



Fairfield Primary School Prevent Policy

Created/Revised:	December 2025
By:	Robert Birtwhistle
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Principles

The Counter-Terrorism and Security Act (July 2015) requires the proprietors of schools to "have due regard, in the exercise of their functions, to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism". This is known as the 'Prevent Duty'.

This policy has therefore been developed in accordance with the principles established by the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act (July 2015 & 2019) and also the Children Acts 1989 and 2004; the Education Act 2002 and 2011, and in line with government publications 'Prevent Duty Guidance: for England and Wales' (March 2015, updated December 2023), 'The Prevent Duty: Departmental Advice for schools and childminders' (June 2015), 'The Use of Social Media for on-line radicalisation' (July 2015), 'Working Together to Safeguard Children' (2015, updated December 2023), and 'What to do if you are worried a Child is being Abused: Advice for Practitioners' (March 2015).

The guidance also reflects, 'Keeping Children Safe in Education' (September 2025) and our responsibilities with regard to the Prevent Strategy.

Definition

For the purposes of this policy, the definition of radical or extreme ideology is "a set of ideas which could justify vilification or violence against individuals, groups or self".

Aims:

- To ensure all staff understand the risks of radicalisation within our School and how this risk may change from time to time.

- To ensure staff are aware of the Prevent Strategy and are able to protect children and young people who are vulnerable or may be at risk of being radicalised.
- Whilst following the Prevent Strategy the School also maintains its mission for diversity to be a core part of all that it does. The School places a strong emphasis on the common values that all communities share such as self-respect, understanding, tolerance and the sanctity of life. Pupils are taught to respect and value diversity as well as understanding how to make safe, well-considered decisions.

Prevent Leads

Mr Birtwhistle, the headteacher is the Prevent Lead with Mr Steel as his deputy. The Prevent Governor is Kelly Knowles.

The Headteacher and Designated Leads are responsible for checking visitors to the school. Vulnerability to radicalisation or extreme viewpoints from the internet is catered for through the curriculum and our IT systems.

The School recognises its duty to protect pupils from indoctrination into any form of extreme ideology which may lead to the harm of self or others. This is particularly important because of the electronic information available through the internet. The School will therefore aim to do the following:

- Educate pupils on the appropriate use of the internet and the dangers of downloading or sharing inappropriate material including that which is illegal under the Counter-Terrorism Act.
- Ensure that pupils are unable to access any inappropriate internet sites whilst using the school computers / laptops through the use of appropriate filtering, firewalls and security settings. Fairfield Primary School uses the Smoothwall software to alert the DSL and if inappropriate wording is detected when pupils are using IT.
- Educate pupils through lessons and assemblies on the concepts of radicalisation and extreme ideology.
- Inform pupils on the importance of Internet Safety both through the ICT curriculum and our Life Skills curriculum.

Arrangements for Visiting Speakers

The School has clear protocols for ensuring that any visiting speakers are appropriately supervised and suitable. The School's responsibility to pupils is to ensure that they can critically assess the information they receive as to its value themselves and that the information is aligned to the ethos and values of the School and British values.

In order to safeguard pupils from visitors to the School who may have extreme or radical views the School will:

- Ensure all Visiting Speakers have a named point of contact at the school.
- Undertake a risk assessment if deemed necessary before agreeing to a Visiting Speaker being allowed to attend the School.
- The DSL will ensure all visiting speakers to the school are carefully vetted and take immediate action if any individual or group is perceived to be attempting to influence members of the school community, either physically or electronically.

- Ensure that Visiting Speakers understand that, where appropriate, their session should actively promote the British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs and at no point undermine these.
- On arrival confirm the identity of the Visiting Speaker using photographic ID.
- Ensure all Visiting Speakers whilst on the school site, are supervised by a member of staff.
- The DSL will keep an appropriate record of Visiting Speakers showing that the required checks have been completed.

Staff Training

In order to fulfil the requirements of the Prevent Duty the School will:

- Ensure the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) undertakes Prevent awareness training and is able to provide advice and support to other members of staff on protecting children from the risk of radicalisation.
- All staff and governors are required to take online Prevent training before starting at the school.
- Each year, the Prevent policy is circulated to staff and governors, who need to read and sign stating they understand the policy.
- The DSL will ensure staff are trained to be vigilant in spotting signs of extremist views and behaviours and that they always report anything to the DSL which may suggest a pupil, another staff member or a visitor is expressing opinions which may cause concern. Staff should follow the usual reporting procedures as for any other safeguarding concern as laid out in the School's Safeguarding (Child Protection) Policy.
- Ensure staff understand the importance of monitoring pupil absences and promptly address concerns about irregular absence with parents and / or carers.
- Ensure staff and governors are aware of how to identify and respond to risks to children from extreme or radical views.

In the event of radicalisation, it is possible to intervene to prevent susceptible people being radicalised, which is why diligence and knowing tell-tale signs are all important.

Curriculum

Fairfield Primary School ensures its pupils are offered a broad and balanced curriculum delivered by skilled teachers that aims to prepare them for life, encouraging them to be inquisitive learners who are enriched, understand and become tolerant of difference and diversity, whilst also ensuring that they thrive, feel valued and are not marginalised.

Classroom practices include:

- developing questioning techniques to open up safe debate;
- building confidence to promote honesty about a plurality of views;

- ensuring freedom of expression and freedom from threat;
- debating fundamental moral and human rights principles;
- promoting open respectful dialogue; and
- affirming multiple identities.

PSHE lessons are an effective way of providing pupils with time to explore sensitive or topical issues, and equipping them with the knowledge and skills to understand and manage difficult situations. However, Fairfield Primary ensures that embedded within the curriculum are opportunities for pupils to build resilience to extremism and enable them to develop a positive sense of identity through the development of critical thinking skills.

Fairfield Primary School also uses the curriculum to help prepare pupils for life in modern Britain and as preventative education to support a culture of zero tolerance for sexism, misogyny/misandry, homophobia, biphobic and sexual violence / harassment.

Fairfield Primary School values freedom of speech and the expression of beliefs / ideology as fundamental rights underpinning society's values. Pupils regularly participate in discussion, with speaking and listening being embedded in all subjects. Pupils and teachers speak freely and voice their opinions. However, there is an understanding that freedom comes with responsibility and free speech that is designed to manipulate the vulnerable or that leads to violence and harm of others goes against the moral principles in which freedom of speech is valued

Curriculum content includes:

- promoting knowledge, skills and understanding to build the resilience of learners;
- exploring topical issues;
- recognising local needs;
- challenging extremist narratives;
- promoting universal rights;
- promoting critical thinking and analysis with regards to sources of information via the English curriculum.

Risk Assessments

The DSL is responsible for carrying out risk assessments to assess the risks of pupils being drawn into terrorism, including support for extremist ideas which are part of terrorist ideology. The DSL will also use risk assessments to demonstrate his / her understanding of the risks and how to identify pupils who may be at risk of radicalisation.

Managing Referrals & Working in Partnership

Any pupil who is deemed to be at risk of being radicalised or extremism will be referred by the DSL as appropriate through the Local Authority Channel Referral and Intervention processes.

The School will then work in partnership with the relevant agencies to seek advice, support and guidance drawing on multi-agency expertise, to support pupils at risk of harm.

A strong multi-agency partnership across the whole system of help, support and protection, including effective work from all agencies, parents, carers and families is vital. This includes a child centred approach within a whole family focus and in this context how all practitioners should work in partnership with parents and carers as far as possible.

The four key principles that underpin work with parents and carers include:

- Effective partnership working with parents and carers by practitioners building strong, positive, trusting and co-operative relationships.
- Communication should be respectful, non-blaming, inclusive and adapted to parents and carers needs.
- Practitioners empowering parents and carers to participate in decision-making to help, support and protect children.
- Practitioners should involve parents, carers, families and local communities in designing processes that affect them, including those focused on safeguarding children.

Prevent Duty within the Safeguarding Framework

Prevent Duty should be seen as part of Fairfield Primary School's existing safeguarding framework. This policy should therefore be read in conjunction with the following policies and statutory guidance, amongst others:

- Safeguarding (Child Protection) Policy
- Keeping Children Safe in Education (September 2025)
- Behaviour Policy
- Online Safety Policy
- Acceptable Use of Technology Policy
- Anti-Bullying Policy
- Equality and Diversity Policy
- Visitors Policy
- Whistleblowing Policy
- Staff Code of Conduct
- Safer Recruitment Policy

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility, and all staff, volunteers and governors are expected to act in the best interests of pupils at all times. Any concerns relating to radicalisation, extremism or vulnerability to being drawn into terrorism must be reported immediately to the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) in line with the school's safeguarding procedures.

Policy Review and Conclusion

Fairfield Primary School recognises that protecting children from the risks of radicalisation is an integral part of its wider safeguarding responsibilities. The school is committed to creating a safe, inclusive and respectful environment in which all pupils feel valued, listened to and supported.

All staff, governors and volunteers have a responsibility to be vigilant and to act promptly on any concerns relating to extremism or radicalisation, following the school's safeguarding procedures and reporting concerns immediately to the Designated Safeguarding Lead.

This policy will be monitored and reviewed annually, or sooner if required, to ensure it remains effective, compliant with statutory guidance and responsive to local and national developments. Any updates will be communicated to staff and governors as appropriate.

Through strong safeguarding practice, a broad and balanced curriculum, and positive partnerships with families and external agencies, Fairfield Primary School aims to ensure that pupils are supported to develop resilience, critical thinking skills and respect for others, preparing them to thrive safely in modern Britain.

Created by

R Birtwhistle December 2025

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'R Birtwhistle', written in a cursive style.