

WEST TOWN LANE ACADEMY

WHERE LEARNING IS AN ADVENTURE

PREVENT - ANTI RADICALISATION POLICY

Last reviewed March 2025

Next review March 2028

CHILDREN'S RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

Article 14- Children have the right to think and believe what they want and to practise their religion, as long as they are not stopping other people from enjoying their rights.

Article 36- Children should be protected from any activities that could harm their development.

RATIONALE

West Town Lane Academy is fully aware of its responsibility under the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 as set out by the DfE (Department Further Education) guidance (2019) and recognises that its responsibilities to prevent and protect children from extremism, fits within its duty of child protection and safeguarding.

Extremism can be defined as "holding of extreme opinions: the holding of extreme political or religious views or the taking of extreme actions on the basis of those views".

Radicalisation can be defined as 'the name given to the process that moves a person to legitimise their support or use of violence. It's when terrorism begins.' (HM Government 2023: <https://educateagainsthate.com/resources/prevent-awareness-e-learning/>)

Through WTLA's written and unwritten curriculum the school promotes community cohesion as well as British Values. According to Ofsted, 'fundamental British values' are:

- democracy;
- the rule of law;
- individual liberty and mutual respect;
- tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs.

The Office for Security & Counter Terrorism works to counter the threat from terrorism and their work is detailed in the counter terrorism strategy CONTEST.

This strategy is based on four areas of work:

- Prevent: to stop people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism.
- Pursue: to stop terrorist attacks.
- Protect: to strengthen our protection against a terrorist attack.
- Prepare: to mitigate the impact of a terrorist attack.

PURPOSES

West Town Lane Academy follows the principles outlined in the DfE toolkit which seeks to:

- Raise awareness within school of the threat from violent extremist groups and the risks for young people.
- Provide information about what can cause violent extremism, about preventative actions taking place locally and nationally and where we can get additional information and advice.
- Help schools understand the positive contribution they can make to empower young people to create communities that are more resilient to extremism and protect the wellbeing of particular pupils or groups who may be vulnerable to being drawn into violent extremist activity.
- Provide advice on managing risks and responding to incidents locally, nationally or internationally that might have an impact on the school community.

WTLA will use these principles to guide our work in all areas including building on our work in:

- Promoting good outcomes for all pupils including their spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.
- Promoting pupil happiness, wellbeing, sense of security, equalities and community cohesion.
- Building the resilience of the school, working with partners, to prevent pupils becoming the victims or causes of harm.
- Working with other agencies including the education child protection service, social care, the police, parents, and community and religious leaders to build community links and enhance positive networks.

GUIDELINES

Responsibilities And Training

Sarah Franklin is the designated lead for PREVENT.

School staff have been trained on the PREVENT Duty as have the Governing Body and a copy of this policy is displayed on the school website. New teaching staff will have this included as part of their induction, with support staff and other staff groups receiving familiarisation training.

If parents/carers have any concerns regarding radicalisation they can call Prevent directly on 01179 455536 or contact Sarah Franklin (Designated Prevent Lead) on 0117 3772295.

The Designated Prevent Lead will liaise regularly with the Head and the DSL (Designated Safeguarding Lead) on matters relating to the Prevent duty and will monitor the school's compliance with this duty, primarily by way of term updates from the DSL and by conducting an annual review (see Safeguarding and Child Protection policy) into the School's compliance with its Prevent duty. As part of this process the Designated Prevent Lead will:

- 1) ensure that this policy is understood and effectively implemented by staff throughout the School.
- 2) ensure that the DSL undergoes appropriate Prevent duty training which is refreshed at least every two years; and
- 3) ensure that the School's Prevent policies and procedures and general safeguarding arrangements take into account the policies and procedures of Local Safeguarding Children's Boards.

Risk Assessing

WTLA is committed to safeguarding, is compliant with its duties including Prevent, positively promotes the well-being of all its pupils and expects all staff and volunteers to share in this commitment.

WTLA assesses the risk of radicalisation to be low and will carry out an annual risk assessment which will identify the risk of pupils being drawn into terrorism or extremism. This risk assessment will look at the general risks affecting children and young people in the local area and the specific risks which may affect groups or individuals within the school and it will propose measures to mitigate and manage these risks.

WTLA is a happy school with an open door policy and excellent methods of communication. The School is proud of its multilingual and multicultural school community and has good relations with parents and the community. The school risk assesses for a number of purposes including staff recruitment and would be as vigilant as possible to any pupil at risk of grooming or extremism.

Signs of Vulnerability

There are no known definitive indicators that a young person is vulnerable to radicalisation, but there are a number of signs that together increase the risk. Signs of vulnerability include but are not limited to:

- underachievement.
- being in possession of extremist literature.
- poverty.
- social exclusion.
- traumatic events.
- global or national events.
- religious conversion.
- change in behaviour.
- extremist influences.
- conflict with family over lifestyle.
- confused identity.
- victim or witness to race or hate crimes.
- rejection by peers, family, social or faith groups.

Recognising Extremism

As part of our wider safeguarding responsibilities to identify signs of abuse we will be alert to early indicators of radicalisation or extremism which may include:

- showing sympathy for extremist causes;
- glorifying violence;
- making remarks or comments about being at extremist events or rallies outside school;
- evidence of possession of illegal or extremist literature;
- advocating messages similar to those coming from illegal organisations or other extremist groups;
- out of character changes in dress, behaviour and peer relationships (but there are also very powerful narratives, programmes and networks that young people can come across online so involvement with particular groups may not be apparent);
- secretive behaviour;
- online searches or sharing extremist messages or social profiles;

- intolerance of difference, including faith, culture, gender, race or sexuality;
- graffiti, art work or writing that displays extremist themes;
- attempts to impose extremist views or practices on others; advocating violence towards others.

USE OF ONLINE TECHNOLOGY AND SOCIAL MEDIA

WTLA is aware of the risk of use of technology and social media for online radicalisation. The school uses online filtering and monitoring system Netsweeper, which meets the requirements set out in Keeping Children Safe in Education 2024.

PARTNERSHIPS

WTLA recognises that any attempt to counter extremism and prevent radicalisation cannot be achieved by one organisation alone but relies on the sharing of information and productive partnership working. In upholding the Prevent duty WTLA works with a number of partners, including:

- Child Protection Service
- The Police and PCSOs
- The Locality Team
- Social Care
- Early Help Team
- Community and religious leaders
- Parents and the wider community
- Other Educational Organisations

BUILDING RESILIENCE

"Schools can build pupils' resilience to radicalisation by providing a safe environment for debating controversial issues and helping them to understand how they can influence and participate in decision-making".

WTLA develops pupils' resilience in a number of different ways across the curriculum including through the PHSE programme of study, RRS, whole school and class assemblies, educational visits, philosophy, and citizenship activities such as school council.

RAISING A CONCERN

If a member of the school community, a child, a member of staff or a member of the school community raises a concern that relates to the Prevent Duty e.g. a child at risk of radicalisation, or exhibiting extremism the school will take this matter seriously and will follow Child Protection procedures. Staff will follow the 'Notice, Check, Share' protocol and any response will be proportionate and considered. Where a referral is made, it will be robust, informed and with good intentions.

Notice, Check, Share protocol;

1. Speak to a member of the Designated Safeguarding Team and log any concerns on CPOMS.
2. Take advice as to whether a Referral Form needs to be completed.
3. Send to MASH for assessment (Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub)
4. Subject to MASH assessment Inter-agency procedures may follow

*5. Escalation to Channel

**Channel is a programme which 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 CTSA 2023 places a duty on local authorities to ensure Channel panels are in place. The panel must be chaired by the local authority and include the police for the relevant local authority area. Following a referral, the panel will assess the extent to which identified individuals are vulnerable to being drawn into terrorism, and where appropriate and necessary, obtain consent, and arrange for support to be provided to those individuals.

The CTSA 2023 requires partners of Channel panels (including proprietors of independent schools) to cooperate with the panel in the carrying out of its functions and with the police in providing information about a referred individual.

Guidance issued under section 36(7) and section 38 (6) of the CTSA 2023 in respect of Channel is available at:

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

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TRAINING

The prevent lead has received training through the Government's Educate Against hate campaign. <https://educateagainsthate.com/resources/prevent-awareness-e-learning/> This includes 'Prevent Awareness' training, 'Making a Referral' training and 'Channel Awareness' training.

CONCLUSION

Whilst WTLA is fully committed to the Prevent Duty and recognises the important role it has to play in this respect, the school will be thoughtful and proportionate in its response to ensure that no individual or group feels needlessly disenfranchised or unfairly discriminated against. Paramount to WTLA's vision, is to promote a positive, warm, inclusive, compassionate, optimistic and harmonious school culture, where every child and adult feels safe.