
POLICY/PROCEDURE: PREVENT POLICY 2022 (SUBSECTION OF SAFEGUARDING POLICY)

Approval required by:	Exec	Y	Governing Body	Y
Executive Lead:	Vice Principal Students			
Responsible Manager:	Safeguarding Manager			
Date approved:	November 2023			
Date to be reviewed:	November 2024			

Relevant to:	Students	Y	Staff	Y
	Visitors	Y	ITS	Y
Relevant to:	All students	Y		
	16-18 Vocational	Y	Sixth Form	Y
	Higher Education	Y	Adults	Y
	Apprenticeships	Y	14-16	Y
	Other	Y	External Speakers	
Relevant to:	All staff	Y		
	Board	Y	SPH	Y
	Managers	Y		
	Teaching staff	Y	Support staff	Y

Accessible to	Students	Y	Staff	Y
Friendly version	Students	N	Staff	N

EQIA required	N
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Significant changes to policy

None

Impact of changes

SCOPE AND PURPOSE

To explain how Barnsley College or ITS (“the College”) will meet its obligations under the Prevent Duty. Barnsley College provides further and higher education provision. The policy applies to all staff, supply/agency staff, governors, volunteers, sub-contractors, contractors, work placement providers, employers, partners, visitors, external hire clients and commercial lettings clients.

This Policy is designed to set out the College’s position and approach with regard to the Prevent duty, and aligns the College’s aims in respect of the key strategic objectives of the Prevent strategy with those of the Government as set out in the Statutory Guidance – Prevent Duty

Guidance: Guidance for Specified Authorities in England and Wales (2023).

INTRODUCTION

Barnsley College, referred to as 'the College' hereafter, has safeguarding statutory duties and responsibilities in relation to the Prevent Duty as set out below.

This policy should be read in conjunction with the Safeguarding Policy and Safeguarding Information Pack which contains further detailed guidance and advice. Inherent in this policy and the Safeguarding Information Pack, when reference is made to prevent related safeguarding concerns, it encompasses online as well as face to face, extra-familial and wider contextual safeguarding risks outside of the home.

All prevent related safeguarding concerns should be referred into the College's Central Safeguarding Team in accordance with the Safeguarding Policy.

This policy is also linked to External Speaker Policy and Freedom of Speech Policy.

BACKGROUND

Section 26 of the *Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015* (the Act) places a duty on certain bodies ("specified authorities" listed in schedule 6 to the Act), in the exercise of their functions, to have "*due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism*". It is the responsibility of all educational establishments, including the College, to have regard to this 'Prevent Duty' which forms a part of their wider safeguarding duties and responsibilities.

Preventing the radicalisation of students is part of a Government initiative to develop a robust counter terrorism programme. As such, Prevent is one of the four strands of the Government's counter terrorism programme – CONTEST. The Prevent Strategy has three specific strategic objectives:

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

The overall aim is to safeguard children, young people and adults from the threat faced by those who pose extremist or radicalised views. Prevent seeks to safeguard individuals through early intervention to stop extremists seeking to radicalise individuals and supporting individuals at risk of extremist influences. Individuals need to be protected from messages of all violent extremism as well as non-violent extremism where it can create an atmosphere conducive to terrorism and popularise views that terrorists can exploit. Individuals and communities need to be supported and encouraged to challenge extremist and terrorist ideology and behaviour.

The UK currently faces a range of terrorist threats. All the terrorist groups who pose a threat, seek to radicalise and recruit people to their cause. Therefore early intervention is at the heart of Prevent which aims to divert people away from being drawn into terrorist activity.

A system of threat level has been created which represents the likelihood of an attack in the near future. The threat level is constantly reviewed nationally. The five levels are:

- Critical - an attack is highly likely in the near future.

- Severe – an attack is highly likely.
- Substantial – an attack is likely.
- Moderate – an attack is possible but not likely.
- Low – an attack is highly unlikely.

The College's Designated Safeguarding Lead, who is also the Prevent Lead, monitors changes in the threat level and will review further action and/or communications across College in response to a change in threat level, as appropriate.

Establishments must adopt a risk-based approach to Prevent, demonstrating an awareness and understanding of the risk of radicalisation in their area, institution and sector. Local Authority areas are categorised by the Home Office on the basis of risk as either a Prevent Priority or Non-Priority area respectively. Barnsley is not a Prevent priority area. There is, however, the recognition that some students who attend College live in Prevent priority areas. We also acknowledge that no area is completely risk free.

Channel is a key element of the Prevent strategy and is a multi-agency approach to protect people at risk from radicalisation. Channel uses existing collaboration between local partners, including education to assess risk and develop the most appropriate support plan for the individuals concerned. With the consent of the individual, College can refer any student at risk of radicalisation into the Channel Panel for support.

PREVENT POLICY STATEMENT

This Policy is designed to set out the College's position and approach with regard to the PREVENT duty, and aligns the College's aims in respect of the key strategic objectives of the Prevent strategy as set out above.

The aim of the Prevent Policy is to create and maintain a safe, healthy and supportive learning and working environment for our students, staff, governors and visitors alike. We recognise that extremism and exposure to extremist materials and influences can lead to poor outcomes for students. We further recognise that if we fail to challenge extremist views we are failing to protect our students from potential harm. As such the Prevent Duty will be addressed as a safeguarding concern.

We recognise that any student (Young Person or Adult) susceptible to radicalisation and/or demonstrating extremist tendencies (violent or non-violent) is deemed to be vulnerable and appropriate support under the Prevent strategy or through Channel will be sought.

We recognise we have a part to play in fostering shared values and promoting cohesion. Our focus will be on the risks of violent extremism, which represents the greatest threat at national level, while recognising that other forms of violence and extremism can and do manifest themselves within colleges and the area/locality where we are based and serve.

Colleges are required to assess the risk of students being drawn into terrorism, including support for extremist ideas that are part of terrorist ideology. To this end, College has adopted a risk based approach to fulfilling the Prevent Duty and has a Prevent Risk Assessment and Action Plan, which is a living document, kept under regular review.

This policy has six key objectives:

1. To promote and reinforce shared values; to create space for free and open debate; and to listen and support the learner voice.
2. To break down segregation among different student communities including by supporting inter-faith and inter-cultural dialogue and understanding, and to engage all students in playing a full and active role in wider engagement in society
3. To ensure student safety and that the College is free from bullying, harassment and discrimination
4. To provide support for students who may be at risk and ensure appropriate sources of advice and guidance
5. To ensure that students and staff are aware of their roles and responsibilities in preventing violent extremism.
6. To correctly refer and record any issues concerning staff and students (including referral through the Channel process)

In order to achieve these objectives, and encompassing the three themes in the statutory guidance (Leadership and Partnership, Capabilities and Reducing Permissive Environments), the policy will concentrate on the following areas:

Leadership and Partnership

The College has a Designated Safeguarding Lead who is also the Prevent Lead and has strategic oversight in ensuring this policy is implemented and adhered to.

We will provide an ethos which upholds core values of shared responsibility and wellbeing for all students, staff and visitors and promotes respect, equality and diversity and understanding. This will be achieved through:

- Promoting British Values alongside our core values of respect, equality and diversity, democratic society, learner voice and participation.
- Building staff and student understanding of the issues and confidence to deal with them.
- Deepening engagement with local communities.
- Actively working with local schools, local authorities, police and other agencies.
- To be represented on relevant multi-agency forums including the Local Authority Silver Prevent group and Barnsley Channel Panel.
- To maintain regular contact with our Regional Prevent Coordinator to ensure that we continue to comply with the duty and update staff accordingly.
- To monitor the national threat level and respond appropriately to an increase in threat level.
- To provide regular training and workshops to raise awareness of Prevent.
- To provide adequate filtering and monitoring to detect any issues or communications linked to the Prevent duty
- To have a lead Governor responsible for the Prevent duty.

Capabilities

- Providing training to ensure staff understand the risk of radicalisation, why some people may be susceptible to extremist ideologies used to encourage people to participate in or

support terrorism, know the signs of radicalisation and know how to respond to safeguard students who are susceptible to radicalisation into terrorism.

- Have in place a Prevent Risk Assessment and Action Plan which identifies the threats and risks and, Colleges response in managing these risks.
- When the threshold is met, make Prevent referrals using the national referral form.
- Share information to ensure that a person at risk of radicalisation is given appropriate support, in line with prevent statutory guidance and complying with data protection legislation.

Reducing Permissive Environments

- Using internal policies, practice and procedures proportionately and lawfully, to limit the potential harm and influence of radicalisers as well as extremist narratives and content linked to terrorism.
- Effective IT filtering and monitoring systems to reduce the risk of online harms linked to radicalisation.
- Having an External Speaker Policy and Freedom of Speech Policy in place.
- Ensuring College is not inadvertently providing a platform for a criminal offence to be committed or facilitating this activity through the provision of endorsement, funding or other forms of support, including via third party such as an external speaker, commercial lettings clients, external hire clients, employers, work placement providers, contractors and sub-contractors.
- Ensuring robust due diligence processes are in place with contractors, sub-contractors, commercial lettings clients, external hire clients, employers and work placement providers.
- Have regard to the need to ensure freedom of speech and academic freedom, within the parameters of relevant legislation and statutory guidance.
- Challenging extremist narratives, ideas and behaviours appropriately, including broadly harmful ideas such as antisemitism and misogyny, or the concept of blasphemy to justify or condone violence.
- Supporting staff and students to actively promote fundamental British Values.
- Building resilience of students to keep themselves safe from the risks around radicalisation, including online.

Staff

- Identify students who may be susceptible to radicalisation, and know what to do when they are identified.
- Report prevent related safeguarding concerns in accordance with the College's Safeguarding Policy.
- Challenge any prejudice, discrimination or extremist views, including derogatory language, displayed by students or staff, including via any online activity. This should be dealt with in line with our Behaviour Support Policy for students and, where appropriate, the Disciplinary Procedure for staff.
- Exemplify British Values in their practice.

Teaching and Learning

To provide a curriculum which promotes knowledge, skills and understanding to build the resilience of students, by undermining extremist ideology, supporting the learner voice and promoting British Values.

This will be achieved through embedding in teaching and learning and tutorials.

Online

The internet is a growing platform which terrorists exploit to radicalise, groom and recruit vulnerable individuals and to incite and enable terrorist attacks. In response to this, College established an IT filtering system that flags up potential on-line activity in the College relating to extremism and/or terrorism. There is a daily report. Any concerns are raised with the central Safeguarding Team and the curriculum department, who investigate further with a proportionate response. The filters are regularly reviewed and updated, based on information shared around risk through our attendance on the Local Authority Silver Prevent Group and contact with our Regional DfE Prevent Coordinator.

Where a blended approach to learning takes place, College has also built in the capacity and capability to monitor and check that Microsoft Teams - the online learning and communication platform - is not being used or targeted as a platform to promote extremist views and radicalise students. Adopting appropriate filtering and monitoring systems for online activity is part of the college's statutory duty.

Student Support

To ensure that staff are confident to take preventative and responsive steps working with partners, professionals, families and communities. This will be achieved through:

- Establishing strong and effective student support services.
- Listening to what is happening in the College and the community.
- Implementing anti-bullying strategies and challenging discriminatory behaviour.
- Helping students and staff know how to access support in College and/or through community partners.
- Supporting at risk students through safeguarding and crime prevention processes.
- Focussing on narrowing the attainment gap for all students.
- Undertaking additional welfare checks and pastoral support for students, especially vulnerable students, in the consequence of a further lockdown.

Staff Training

The College will deliver comprehensive training, targeting staff at every level of the organisation. The focus of training will be to all College staff to ensure that:

- They are able to spot the signs of potential radicalisation through Prevent training.
- They can appropriately challenge any extremist views expressed by students or other staff.

- They are clear on what to do should they fear that a student is becoming radicalised and refer through the standard safeguarding referral process (See Safeguarding policy and / or Safeguarding information pack).
- They know what further action will occur once a referral has taken place as identified in the Prevent and Channel training.

Prayer and Faith Facilities

The college has a clear procedure on the use of the reflection/prayer room “Haven” and its usage is monitored. The policy covers mechanisms for managing issues arising from use of the facilities and is clear about when the facilities are accessible.

Managing Risks and Responding to Events

To ensure that the College monitors risks and is ready to deal appropriately with issues which arise. It will do this through:

- Understanding the nature of the threat from violent extremism and how this may impact directly or indirectly on the College.
- Understanding and managing potential risks within the College and from external influences.
- Responding appropriately to events in local, national or international news that may impact on students and communities.
- Ensuring measures are in place to minimise the potential for acts of violent extremist within the College.
- Ensure that the College, where appropriate, utilises Channel as a support mechanism in cases of radicalisation and extremism.
- Safeguarding will work in partnership with Local Authority and police regarding referral to Channel identifying a recognised pathway and threshold for referral.
- Ensuring plans are in place to respond appropriately to a threat or incident within the College.
- Developing effective ICT security and responsible user policies.
- Having a clear and visible policy for managing whistle blowing and complaints.
- Contracted and sub-contracted provision is robustly vetted to ensure that the College does not inadvertently fund extremist organisations.
- All relevant policies make reference to the Colleges duties under the Prevent agenda.
- Have a clear policy covering events held by staff, students, visitors and community groups. This will include a commitment to:
 - Allow for sufficient notice so checks can be made on individuals and cancellation can take place if necessary.
 - Insist on advance notice of the content of events, including an outline of the topics to be discussed and have sight of any presentations, clips or footage to be used.
 - Having in place a system for assessing and rating risks associated with any planned events, including providing evidence to suggest whether an event should proceed, be cancelled or whether mitigating action is required.

- Having a mechanism in place for managing incidents or instances where off site events of concern are promoted in college.

Please see the college's External Speakers Policy for more information.

Reporting a Concern

All prevent related safeguarding concerns should be referred into the College's Central Safeguarding Team in accordance with the Safeguarding Policy.

EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY

An EqIA is not required for this policy.

LINKED POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

- Acceptable Use of Internet Policy.
- Behaviour Support and Disciplinary Policy.
- Complaints Policy and Procedure.
- Data Protection Policy.
- Email Policy.
- External Speaker Policy
- Freedom of Speech Policy.
- Social Media Policy.
- Health and Safety Policy.
- Subcontracting Policy.
- Whistleblowing Policy.

LOCATION AND ACCESS TO THIS POLICY

This policy is available on the college intranet.

APPENDIX A

SUMMARY OF RELEVANT DEFINITIONS

Radicalisation

Radicalisation can be both violent and non-violent. Radicalisation is a process by which an individual or group comes to adopt increasingly extreme political, social or religious ideals and aspirations that reject or undermine contemporary ideas and expressions of freedom of choice.

Extremism

Extremism can be defined as vocal or active opposition to fundamental British values, including democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs. Also included in this definition of extremism is the call for the death of members of our armed forces, whether in this country or overseas.

Terrorism

Terrorism is defined as the use or threat of action designed to:

- influence the government or an international governmental organisation; or
- intimidate the public, or a section of the public;

and made for the purposes of advancing a political, religious, racial or ideological cause; and it involves or causes:

- serious violence against a person;
- serious damage to a property;
- a threat to a person's life;
- a serious risk to the health and safety of the public; or
- serious interference with or disruption to an electronic system.

British Values

Fundamental British Values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs.

CHANNEL

CHANNEL is a key element of the government's Prevent strategy and is a multi-agency approach to protect people at risk from radicalisation. Channel uses existing collaboration between local authorities, statutory partners (such as the education and health sectors, social services, children's and youth services and offender management services), the police and the local community to:

- identify individuals at risk of being drawn into terrorism;
- assess the nature and extent of that risk; and
- develop the most appropriate support plan for the individuals concerned.

Channel aims to safeguard children and adults from being drawn into committing terrorist-related activity. It is about early intervention to protect and divert people away from the risk they face before illegality occurs.