

# The Friary School

## PREVENT POLICY



### Introduction

This policy was considered and adopted by the Governing Body in line with their overall duty to safeguard and promote the welfare of children as set out in the DfE guidance [Keeping Children Safe in Education 2024](#).

The Friary School is committed to providing a secure environment for students, where children feel safe and are kept safe. All staff and volunteers working at The Friary School recognise that safeguarding is everyone's responsibility irrespective of the role they undertake or whether their role has direct contact or responsibility for children or not.

Under the [Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015](#) the school also has a statutory duty to have due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism.

This policy is one element within our overall school arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children in line with our statutory duties set out in Section 175 of the [Education Act 2002](#) and should be read in conjunction with our Safeguarding Policy.

This Policy is supported by the [Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire Safeguarding Children Safeguarding](#) Board procedures, the DfE guidance "Keeping Children Safe in Education, 2023" and DCSF Resources "[Learning Together to be Safe](#)" and other relevant guidance.

### School Ethos and Practice

When operating this policy The Friary School uses the following accepted governmental definition of extremism which is:

*'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; and/or calls for the death of members of our armed forces, whether in this country or overseas'.*

There is no place for extremist views of any kind in our school, whether from internal sources - students, staff or governors, or external sources - school community, external agencies or individuals. Our students must see our school as a safe place where they can explore controversial issues safely and where our teachers encourage and facilitate this.

As a school we recognise that extremism and exposure to extremist materials and influences should be addressed as a safeguarding concern. We also recognise that if we fail to challenge extremist views we are failing to protect our students.

Extremists of all persuasions aim to promote division through fear and mistrust of others. Education is a powerful weapon against this; equipping young people with the knowledge, skills and critical thinking, to challenge and debate in an informed way.

Therefore, we will provide a broad and balanced curriculum, delivered by skilled professionals, so that our students understand and accept difference and do not feel marginalised. We are aware that young people can be exposed to extremist influences or prejudiced views from an early age which emanate from a variety of sources and media, including via the internet, and at times students may themselves reflect or display views that may be discriminatory, prejudiced or extremist.

Any prejudice, discrimination or extremist views, including derogatory language, displayed by students or staff, will always be challenged and where appropriate dealt with in line with our Behaviour and Discipline

Policy for students and the Code of Conduct for staff. Where misconduct by a teacher is proven the matter may be referred to the [Teaching Regulation Agency](#).

As part of wider safeguarding responsibilities school staff will be alert to:

- Disclosures by students of their exposure to the extremist actions, views or materials of others outside of school, such as in their homes or community groups
- Graffiti symbols, writing or art work promoting extremist messages or images
- Students accessing extremist material online, including through social networking sites
- Parental reports of changes in behaviour, friendship or actions and requests for assistance
- Partner schools, local authority services, and police reports of issues affecting students in other schools or settings
- Students voicing opinions drawn from extremist ideologies and narratives
- Use of extremist or 'hate' terms to exclude others or incite violence
- Intolerance of difference, whether secular or religious or, in line with our equalities policy, views based on, but not exclusive to, gender, disability, homophobia, race, colour or culture
- Attempts to impose extremist views or practices on others
- Anti-Western or Anti-British views

Our school will be informed by any locally agreed procedures as set out by the [Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire Safeguarding Children Safeguarding Board's](#) agreed processes and criteria for safeguarding individuals vulnerable to extremism and radicalisation.

## **Educational Approaches**

We will all strive to eradicate the myths and assumptions that can lead to some young people becoming alienated and disempowered, especially where the narrow approaches children may experience elsewhere may make it harder for them to challenge or question these radical influences.

In our school this will be achieved by good teaching, primarily via PSHE – but also through tutor time, assemblies, Focus Weeks, etc.

We will ensure that all of our teaching approaches help our students build resilience to extremism and give students a positive sense of identity through the development of critical thinking skills. We will ensure that all of our staff are equipped to recognise extremism and are skilled and confident enough to challenge it

We will also work with local partners, families and communities in challenging extremist views and to assist in the broadening of our student's experiences and horizons. We will help support students who may be vulnerable to such influences as part of our wider safeguarding responsibilities and where we believe a student is being directly affected by extremist materials or influences we will ensure that that student is offered appropriate support. Additionally, in such instances our school will seek external support from the Local Authority and/or local partnership structures working to prevent extremism.

At The Friary School we will promote the values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, mutual respect and tolerance for those with different faiths and beliefs.

As part of our commitment to reviewing our PREVENT practices we have sought national inspection and accreditation in and have obtained the top-rated gold award in the [SMSC Quality Mark](#) and hold [Holocaust Beacon School Status](#) from University College London.

## **Use of External Agencies and Speakers**

At The Friary School we encourage the use of external agencies or speakers to enrich the experiences of our students. However, we will positively vet those external agencies, individuals or speakers. Such vetting is to ensure that we do not unwittingly use agencies that are inconsistent with, or are in complete opposition to, the school's values and ethos.

Our school will assess the suitability and effectiveness of input from external agencies or individuals to ensure that:

- Any messages communicated to students are consistent with the ethos of the school and do not marginalise any communities, groups or individuals
- Any messages do not seek to glorify criminal activity or violent extremism or seek to radicalise students through extreme or narrow views of faith, religion or culture or other ideologies
- Activities are properly embedded in the curriculum, matched to the needs of students and carefully evaluated for their effectiveness
- We recognise, however, that the ethos of our school is to encourage students to understand opposing views and ideologies, appropriate to their age, understanding and abilities, and to be able to actively engage with them in informed debate, and we may use external agencies or speakers to facilitate and support this.

By delivering a broad and balanced curriculum, augmented by the use of external sources where appropriate, we will strive to ensure our students recognise risk and build resilience to manage any such risk.

## **Referring Concerns**

Where there are concerns of extremism or radicalisation parents, students and staff will be encouraged to make use of our internal systems to raise any issue in confidence with senior management.

Our lead person for Prevent is the Designated Safeguarding Lead who would normally be the first point of contact should there be concerns. If for any reason this creates a difficulty for the referrer, they can contact the Local Authority 'Prevent' co-ordinator, First Response Team, Education Safeguarding Advice Service or Ofsted depending on the level of concern. Contact details for these agencies can be found at the end of this policy document

Staff should refer to the School Whistleblowing Policy under which they are entitled to employment protection for raising genuine concerns outside of the school environment.

## **Child Protection**

Please refer to our Safeguarding Policy for the full procedural framework on our Child Protection duties.

Staff will be alert to the fact that whilst extremism and radicalisation is broadly a safeguarding issue there may be some instances where a child or children may be at direct risk of harm or neglect. For example; this could be due to a child displaying risky behaviours in terms of the activities they are involved in or the groups they are associated with or staff may be aware of information about a child's family that may equally place a child at risk of harm. (These examples are for illustration and are not definitive or exhaustive.)

Therefore, all adults working at The Friary School (including visiting staff, volunteers', contractors, and students on placement) are required to report instances where they believe a child may be at risk of harm or neglect to the Designated Safeguarding Lead or Headteacher who will make a referral to children's social care or the Staffordshire Prevent Team when appropriate.

The Designated Safeguarding Lead works in line with the responsibilities as set out at Annex B of the DfE Guidance [Keeping Children Safe in Education 2024](#).

The Designated Safeguarding Lead is the focus person and local 'expert' for school staff, and others, who may have concerns about an individual child's safety or well-being and is the first point of contact for external agencies.

## **Training**

All staff, including temporary staff, and volunteers will receive an induction in regard to our Safeguarding policy and procedures. This will include information and guidance about our duty to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism.

Whole school in-service training in regard to safeguarding and child protection will be organised for staff, governors and volunteers at least every three years and will comply with the prevailing arrangements approved by Staffordshire Safeguarding Children Board and will, in part, include awareness raising on extremism and radicalisation and its safeguarding implications.

The Designated Safeguarding Lead will attend appropriate and relevant training courses in regard to safeguarding children, including the appropriate inter-agency training organised by the Safeguarding Children Board at least every two years. This will include accessing training on extremism and radicalisation and its safeguarding implications. The Designated Safeguarding Lead will ensure that all adults working in the school receive appropriate levels of training, guidance and support in regard to safeguarding children from extremism and radicalisation.

## **Recruitment & Staff Conduct**

The arrangements for recruiting all staff, permanent and volunteers, to our school will follow guidance for safer recruitment best practice in education settings, including, but not limited to, ensuring that DBS checks are always made at the appropriate level, that references are always received and checked and that we complete and maintain a single central record of such vetting checks. We will apply safer recruitment best practice principles and sound employment practice in general and in doing so will deny opportunities for inappropriate recruitment or advancement.

We will be alert to the possibility that persons may seek to gain positions within our school so as to unduly influence our school's character and ethos. We are aware that such persons seek to limit the opportunities for our students thereby rendering them vulnerable to extremist views and radicalisation as a consequence. Therefore, by adhering to safer recruitment best practice techniques and by ensuring that there is an ongoing culture of vigilance within our school and staff team we will minimise the opportunities for extremist views to prevail.

Referrals to the Staffordshire LADO service will be made when appropriate as per statutory guidance and our Safeguarding Children Policy.

## **Role of Governing Body**

The Governing Body of our School will undertake appropriate training to ensure that they are clear about their role and the parameters of their responsibilities as Governors, including their statutory safeguarding duties. The Governing Body of our school will support the ethos and values of our school and will support the school in tackling extremism and radicalisation.

In line with the provisions set out in the DfE guidance [Keeping Children Safe in Education 2024](#) the Governing Body will challenge the school's senior management team on the delivery of this policy and monitor its effectiveness.

Governors will review this policy regularly and may amend and adopt it outside of this timeframe in accordance with any new legislation or guidance or in response to any quality assurance recommendations pertaining to the delivery of this policy and the overall safeguarding arrangements made.

## Contact Details

Designated Safeguarding Lead - Lottie Hearn (Deputy Headteacher) [lhearn@friaryschool.co.uk](mailto:lhearn@friaryschool.co.uk) / 01543 267 400.

First Response Team (regarding concerns that an identified Staffordshire child or children are at risk or LADO referrals) 0800 1313 126.

Emergency Duty Service (children's social care) 0845 6042 886.

Staffordshire Prevent Team: Tel: 01785 232054.

Email: [prevent@staffordshire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:prevent@staffordshire.pnn.police.uk).

Education Safeguarding Advice Service (Staffordshire) - 01785 895836.

OFSTED contact centre 0300 123 1231.

## References

Staffordshire Safeguarding Children Board procedures can be found on: <https://www.ssscb.org.uk/>.

SSCB Procedure 6L: Safeguarding People who are vulnerable to being drawn into violent extremism and / or terrorism in Staffordshire & Stoke on Trent.

Prevent Duty Guidance: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/prevent-duty-guidance>.

Ofsted Handbook: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/school-inspection-handbook-eif>.

<b>Reviewed By</b>	Full Governors	<b>Implementation Date</b>	Sept 2023	<b>Review Date</b>	Nov 2025
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