

Prevent Statement

St Mary's Horsforth Catholic Voluntary Academy



"Happy together in God's family,
we love, grow and learn."

Approved by:	Jessica Wilkinson	Date: September 2021
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The school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff, volunteers, contractors and visitors to share this commitment.

St. Mary's Horsforth Catholic Voluntary Academy - Prevent Statement



The Aim of Prevent Duty:

Nothing is more important to us than the safety and welfare of our pupils. We take rigorous steps to ensure that children stay safe and do not come to any harm. We work closely with parents and carers and a range of professional agencies in order to secure this.

Prevent is part of the Government's strategy to address terrorism. The main aim of Prevent is to stop people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism. Prevent focuses on all forms of terrorist threats. It also extends to supporting the rehabilitation and disengagement of those already involved in terrorism.

The Prevent Duty can be broken down into three 'P' strands:

- Pursue - to stop terrorist attacks.
- Protect - to strengthen our protection against a terrorist attack.
- Prepare - to mitigate the impact of a terrorist attack.

Prevent Objectives:

The objectives of Prevent are to:

- 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.

Prevent within Education:

Children and young people continue to make up a significant proportion of Channel cases, and in recent years there have been concerns regarding increased numbers of learners being arrested for terrorism-related offences. Educators are often in a unique position, through interacting with learners on a regular basis, to be able to identify concerning behaviour changes that may indicate they are susceptible to radicalisation. Settings should not only be alert to violent extremism but also non-violent extremism, including certain divisive or intolerant narratives which can reasonably be linked to terrorism. [Educate Against Hate](#) and [GOV.UK Prevent duty training](#) provide further information on extremist narratives.

Education settings should understand these requirements as part of their wider safeguarding and welfare responsibilities. For schools, this guidance should be read alongside relevant safeguarding guidance. In England, this includes ['Working together to safeguard children'](#) and ['Keeping children safe in education'](#).

The Department for Education has also published supporting advice for schools and further education settings on [managing the risk of radicalisation](#) in their education setting.

St. Mary's Prevent Strategy:

At St. Mary's, we teach a broad and balanced curriculum which promotes the spiritual, moral and cultural development of children and prepares them for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of life.

We aim to protect children from harm and to ensure that they are taught in a way that is consistent with the law and British Values. To this end, we act to:

- Raise awareness
- Provide information
- Enable learners to make a positive contribution

- Safeguard young people
- Foster a strong ethos and values-based curriculum

At St. Mary's, pupils participate in a curriculum that promotes active learning. We provide a safe space for our children to debate issues, develop their critical thinking skills and ask questions. We ensure that all pupils within our school have a voice and are listened to. This enables the pupils to explore social and emotional aspects of learning throughout the curriculum and helps teach them to become fully rounded members of society who treat others with respect and tolerance, regardless of their background.

We celebrate our own uniqueness and challenge prejudice of any kind.

Managing Risk at St. Mary's:

The Prevent duty requires schools to help prevent the risk of people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism. The duty helps to ensure that people who are susceptible to radicalisation are supported as they would be under safeguarding processes.

At St Mary's, we:

- Have robust safeguarding policies in place to ensure that those at risk of radicalisation are identified and appropriate support is provided.
- Have robust procedures for sharing information, both internally and externally.
- Have measures in place to prevent facilities being exploited by radicalisers. This includes seeking to ensure that any event spaces or IT equipment are not being used to facilitate the spread of extremist narratives.
- Use filtering as a means of restricting access to harmful content.
- Encourage learners to respect other people, with particular regard to the protected characteristics set out in the Equality Act 2010.
- Build resilience through the curriculum.
- Support learners to have the knowledge, skills and values that will prepare them to be citizens in modern Britain by actively promoting the fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, mutual respect and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs.
- Help build resilience to radicalisation and extremism. For example, provide a safe environment for debating controversial issues and helping learners to understand how they can influence and participate in decision making.

Understanding and Identifying Radicalisation:

It is the responsibility of all staff to look out for concerning changes in behaviour. For example:

- isolating themselves from family and friends.
- talking as if from a scripted speech.
- unwillingness or inability to discuss their views.
- a sudden disrespectful attitude towards others.
- increased levels of anger.
- increased secretiveness, especially around internet use.
- physical changes.
- emotional changes.
- changes in their verbal communications.

NOTE: these signs don't necessarily mean a child is being radicalised – it may be 'normal' behaviour for this child or a sign that something else is wrong.

It is important that we all work together so that we can protect our communities. There are many ways you can help:

- Get in touch with your local neighbourhood or Prevent team for advice and support if you are worried about someone you know who you believe may be vulnerable to radicalization;
- You can speak to your local officers about helping run community events to bring people from different communities together.