminality** – including involvement with criminal groups, imprisonment, and poor resettlement / reintegration;
- **Individual Needs** – child may experience difficulties with social interaction, empathy with others, understanding the consequences of their actions and awareness of the motivations of others.

- Accessing violent extremist websites, especially those with a social networking element;
- Possessing or accessing violent extremist literature;
- Using extremist narratives and a global ideology to explain personal disadvantage;
- Experiencing a high level of social isolation resulting in issues of identity crisis and / or personal crisis.
- Justifying the use of violence to solve societal issues
- Joining or seeking to join extremist organisations
- Significant changes to appearance and/or behaviour

Roles and Responsibilities of the Single Point of Contact (SPOC) and The SPOC for Berkeley Guardians is Karen Pickles who is responsible for:

- Ensuring that staff are aware who is the SPOC in relation to protecting children from radicalisation and involvement in terrorism
- Maintaining and applying a good understanding of the relevant guidance in relation to preventing children from becoming involved in terrorism, and protecting them from radicalisation by those who support terrorism or forms of extremism which lead to terrorism
- Raising awareness about the role and responsibilities of Berkeley Guardians in relation to protecting children from radicalisation and involvement in terrorism
- Raising awareness with all staff about the safeguarding processes relating to protecting children from radicalisation and involvement in terrorism
- Acting as the first point of contact for case discussions relating to children who may be at risk of radicalisation or involved in terrorism
- Collating relevant information in relation to referrals of vulnerable children into the Channel* process
- Attending Channel meetings, where necessary, to support assessment and intervention

****Channel is a multi-agency approach to provide support to individuals who are at risk of being drawn into terrorist related activity***

However, this list is not exhaustive, nor does it mean that all children experiencing the above are at risk of radicalisation for the purposes of violent extremism.

Referral and Reporting Procedures

1. Immediate Concern: Any member of staff or host who suspects a child is at risk of radicalisation must inform the SPOC/DSL without delay.
2. Internal Assessment: The SPOC/DSL conducts an initial risk assessment, logging all information on the safeguarding system.
3. External Referral:
 - Contact Avon & Somerset Police Prevent Team: • Office hours: 0117 945 5539 • Out of hours: 01454 615 165 • Email: channelsw@avonandsomerset.police.uk
 - If judged necessary, refer to Channel for multi-agency support.

4. Parental Involvement: Parents are informed unless doing so increases risk. The SPOC/DSL coordinates any joint safeguarding strategy.
5. Follow-up: Monitor the child's wellbeing, document all actions and liaise with schools, local authorities and Channel where relevant.

Risk Reduction and Education

- Embed Prevent themes in induction briefings and regular e-safety workshops.
- Teach children to critically evaluate online content, recognise extremist messaging and seek help if distressed.
- Use age-appropriate materials from the Home Office, UKCIS and CEOP.
- Foster open dialogue about religion, politics and identity, promoting resilience against polarising narratives.

Staff Training

- All staff and host families complete Prevent awareness training annually, covering:
 - Legal duties and definitions
 - Recognising indicators of radicalisation
 - Referral pathways (in-house and to statutory agencies)
- Training formats include e-learning modules, face-to-face workshops and bulletins on emerging threats

Links to Related Policies

- Safeguarding & Child Protection Policy
- Online Safety Policy
- Anti-Bullying Policy
- Pupil Code of Conduct

Channel aims to:

- Establish an effective multi-agency referral and intervention process to identify vulnerable individuals
- Safeguard individuals who might be vulnerable to being radicalised, so that they are not at risk of being drawn into terrorist-related activity
- Provide early intervention to protect and divert people away from the risks they face and reduce vulnerability

Review

This policy is reviewed annually or sooner if government guidance changes.

Next scheduled review: September 2026.