

PREVENT POLICY

Policy statement

- At The Life Nursery we have an important role to play in protecting children and young people from the risks of extremism and radicalisation. This role is underpinned by the Counter Terrorism and Security Act (2015) and Prevent Duty Guidance: Guidance for specified authorities in England and Wales (2023) to have due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism.
- The Prevent Strategy, published by the Government in 2011 is part of an overall counter terrorism strategy CONTEST. The aim of the Prevent strategy is to reduce the threat to the UK from terrorism by stopping people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism activity. This has raised a specific need to safeguard children, young people and families from violent extremism and terrorism. Nationally, there have been situations in which extremist groups have attempted to radicalise vulnerable children and young people to hold extreme views. Such views include justifying political, religious, sexist or racist violence, or to steer individuals into a rigid and narrow ideology that is either vocal or active opposition to fundamental British values including embracing diversity and mutual respect and tolerance of different faith and beliefs.

Procedures

- The Life Nursery are fully committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all children and young people who we work with. As a childcare provider we recognise that safeguarding against radicalisation is no different from 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.
- In our nursery we value freedom of speech and the expression of beliefs / ideology as fundamental rights underpinning our society's values. Children, young people and all childcare practitioners have the right to speak freely and voice their opinions however, freedom comes with responsibility and free speech that is designed to manipulate the vulnerable or that leads to violence and/or harm of others goes against the moral principles in which freedom of speech is valued. Free speech is not an unqualified privilege; it is subject to laws and policies governing equality, human rights, community safety and community cohesion.

- The current threat from terrorism in the United Kingdom may include the exploitation of vulnerable people, to involve them in terrorism or in activity in support of terrorism. The normalisation of extreme views may also make children and young people vulnerable to future manipulation and exploitation.
- The Life Nursery is clear that this exploitation and radicalisation should be viewed as a safeguarding concern.

Aims and Principles of the policy

To ensure all childcare practitioners are aware of the Prevent Strategy and are able to protect children and young people who are vulnerable or at risk of being radicalised by working alongside other professional bodies and agencies to ensure that individuals are safe from harm.

Prevent duty guidance: Guidance for specified authorities in England and Wales state:- “The aim of Prevent is to stop people from becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism. Prevent also extends to supporting the rehabilitation and disengagement of those already involved in terrorism.

The Prevent duty requires specified authorities such as education, health, local authorities, police and criminal justice agencies (prisons and probation) to help prevent the risk of people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism. It sits alongside long-established safeguarding duties on professionals to protect people from a range of other harms, such as substance abuse, involvement in gangs, and physical and sexual exploitation. The duty helps to ensure that people who are susceptible to radicalisation are supported as they would be under safeguarding processes.

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”

The principle objectives are that:

All staff working or volunteering within The Life Nursery will:

- Have an understanding of what radicalisation and extremism are and why we need to be vigilant in the nursery.
- Know what the nursery policy is on safeguarding from radicalisation and extremism and will follow the policy when issues arise.

- All parents will know that we have a policy in place to keep children and young people safe from harm and that the childcare provider regularly reviews its systems to ensure they are appropriate and effective.

Definitions of extremism, radicalisation and terrorism – Keeping Children Safe in Education 2023

Preventing radicalisation

Children may be susceptible to extremist ideology and radicalisation. Similar to protecting children from other forms of harm and abuse, protecting children from this risk should be a part of The Life Nursery's safeguarding approach.

- **Extremism** is explained by Gov.UK as the promotion or advancement of an ideology based on violence, hatred or intolerance, that aims to:
 1. negate or destroy the fundamental rights and freedoms^[footnote 5] of others; or
 2. undermine, overturn or replace the UK's system of liberal parliamentary democracy^[footnote 6] and democratic rights^[footnote 7]; or
 3. intentionally create a permissive environment for others to achieve the results in (1) or (2).

The types of behaviour below are indicative of the kind of promotion or advancement which may be relevant to the definition, and are an important guide to its application. See more by clicking on link below:-

- <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/new-definition-of-extremism-2024/new-definition-of-extremism-2024>
- **Radicalisation** refers to the process by which a person comes to support terrorism and extremist ideologies associated with terrorist groups.
- **Terrorism** is an action that endangers or causes serious violence to a person/people; causes serious damage to property; or seriously interferes or disrupts an electronic system. The use or threat must be designed to influence the government or to intimidate the public and is made for the purpose of advancing a political, religious or ideological cause

Behaviours that might cause concern – The Prevent duty: an introduction for those with safeguarding responsibilities (2023)

Any concerning changes in behaviour may indicate a safeguarding concern. These changes can be emotional, verbal or physical.

A learner may be vulnerable in certain ways that could make them more susceptible to a range of harms. These could include sexual exploitation, extremism and radicalisation, or serious violence. Please refer to the link below for further information.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-prevent-duty-safeguarding-learners-vulnerable-to-radicalisation/the-prevent-duty-an-introduction-for-those-with-safeguarding-responsibilities>

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Possible indicators of a child being susceptible to extremist ideology can be referred to here:-

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-prevent-duty-safeguarding-learners-vulnerable-to-radicalisation/managing-risk-of-radicalisation-in-your-education-setting>

Procedures for referrals

- Keeping children and young people safe from these risks is a safeguarding matter and should be approached in the same way as safeguarding children from other risks.
- It is important for us to be vigilant and remain informed about the issues which affect risks to the The Life Nursery. All staff are reminded to dispel belief that instances of radicalisation ‘could not happen here’.
- When any member of staff has concerns that a child or young person may be at risk of radicalisation or involvement in terrorism, they should speak with the Designated Safeguarding Lead or Deputy Safeguarding Lead who will be responsible for contacting Bradford Prevent Team:-

Responding to concerns about radicalisation (“Bradford Schools Online”) – 2024 and Safer Bradford (2024)

If you have a safeguarding concern it is essential you use the links below to access the Prevent Referral Form. The form also offers guidance with contact numbers for support.

<https://www.saferbradford.co.uk/media/onafgcoq/prevent-national-referral-form-v3-2.pdf>

Bradford Prevent Officer: Rachel Lee, contact at Rachel.lee@bradford.gov.uk, telephone 07484923127

What is Prevent? (Bradford Schools Online – The PREVENT STRATEGY

Prevent is part of the Government’s counter-terrorism strategy, CONTEST. Its aim is to stop people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism. *Prevent* will address all forms of terrorism but continue to prioritise according to current threat levels. It’s about minimising the risk of people supporting extremist ideologies which espouse violence and terrorism. As such Prevent is an early intervention tool most commonly in the form of education, dialogue and mentoring, aiming to reduce the likelihood of terrorist or other violent actions in the future.

Prevent is just one of four elements which make up the Government’s Counter Terrorism Strategy comprising of four key elements:

- **Pursue:** to stop terrorist attacks
- **Protect:** to strengthen our physical infra-structure against a terrorist attack, and

- **Prepare:** to mitigate the impact of a terrorist attack
- **Prevent:** to stop people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism.

Prevent can be seen as separate from the other three elements in that it operates in the 'non-criminal' space; a prevention tool to reduce the numbers of people who may consider criminal acts. In an educational context Prevent is a safeguarding issue for schools aimed at supporting and protecting children and young people who are vulnerable and at risk of being radicalised. Prevent is about ensuring that they are diverted away before any crime is committed and described as a long term solution to the current threat of extremism. Within the overall framework the new Prevent strategy will specifically:

- respond to the ideological challenge of terrorism and the threat we face from those who promote it;
- prevent people from being drawn into terrorism and ensure that they are given appropriate advice and support; and
- work with sectors and institutions where there are risks of radicalisation which we need to address.

<https://bso.bradford.gov.uk/content/equality--diversity-and-achievement/prevent/the-government's-prevent-strategy>

What happens next?

- Following a referral the information received will be assessed by the police. Following the assessment a decision will be made regarding the suitability of the case for the decision of the Bradford Channel Panel. If the case is not suitable for the Channel the police will notify the referrer of the outcome of the assessment and if necessary, make a referral to other agencies for support. Following assessments, if the case is deemed suitable for the Channel Support, then the referrer maybe invited to the next Bradford Channel Panel meeting.
- The referrer should continue to monitor the case and keep Prevent updated with any additional information which could lead to an increase in vulnerabilities to radicalisation.

Risk reduction

The Nursery Manager (Designated Safeguarding Lead), Board of Directors will assess the level of risk within the nursery and put actions in place to reduce any identified risks eg (Department of Education – risk assessment template and following Bradford Council's advice).

Staff Training

The nursery will ensure that staff have 'due regard to the need to prevent children from being drawn into terrorism'. They are aware of the threats, risks and vulnerabilities that are linked to radicalisation and they understand the signs that someone may be vulnerable to radicalisation.

Training is undertaken via e-learning or attending workshops to raise awareness of Prevent (WRAP).

Legislation used for the purposes of this policy are as follows:-

Prevent duty guidance: Guidance for specified authorities in England and Wales (2023)

How to complete a risk assessment to assess the risk of people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism (2023)

The Prevent duty: an introduction for those with safeguarding responsibilities (2023)

Prevent Referral Form

Keeping Children Safe in Education (2023)

Counter Terrorism and Security Act (2015)

The Prevent Strategy (2011)

New Definition of extremism (2024)

<https://saferbradford.co.uk/resources/childrens/prevent-in-bradford-district/>

This policy was reviewed by Louise Gray, Nursery Manager – September 2024

Signed..... Dated.....

This policy was read and understood by: