

“Prevent” Policy and Procedures

Policy statement

English in Chester understands its responsibilities under the Counter Terrorism & Security Act 2015 to prevent people of all ages and backgrounds being radicalised, drawn into terrorism or holding extremist or violently intolerant beliefs of any kind. These may include extreme supremacist, racist, homophobic and religious beliefs. The school seeks to meet its obligations in the ways shown below, after setting the context.

Context

- English in Chester accepts students aged 14 to 85 from around the world
- In its busiest weeks it may have 250 students, 45 staff and work with up to 200 homestay providers. The school has always promoted a multi-cultural environment where respect for and tolerance of others beliefs is required
- English in Chester is located in the small city of Chester with a predominantly White British local population.

Leadership

- Responsibility for ensuring Prevent Duty is met lies with the Principal.
- Responsibility for the Prevent risk assessment / action plan (see point 4 below) and policy lies with the DSL, who is also the Principal, and the DSL. Their duties are to ensure delivery of an effective risk assessment/ action plan and policy as outlined here.
- A risk assessment / action plan has been produced showing what is already being done and what still needs to be done; it will be reviewed and updated at least annually.

Working with local partners

- The school will make and maintain contact with the local police/ local authority Prevent coordinator to understand their role and the support available, (e.g. via the Channel process).
- The school will also investigate and share information as appropriate with other relevant local agencies and organisations, such as churches and the local mosque.

Understanding terminology

- **Radicalisation:** act or process of making a person more radical or favouring of extreme or fundamental changes in political, economic or social conditions, institutions or habits of mind
- **Extremism*:** holding extreme political or religious views which may deny rights to any group or individual. This can be expressed in vocal or active opposition to core British values: including democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and respectful tolerance of different faiths or beliefs.
- ***NB: extremism can refer to a range of views, e.g. racism, homophobia, right-wing ideology, as well as any religious extremism.**

Understanding risk of extremism

- Staff, students and other adults (group leaders, homestays etc.) may arrive at school already holding extremist views.
- Or, whilst attending the school they may be influenced by a range of factors: global events, peer pressure, media, family views, extremist materials (hardcopy or online), inspirational speakers, friends or relatives being harmed, social networks, and more.
- People who are vulnerable are more likely to be influenced. Their vulnerability could stem from a range of causes, including: loss of identity or sense of belonging, isolation, exclusion, mental health problems, a sense of injustice, personal crisis, victim of hate crime or discrimination, and bereavement.

Ways to counteract risks

- Promote a safe and supportive international environment via clear expectations of accepted behaviours and those, including radicalisation and extremism, that will not be tolerated. These are set out in more detail in the school's Equality, Relationship, Harassment and Abuse Policies and Procedures.
- Promote core British values allowing free discussion in class, notices around the school and via classes on British Life where appropriate. This may also include visiting speakers in the Meet the British slot in the school's social offer. The approach is to educate how things are in UK; although they may be different to the student's home country.
- Where feasible, develop critical awareness and thought to counter accepting extremism without question, especially of online material.
- Challenge radical or extremist views in any context (formal or informal). In most situations this would require an immediate response, referring to the international environment of the school, and the tolerance expected. These are set out in the school's Equality, Relationship, Harassment and Abuse Policies and Procedures document. Any concerns should be reported to the Principal.
- Be ready to react when world or local events cause upset and the likelihood of conflicting feelings being expressed. Where appropriate the Principal will take the initiative in these situations. The school already has strong filters on IT equipment and clear rules on accessing extremist/ terrorist websites/ uses of social networks to exchange extremist/ terrorist views
- The school will ensure that extremist visiting speakers do not use the premises to distribute material or expound views. If it suspected that students or staff in the school are using school premises to expound extremist and unacceptable views or information, this should be reported immediately to the Principal for further action.
- Staff and homestays get to know students, their home circumstances and friendship groups, making it easier to spot changes in behaviour. Staff and homestays need to be observant and vigilant in noticing any signs of radical or extremist behaviour.
- All staff and homestays to work hard supporting any students identified as vulnerable, particularly those under 18. The Principal will ensure that training is available as appropriate for all staff, students and homestays (see Training below)

Training

- The school will provide documents and face-to-face training ensure staff understand this policy:
 - a) context and expectations of Prevent
 - b) their duty to implement the policy
 - c) terminology and risks associated with radicalisation and extremism
 - d) how to identify and support vulnerable students
 - e) ways the school will counteract the risks
 - f) signs to notice that may cause concern
 - g) know the lead Prevent person and procedures for communicating concerns
 - h) know the importance of their own behaviour and professionalism in

- i) being exemplars of British values, and
- ii) not discussing inflammatory subjects with students

Training materials are adapted to ensure that homestay hosts understand the sections of the policy they need to be aware of.

- Students and group leaders must be made aware of key parts of the policy:
 - a) understanding terminology
 - b) importance of maintaining a supportive and tolerant society in the school
 - c) what core British values are and why they are considered important
 - d) any changes to rules, particularly those regarding IT
 - e) that they must report concerns/ incidents and understand the procedure to do so

Signs that may cause concern

- Students talking about exposure to extremist materials or views outside the school (in this event, information must be shared with relevant local authorities)
- Changes in behaviour, e.g. becoming isolated
- Fall in standard of work, poor attendance, disengagement
- Changes in attitude, e.g. intolerant of differences/ having closed mind
- Asking questions about certain topics (e.g. connected to extremism)
- Offering opinions that appear to have come from extremist ideologies
- Attempts to impose own views/ beliefs on others
- Use of extremist vocabulary to exclude others or incite violence
- Accessing extremist material online or via social network sites
- Overt new religious practices
- Drawings or posters (e.g. in accommodation) showing extremist ideology/ views/ symbols
- Students voicing concerns about anyone
- NB: Any concerns relating to a person under 18 are safeguarding issues and should be dealt with by safeguarding staff (if different from Prevent staff) and, where necessary, the LSCB contacted

How and when to react to concerns

The person to contact with a concern is Nigel the Principal, or, in his absence, any member of SMT or Mandy, the Student Services officer. Confidentiality is assured for any person reporting a concern. If you are concerned, you should report your concern so it can be evaluated. It will be dealt with sensitively and carefully.

Our local contact person in the police is:

Sian Roberts
Channel/Prevent Support
The Counter Terrorism Unit
Cheshire Constabulary
Tel: 01606 362147
E-mail: sian.roberts@cheshire.pnn.police.uk

Any specific concerns about individuals at risk can be reported on the following email address:
prevent@cheshire.pnn.police.uk.

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