



PREVENT DUTY SEPTEMBER 2023

Legal Background

The Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 places a legal responsibility on schools to prevent people being drawn into terrorism and requires that they challenge extremist ideas. From 1 July 2015 specified authorities, including all schools, are subject to a duty under [Section 26 Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015](#) ("the CTSA 2015"), in the exercise of their functions, to have "due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism". This duty is known as the Prevent Duty. The Prevent Duty should be enshrined within all relevant policies, as each is reviewed.

The school staff responsible for the Prevent Duty is the Head Teacher, who is the Prevent Officer.

Aims: Preventing Radicalisation

Protecting children from the risk of radicalisation should be seen as part of schools' wider safeguarding duties, and is similar in nature to protecting children from other forms of harm and abuse. During the process of radicalisation it is possible to intervene to prevent vulnerable people being radicalised. Radicalisation refers to the process by which a person comes to support terrorism and forms of extremism. There is no single way of identifying an individual who is likely to be susceptible to an extremist ideology. It can happen in many different ways and settings. Specific background factors may contribute to vulnerability which are often combined with specific influences such as family, friends or online, and with specific needs for which an extremist or terrorist group may appear to provide an answer. The Internet and the use of social media in particular has become a major factor in the radicalisation of young people. As with managing other safeguarding risks, staff should be alert to changes in children's behaviour, which could indicate that they may be in need of help or protection. School staff should use their professional judgment in identifying children who might be at risk of radicalisation and act proportionately, which may include making a referral to the Channel programme (see below).

PREVENTING RADICALISATION IN SCHOOL

LPEBL is fully committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all its pupils. As part of our commitment to safeguarding and child protection we fully support the government's *Prevent Strategy*. As a school, we recognise that safeguarding against radicalisation is as important as safeguarding against any other vulnerability.

All staff are expected to uphold and promote the fundamental principles of British values, including democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect, and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs. We believe that children should be given the opportunity

to explore diversity and understand Britain as a multi-cultural society; everyone should be treated with respect whatever their race, gender, sexuality, religious belief, special need, or disability.

At La Petite Ecole Bilingue we take the Prevent Duty seriously and carry out the four main actions responsibly, these are:

- **RISK ASSESSMENT:** assess the potential risk within the school of radicalisation (this action forms part of our child protection policy)
- **WORKING in PARTNERSHIP** with the local community and local education authority. Being aware of the latest requirements and having a clear line of communication with the local authority Prevent lead.
- **PROVIDING APPROPRIATE STAFF TRAINING.** All staff receive annual safeguarding training and all new staff including volunteers receive a thorough induction process as part of the process of being informed and alert.
- **POLICIES:** all our statutory policies are reviewed and available to read from the school website or on request.

WHAT WE DO IF THERE IS A CONCERN

La petite Ecole Bilingue -Prevent officer: Natasha Stewart-Henderson

If we have a concern about a particular pupil/family, we will follow the school's normal safeguarding procedures, including discussing with the school's designated safeguarding officer (s), the school's prevent officer and where deemed necessary, with children's social care.

Things to watch out for in a pupil:

It is important to remember that the vast majority of children, of whatever background, will not get involved in extremist action and in many cases suspicious behaviour may be a result of other problems e.g. mental health issues. It is important not to jump to conclusions (not least because accusations of radicalisation could push vulnerable young people into the hands of radicals). However, as general good pastoral care, staff should immediately take note and act upon any of the following:

- Discomfort about 'fitting in' (beyond normal range for children)
- Appearing distanced from their own culture or heritage.
- Family tensions
- Isolation
- Low self-esteem or feelings of failure

- Lacking in empathy/poor social interaction
- Significant change in appearance and/or behaviour
- Hostile or inappropriate questions about faith and identity
- Sudden interest in religion
- Unhappiness following a move from one country to another
- Rejection of civic or community life
- Overly developed sense of grievance triggered by perceptions of racism or discrimination
- Involvement with criminal groups and/or imprisonment
- Failure to understand the actions and motivations of others.
- Accessing of violent or extremist websites or possessing violent or extremist literature
- Contact with known extremists
- Justifying the use of violence to solve society's ills
- Joining an extremist organisation
- If your knowledge of the family leads you to believe there is a risk

It should also be remembered that outside events, such as tensions in the local community, events in the country of origin, in the case of migrants, or major world events (such as the war IN Syria) can also disproportionately affect the feelings and actions of young people. All staff should be alert to these events and be ready to help young people understand them, and put them into context.

Monitoring the Use of Online Technology

Use of technology has become a significant component of many safeguarding issues. Child sexual exploitation; radicalisation; and sexual predation. Technology often provides the platform that facilitates harm. An effective approach to online safety empowers a school or college to protect and educate the whole school or college community in their use of technology and establishes mechanisms to identify, intervene and escalate any incident where appropriate.

The breadth of issues classified within online safety is considerable, but can be categorised into three areas of risk:

- Content: being exposed to illegal, inappropriate or harmful material
- Contact: being subjected to harmful online interaction with other users
- Conduct: personal online behaviour that increases the likelihood of, or causes, harm

The DSL shall ensure that as part of the requirement for staff to undergo regularly updated safeguarding training and the requirement to ensure children are taught about safeguarding,

including online, that online safety training for staff is integrated, aligned and considered as part of the overarching safeguarding approach.

It is essential that children are safeguarded from potentially harmful and inappropriate online material. As such proprietors and head teachers should ensure appropriate filters and appropriate monitoring systems are in place. LPEBL has a screen free policy and children do not have access to devices. The school computers are to be used by staff only and are locked with a password so that children cannot have access to them.

Channel

Channel is a programme which provides support for those who are vulnerable and may be being drawn towards terrorism. Schools may refer individuals to the Channel panel, however as the programme is voluntary the student may decline. There is an online training module available for school staff. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/channel-guidance>