



## **Prevent Duty**

The Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015 places a duty on early years providers "to have due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism" this is known as The Prevent Duty. The Prevent Duty is to safeguard vulnerable people from becoming terrorists and supporting violent extremism in all forms.

### **What is Radicalism?**

Radicalism refers to the process by which a person comes to support terrorism and forms of extremism. Protecting children from the risk of radicalisation is seen as part of The Hullbridge Preschools wider safeguarding duties, and is similar in nature to protecting children from other forms of harm and abuse. During the process of radicalisation, it is possible to intervene to prevent vulnerable people being radicalised. There is no single way of identifying an individual who is likely to be susceptible to an extremist ideology. It can happen in many different ways and settings.

Specific background factors may contribute to vulnerability which are often combined with specific influences such as family, friends or online, and with specific needs for which an extremist or terrorist group may appear to provide an answer.

The internet and the use of social media in particular has become a major factor in the radicalisation of young people.

### **What is Extremism?**

Extremism 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. We also include in our definition of extremism calls for the death of members of our armed forces, whether in this country or overseas.

### **Procedure**

We understand that it is essential that staff are able to identify children who may be vulnerable to radicalisation, and know what to do when they are identified. So, we provide appropriate training for staff, as part of this training staff will be made aware for how to identify children who may be at risk of radicalisation. All staff should be aware of the online risk of radicalisation through the use of social media and the internet.

Protecting children from the risk of radicalisation should be seen as part of our preschools wider safeguarding duties, and is similar in nature to protecting children from other harms (e.g. drugs, gangs, neglect, sexual exploitation), whether these come from within their family or are the product of outside influences. We can also build pupils' resilience to radicalisation by promoting fundamental British values and enabling them to challenge extremist views. In the pre-school, we can emphasise this in daily work such as assisting the children's personal, social and emotional development and understanding of the world.

British Values means actively providing a curriculum which promotes: -

- Democracy
- Rule of Law
- Individual Liberty
- Mutual respect and tolerance for those with different faiths and beliefs

## **Risk assessment**

All the pre-school staff are expected to assess the risk of children being drawn into terrorism, including support for extremist ideas that are part of terrorist ideology. This means being able to demonstrate both a general understanding of the risks affecting children and young people in the area and a specific understanding of how to identify individual children who may be at risk of radicalisation and what to do to support them.

As with managing other safeguarding risks, staff should be alert to changes in children's behaviour which could indicate that they may be in need of help or protection. Staff should use their professional judgement in identifying children who might be at risk of radicalisation and act proportionately which may include making a referral to the Channel program.

With the use of the key worker system, means staff get to know their key children well and so will notice any changes in behaviour, demeanour or personality quickly. On starting at the setting, we conduct an 'All About Me' meeting with the children parent/carers this enables us to gain information about the child and their family and helps to assess any risk to the child.

## **Procedure for reporting concerns**

If a member of staff in our pre-school has a concern about a particular child they should follow the pre-school's normal safeguarding procedures, including discussing with the preschool's designated safeguarding lead, who will, where deemed necessary, liaise with children's social care.

The local police can be contacted or dial 101 (the non-emergency number) or if the concern is about significant, imminent harm or risk then call the police on 999. The designated safeguarding lead can discuss their concerns and help gain access to support and advice. Also, they can advise if this would be a case for Channel. A referral form (VTR) can be requested from local prevent contact at ECC found on ESCB website or by emailing [prevent@gov.uk](mailto:prevent@gov.uk). The Department for Education has dedicated a telephone helpline (020 7340 7264) to enable staff to raise concerns relating to extremism directly.

Concerns can also be raised by email to [counter.extremism@education.gov.uk](mailto:counter.extremism@education.gov.uk).

## **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. Section 36 of the CTSA 2015 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 considered appropriate and necessary consent is obtained, arrange for support to be provided to those individuals. Channel is available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/channel-guidance>

This policy was adopted at a meeting of .....The Hullbridge Preschool..... (name of setting)

Held on ..... (date)

Date to be reviewed ..... date

Signed by .....

Name of Signatory .....

Role of Signatory (ie manager) Manager.....

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