



## **Our Lady's Preparatory School and Day Nursery**

### **Prevent Duty Policy 4.4**

#### **Background to the Policy on the "Prevent Duty"**

Our Lady's Preparatory School is subject to a duty under section 26 of the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015, in the exercise of our functions as a school and nursery, to have "due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism". This duty is known as the Prevent duty.

**With this duty in mind, the school has developed this separate Prevent Duty Policy, which forms part of the Child Protection (Safeguarding) suite of policies and should be read in conjunction with them.**

Due regard has been paid to the Department for Education's (DfE) guidance "The Prevent Duty: departmental advice for schools and childcare providers" published in June 2015.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/protecting-children-from-radicalisation-the-prevent-duty>

**There is a Prevent Duty helpline available - 0207 340 7264 or Police Non-Emergency Number 101**

For the purposes of this policy, "radicalisation" is defined as the process by which a person comes to support terrorism and forms of extremism leading to terrorism. During that process, it is possible to intervene to prevent vulnerable people being drawn into terrorist-related activity.

***This policy must be read and operated in conjunction with the Child Protection (Safeguarding) Policy and forms part of the overall suite of such policies.***

### **Prevent duty Policy – Aims and Objectives**

The school and nursery aim to offer children a broad and balanced curriculum that promotes their spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development, and prepares them for future life. As part of this, Our Lady's teaches and promotes the importance of fundamental British values and imbue them with positive character traits such as resilience, determination, self-esteem and confidence.

The school's Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE) curriculum also seeks to equip children with the knowledge and skills to understand and manage difficult situations. The subject can be used to teach children to recognise and manage risk, make safer choices, and recognise when pressure from others may threaten their personal safety and wellbeing.

The curriculum is closely supported by the school's wider safeguarding policies, which include protecting children from certain harms, such as drugs, gangs, neglect and/or sexual exploitation, as the school strives to create an environment that promotes the welfare of children in our care.

The risk of radicalisation as addressed by this policy should be viewed in a similar way to these harms, as the school plays its part in protecting children from such harms and related influences, whether these come from within their family or are the product of outside parties.

Any person(s) visiting the school, in order to give a speech or a presentation, must be considered carefully so that they and their subject matter are appropriate, with the Prevent Duty in mind (but also other Safeguarding Policies) and such visitors must be carefully supervised while on the premises.

### **The Prevent duty risk assessment**

Schools and childcare providers are expected to assess the risk of children being drawn into terrorism, including support for extremist ideas that form part of terrorist ideology.

Staff are expected to be aware of the general risks affecting children in the geographic area, as well as having an understanding of how to identify individual children who may be at risk of radicalisation and what to do to support them.

Staff should use their professional judgement and consider the following with regards to identifying an individual who is likely to be susceptible to a terrorist or extremist ideology or who may need help or protection:

- Marked changes in the child's behaviour;
- Making any comments that are extreme in nature or contrary to fundamental British values and principles;
- Making any references to extremist or similar material that they may have been shown by a family member or third party or may have seen on social media or the broader internet;
- Indicating signs of undue influence from a family member or outside party e.g. "well, [person] said this" when such views are considered extreme or may appear as such

It is important to note that the above list is not exhaustive, as there is no single way of identifying a child who is likely to be susceptible to a terrorist ideology.

As with managing other safeguarding risks, staff are advised to always be alert to changes in children's behaviour which could indicate that they may be in need of help or protection. Children at risk of radicalisation may display different signs or seek to hide their views. Even very young children may be vulnerable to radicalisation by others, whether in the family or outside, and display concerning behaviour, as the process of radicalisation can be deliberately orchestrated and lengthy.

Given this, staff should use their professional judgement in identifying children who might be at risk of radicalisation and act proportionately. The school's view is that the Prevent duty is a central part of those policies safeguarding against risks to children. The school will not unnecessarily intrude into family life but has a moral and statutory duty to act if it observes concerning behaviour.

### **Support process where a member of staff is concerned about a particular child**

If a member of staff at Our Lady's has a concern about a particular child, they should follow the school's normal safeguarding procedures, including discussing with the school's designated safeguarding lead (the Designated Senior Person for this purpose being the Headteacher), and where applicable and deemed necessary, with children's social care. These are set out in detail in the Child Protection (Safeguarding) policy.

Based on the discussions held within the school, it may be appropriate to initially adopt a "watching brief" for a short period of time with regards to the child, to assess whether any

behaviour was an isolated incident that was “out of character” or not understood by the child, or whether such behaviour is actually a developing trend that becomes increasingly concerning.

Furthermore, when the school has concerns around a child or children, all staff and anyone that deals with that child within the context of the school should be aware that they are a “child in need” and such concerns have been raised.

In either case, the school will consult with the Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) as part of its normal partnership on child protection and safeguarding measures. The LSCB are well positioned to advise the school on which next steps should be taken and where further support can be accessed.

At its discretion, the school may also consult with the local police force for guidance and support as appropriate.

In addition, the Department for Education has dedicated a telephone helpline (020 7340 7264) to enable staff to raise concerns relating to extremism directly. Concerns can also be raised by email to [counter.extremism@education.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:counter.extremism@education.gsi.gov.uk).

### **Consultation with Parents**

The school recognises that effective engagement with parents / the family is also important with this policy, as they are in a key position to spot signs of radicalisation. It is important that the school is able to assist and advise families who raise concerns and be able to point them to the right support mechanisms.

However, the school also recognises that there may be specific cases where there are concerns that immediate family members could be suspected of being an undue influence in terms of the risk of radicalisation.

With this sensitivity in mind, consultation with parents of any particular child will take this into consideration and external support will be sought in advance where appropriate.

### **The Channel Program**

As part of the process outlined above, staff should understand when it is appropriate to make a referral to the Channel programme.

Channel is an initiative that focuses on providing support at an early stage to people who are identified as being vulnerable to being drawn into terrorism. It provides a mechanism

for schools to make referrals if they are concerned that an individual might be vulnerable to radicalisation. An individual's engagement with the programme is entirely voluntary at all stages.

The programme uses a multi-agency approach to protect vulnerable people by:

- identifying individuals at risk
- assessing the nature and extent of that risk
- developing the most appropriate support plan for the individuals concerned

An online general awareness training module on Channel is available. The module is suitable for school staff, as it provides an introduction to the topics covered by this policy, including how to identify factors that can make people vulnerable to radicalisation, and case studies illustrating the types of intervention that may be appropriate, in addition to Channel.

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

### **Staff training**

The statutory guidance refers to the importance of Prevent awareness training to equip staff to identify children at risk of being drawn into terrorism and to challenge extremist ideas. Senior Management Team members at Our Lady's will undertake awareness training to this end.

The Home Office has developed a core training product – Workshop to Raise Awareness of Prevent (WRAP). There are a number of professionals – particularly in safeguarding roles - working within Local Authorities, the Police, Health and Higher and Further Education who are accredited WRAP trained facilitators. The Home Office is seeking to build capacity within the system to deliver training and Our Lady's will seek to have staff attend such training in the coming months.

## **Our Lady's IT Policies**

Our Lady's works extremely hard to ensure that children are safe from inappropriate material when accessing the internet on-site and suitable filtering is in place. This covers all manner of such material, including those related to extremism or terrorism.

This is also part of the school's ongoing "e-safety" initiative, which seeks to ensure children are able to stay safe online, both in school and outside (e.g the "Safer Internet" presentations given to parents at the school).

This approach is integral to the school's Information and Communication Technology (ICT) curriculum.

As with other online risks of harm, staff are aware of the risks posed by the online activity of extremist and terrorist groups.

### **Procedures for circumstances when Staff may be gravely concerned about a Child / Pupil or a Member of Staff / Parent or Carer (in accordance with the most recent Home Office guidance)**

If members of staff have any concerns about a child or young person in their care at Our Lady's, with particular regard to the Prevent Duty, then this should be raised with the Management Team using the procedures set out in this policy.

Furthermore, there may also be occasions when staff are concerned about a parent / carer or another member of staff with regards to the Prevent Duty.

In both scenarios, the main requirement is that you do something and treat the situation as you would any safeguarding concern.

#### **Reporting concerns about a child**

Once the Management Team has discussed the matter and collectively believe a child may be in immediate danger, a senior staff member will call the Police on 999.

Other contact details for less pressing concerns and to obtain advice:

Wokingham Council Referral and assessment team: Telephone: 0118 908 8002.

Email: [triage@wokingham.gcsx.gov.uk](mailto:triage@wokingham.gcsx.gov.uk)

Emergency duty team: Out of Office Hours Telephone: 01344 786 543

Thames Valley Police – Non-emergency cases telephone 101

Prevent Duty Helpline - 0207 340 7264

### Reporting concerns about an adult

Such concerns can be reported to Wokingham Council by using their online form facility at [www.wokingham.gov.uk/careandsupportforadults](http://www.wokingham.gov.uk/careandsupportforadults)

Email: [ASCMailboxDutyAdultSafeguarding@wokingham.gov.uk](mailto:ASCMailboxDutyAdultSafeguarding@wokingham.gov.uk)

Telephone: 0118 974 6772 and speak to someone about your concerns

Out of Office Hours Telephone: 01344 786543

Police Email Contact: [preventreferrals@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk](mailto:preventreferrals@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk)

### **Monitoring & review**

The School will review this Policy every year and any guidance or advice published by the DfE, ISI and/ or any other relevant bodies will be monitored on an ongoing basis, in the event that ad-hoc amendments or revisions are appropriate outside of this timeframe.

**Reviewed: March 2018**

**Signed:**



**Helene Robinson**

**Headteacher**

**To be reviewed: 12 months from "Reviewed" date**