



Balksbury Federation

Tackling Extremism & Radicalisation Policy

Balksbury Federation fully recognises its responsibilities to prevent people from being radicalised, become extremists or be drawn into terrorism.

The Prevent Strategy 2011, published by the Government is part of the overall counter-terrorism strategy. The aim of the strategy is to reduce the threat to the UK from terrorism, by stopping people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism. In the Act this has simply been expressed as the need to *“prevent people from being drawn into terrorism”*.

The **Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015** (CTSA) identifies schools as having a key role to play in protecting children from the risk of extremism and radicalisation.

Part 5, Chapter 1 Paragraph 26 (1) of the Act places a general duty on specified authorities, in the exercise of its functions, to have due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism.

Schedule 6 of the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 outlines the specified authorities. As 2 maintained schools, Balksbury Federation is defined as a ‘specified authority’, included in the category of ‘Education, child care etc.’

Therefore, Balksbury Federation has a key role in protecting children from the risks of extremism and radicalisation. We have due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism.

This policy should be read alongside the following national government policies:

Working together to safeguard children 2023
Keeping Children Safe in Education 2023
Keeping Children Safe in Education 2023 Part 1
Prevent Duty Guidance (2015) updated April 2021
Channel Guidance

Index

- 1. Purpose of the policy**
 - 2. Aims of this policy**
 - 3. Risks**
 - 4. Indicators**
 - 5. Implementing ‘due regard’ (over-arching practice)**
 - 6. Implementing ‘due regard’ (Day to day practice)**
 - 7. Sharing Information**
 - 8. Procedures for dealing with concerns**
 - 9. Monitoring and Enforcement**
- Appendix 1: Tackling Extremism & Radicalisation (Information for staff)**
- Appendix 2: Information about Prevent and Channel**

1. Purpose of this Policy

This Tackling Extremism and Radicalisation Policy sets out our beliefs, strategies and procedures to protect vulnerable individuals from being radicalised or exposed to extremist views, by identifying who they are and promptly providing them with support.

2. Aims of this Policy

The aims of this policy are to ensure that:

- All members of the federated community have an understanding of what extremism and radicalisation are and why we need to be vigilant in our Federation
- Staff are fully engaged and are vigilant about radicalisation; that they suspend professional disbelief that such issues will not happen here
- Staff understand their roles and responsibilities in protecting children from the risks of extremism and radicalisation and have due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism
- Children understand how to keep themselves safe
- Parents have confidence in the federation's policies and understand how the federation works to keep children safe

3. Risks

Risks are defined as:

- **Terrorism:** The Terrorism Act 2000 in summary defines terrorism as 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.
- **Extremism** is defined in The Prevent Strategy 2011 as '*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*'. The Prevent Strategy 2011 also includes in its definition of extremism; calls for the death of members of our armed forces, whether in this country or overseas.
- **Radicalisation** as defined by The Prevent Strategy 2011 refers to the process by which a person comes to support terrorism and extremist ideologies associated with terrorist groups
- **Non-violent extremism** is defined in The Prevent Strategy 2011 as extremism, as defined above, which is not accompanied by violence. The federation will assess the risk of children being drawn into terrorism, including support for extremist ideas, which are part of terrorist ideology. This will be based on an understanding shared with partners of the potential risk in the local area.
- All visiting speakers will need to follow an agreed protocol for visiting speakers. The Executive Headteacher will ensure they are suitable and appropriately supervised during the visit

4. Indicators

There are a number of behaviours which may indicate a child is at risk of being radicalised or exposed to extreme views. These include;

- Spending increasing time in the company of other suspected extremists
- Changing their style of dress or personal appearance to fit in with the group

- Day-to-day behaviour becoming increasingly centred on an extremist ideology, group or cause
- Loss of interest in other friends and activities not associated with the extremist ideology, group or cause
- Possession of materials or symbols associated with an extremist cause
- Attempts to recruit others to the group/cause
- Communications with others that suggests identification with a group, cause or ideology
- Using insulting or derogatory names for another group
- Increase in prejudice-related incidents committed by that person, these may include; physical or verbal assault, provocative behaviour, damage to property, derogatory name calling, possession of prejudice-related materials, prejudice related ridicule or name calling, inappropriate forms of address, refusal to co-operate, attempts to recruit to prejudice-related organisations and condoning or supporting violence towards others

5. Implementing 'due regard' (over-arching practice)

Effective Leadership:

- The federation's Leadership Team are aware of and understand the importance of their duties and have read the relevant sections of *'Prevent Duty Guidance' 2015*
- The Headteacher and Governors ensure that the existing safeguarding procedures and Federation policies are used to safeguard children from radicalisation and extremism by including information through annual staff training and by linking relevant policies together
- Training is provided to ensure staff understand the risks and have the capability to deal with it
- The Governing Body ensure the staff implement their duties effectively by observation, monitoring the effectiveness of policies including the Complaints Procedures and through discussion with children during Governor Monitoring visits

Working in Partnership:

- The federation is aware that effective partnerships are crucial to *'Prevent'* work. The federation is committed to effective working with local Prevent co-ordinators, the police and local authorities through existing multi-agency forums such as the Multi- Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) and the Hampshire Safeguarding Children Partnership (HSCP).

Appropriate Capabilities:

- Staff and Governors who engage with the public understand what radicalisation means and why people may be vulnerable to being drawn into terrorism as a consequence of it. They are aware of what the term 'extremism' means and the relationship between extremism and radicalisation/terrorism. Information is provided for staff members through annual staff training and by linking relevant policies together (See Appendix 1)
- All federation safeguarding policies and procedures support staff to know what measures are available to prevent people from becoming drawn into terrorism and how to challenge the extremist ideology that can be associated with it
- Staff understand how to obtain support for people, (through Channel) who may be being exploited by radicalising influences and know they are subject to the duties specified in *'Prevent Duty Guidance 2015'* (See Appendix 2)

6. Implementing 'due regard' (day to day practice)

The federation has an inclusive ethos and teaches a broad and balanced curriculum which caters effectively for the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of its children. The federation actively promotes community cohesion through its work with parents and local community groups. The federation promotes British Values through the curriculum, extra-curricular activities and assemblies.

The federation is mindful of its duties to keep our children safe, and therefore vulnerable and impressionable children safe. Barksbury Federation regards the welfare of children as being of the utmost importance. Through our curriculum and pastoral work, the Federation ensures our children;

- ✓ Know the difference between 'right and wrong'
- ✓ Know the similarities and differences between themselves and others and are able to celebrate them
- ✓ Are able to challenge negative attitudes and stereotypes
- ✓ Grow into confident young people who are able to say, 'no', 'change their mind' and be able to articulate their feelings and opinions
- ✓ Value life and all living things
- ✓ Learn about and know how to keep themselves and others safe
- ✓ Feel valued for who they are and feel comfortable 'in their own skin' as part of the federated community

7. Sharing Information

The federation recognises that:

- Under the *Prevent* programme it must not be involved in any covert activity against people or communities
- The sharing of personal information may need to take place in order to ensure, for example, that a person at risk of radicalisation is given appropriate support (for example on the Channel programme)
- Information sharing should be and is assessed on a case-by-case basis and is governed by legislation. To ensure the rights of individuals are fully protected. When considering sharing personal information, the federation takes account of the following:
 - **Necessity and proportionality:** personal information is only shared where it is strictly necessary to the intended outcome and proportionate to it. Key to determining the necessity and proportionality of sharing information will be the professional judgement of the risks to an individual or the public
 - **Consent:** wherever possible the consent of the person concerned is obtained before sharing any information about them
 - **Power to share:** the sharing of data by public sector bodies requires the existence of a power to do so, in addition to satisfying the requirements of the Data Protection Act 2018 and the Human Rights Act 1998
 - **Data Protection Act and the Common Law Duty of Confidentiality:** in engaging with non-public bodies, the federation ensures that it is aware of its own responsibilities under the Data Protection Act and any confidentiality obligations that exist

There may be some circumstances where the federation, in the course of *Prevent* related work, identifies someone who may already be engaged in illegal terrorist-related activity. People suspected of being involved in such activity will be referred to the police.

8. Procedures for dealing with concerns

Where any adult in the federation has concerns about a child, they should discuss these in the first instance with the Designated Safeguarding Lead (Sarah Bodinham), or in their absence, one of the Deputy Safeguarding Leads (Katy Thompson, Fran Farrell, Amy Bolton).

The federation is aware of the support available to schools to help them safeguard children from the risks outlined in this policy and highlighted by the DFE. A dedicated telephone helpline enables federated staff and governors to raise concerns relating to extremism in confidence.

In emergency situations, such as a child being at immediate risk of harm, the police must be contacted on 999 and the normal safeguarding procedures are followed. (See Child Protection Policy 2023).

9. Monitoring and Enforcement

The federation keeps and maintains appropriate records in line with its duty. Concerns and observations are noted on the federation's CPOMs system.

Balksbury Federation will, when required ensure liaison with Hampshire Local Authority, HSCP, the Home Office, local partners and multi-agency forums on issues relating to *The Prevent Strategy* and Channel.

Policy review: Spring 2026

Appendix One

Tackling Extremism & Radicalisation - Information for Staff and Governors

(Extracts from a report from the Prime Minister's Task Force on Tackling Radicalisation and Extremism in 2013)

Extremism can flourish where different parts of a community remain isolated from each other. More integrated communities will be more resilient to the influence of extremists.

While protecting society from extremism, we will also continue to protect the right to freedom of expression. These proposals are not intended or designed to restrict or prevent legitimate and lawful comment and debate.

This is a distinct ideology which should not be confused with traditional religious practice. It is an ideology which is based on a distorted interpretation of Islam, which betrays Islam's peaceful principles, and draws on the teachings of the likes of Sayyid Qutb. Islamist extremists deem Western intervention in Muslim-majority countries as a 'war on Islam', creating a narrative of 'them' and 'us'. They seek to impose a global Islamic state governed by their interpretation of Shari'ah as state law, rejecting liberal values such as democracy, the rule of law and equality. Their ideology also includes the uncompromising belief that people cannot be Muslim and British, and insists that those who do not agree with them are not true Muslims.

Definitions:

- **Terrorism:** The Terrorism Act 2000 in summary defines terrorism as 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.
- **Extremism** is defined in The Prevent Strategy 2011 as '*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*'. The Prevent Strategy 2011 also includes in its definition of extremism; calls for the death of members of our armed forces, whether in this country or overseas.
- **Radicalisation** as defined by The Prevent Strategy 2011 refers to the process by which a person comes to support terrorism and extremist ideologies associated with terrorist groups
- **Non-violent extremism** is defined in The Prevent Strategy 2011 as extremism, as defined above, which is not accompanied by violence. The federation will assess the risk of children being drawn into terrorism, including support for extremist ideas, which are part of terrorist ideology. This will be based on an understanding shared with partners of the potential risk in the local area.
- All visiting speakers will need to follow an agreed protocol for visiting speakers. The Headteacher will ensure they are suitable and appropriately supervised during the visit

Appendix Two

Information about Prevent and Channel - Information for Staff and Governors

The Prevent Strategy: a summary

The Prevent strategy, published by the Government in 2011, is part of our 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.

The Prevent strategy addresses all forms of terrorism and continues to prioritise according to the threat they pose to our national security; the allocation of resources aim to be proportionate to the threats we face. The most significant of these threats is currently from terrorist organisations in Syria and Iraq, and Al Qaeda associated groups. But terrorists associated with the extreme right also pose a continued threat to our safety and security.

The Prevent strategy has three specific strategic objectives:

1. **Respond to the ideological challenge of terrorism and the threat we face from those who promote it**
2. **Prevent people from being drawn into terrorism and ensure that they are given appropriate advice and support**
3. **Work with sectors and institutions where there are risks of radicalisation that we need to address**

The Government remains absolutely committed to protecting freedom of speech in England and Wales. But preventing terrorism will mean challenging extremist (and non-violent) ideas that are also part of a terrorist ideology. Prevent will also mean intervening to stop people moving from extremist groups or from extremism into terrorist-related activity.

'Extremism' is defined as vocal or active opposition to fundamental British values, including democracy, the rule of law, individual British values, including democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs. The definition of extremism includes calls for death of members of our armed forces, whether in this country or overseas.

Section 26 of the CT&S Act 2015 places a duty on certain bodies in the exercise of their functions to have 'due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism'. Separate guidance has been issued on the *Prevent* duty, which includes schools. Channel forms a key part of the *Prevent* strategy. The process is a multi-agency approach to identify and provide support to individuals who are at risk of being drawn into terrorism. Schools must co-operate with Channel panels and the police in the carrying out of their respective functions in Chapter 2 of Part 5 of the CT&S Act.

Channel: A summary

The CT&S Act is intended to secure effective local co-operation and delivery of Channel in all areas and to build on the good practice already operating in many areas. In practice, the legislation requires:

- Local authorities to ensure that a multi-agency panel exists in their area
- The local authority to chair the panel
- The panel to develop a support plan for individuals accepted as Channel cases
- The panel to consider alternative forms of support, including health and social services, where Channel is not appropriate; and all partners of a panel, so far as appropriate and

reasonably practicable, to cooperate with the police and the panel in the carrying out of their functions

Channel is programme which focuses on providing support at an early stage to people who are identified as being vulnerable to being drawn into terrorism. The programme uses a multi-agency approach to protect vulnerable people by:

- Identifying individuals at risk
- Assessing the nature and extent of that risk
- Developing the most appropriate support plan for the individuals concerned

Sections 36 to 41 of the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 set out the duty on local authorities and partners of local panels to provide support for people vulnerable to being drawn into any form of terrorism.

This guidance has been issued under sections 36(7) and 38(6) of the Act to support panel members and partners of local panels.

Channel may be appropriate for anyone who is vulnerable to being drawn into any form of terrorism. Channel is about ensuring that vulnerable children and adults of any faith, ethnicity or background receive support before their vulnerabilities are exploited by those that would want them to embrace terrorism, and before they become involved in criminal terrorist activity.

An individual's engagement with the Channel programme is entirely voluntary at all stages.