

## Prevent Policy

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### INTRODUCTION

The Counter-Terrorism and Security Act (July 2015) requires 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’.

The borough of Lewisham has been identified in the Government’s Prevent Strategy as one of the priority local areas for action.

### 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 individual, groups or self”.

### AIMS

- To ensure all staff understand the risks of radicalisation within the College 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 College also maintains its mission for diversity to be a core part of all that it does. The College 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 LEAD

The Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) is the St Dunstan’s College Prevent Lead.

### VULNERABILITY TO RADICALISATION OR EXTREME VIEW POINTS FROM THE INTERNET

The College recognises its duty to protect our 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 College will therefore aim to do the following:

- Educate pupils on the appropriate use of social media and the dangers of downloading and 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.
- 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, PSHEE and Skills for Life education.

Refer to the College's ITC Policy for further details.

## **VISITORS TO THE COLLEGE**

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

- Ensure all visitors to the College are carefully vetted and take immediate action if any individual or group is perceived to be attempting to influence members of the College community, either physically or electronically.
- 'Open source' check any organisations which wish to have relationships with the College, particularly those in the voluntary sector.

## **STAFF TRAINING**

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

- Ensure the 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.
- 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 detailed in the College's *Reporting and Disclosure Procedures*.
- Ensure staff understand the importance of monitoring pupil absences and promptly address concerns about irregular absence with parents and/or carers as outlined in the College *Attendance Policy*.
- Ensure staff and governors are aware of how to identify and respond to risks to children from extreme or radical views.

## **EDUCATION**

St Dunstan's College 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.

Personal, Social, Health, and Economic Education (PSHEE) lessons are an effective way of providing pupils with time to explore sensitive or controversial issues, and equipping them with the knowledge and skills to understand and manage difficult situations. However, St Dunstan's ensures that embedded within the curriculum are opportunities for pupils to build resilience to extremism and enabling them to develop a positive sense of identity through the development of critical thinking skills.

St Dunstan's 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 to 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 controversial issues;
- Recognising local needs;
- Challenging extremist narratives;
- Promoting universal rights;
- Promoting critical analysis; and
- Promoting pro-social values.

The College promotes Schemes of Learning and Assessment that provide opportunities for pupils to engage in issues that raise awareness. For example, in Classics, myths and legends provide opportunities to discuss the motives behind death and killing alongside compassion and empathy whilst in Geography pupils explore migration and the movement of people around the world.

The College Library houses text and e-books about the world we live in with many highly acclaimed young adult novels which deal with terrorism and the effects of terrorism, and that explore situations in other countries and their impact and consequences, e.g. refugees.

## IF STAFF HAVE A CONCERN

If there is an urgent concern and a child is in immediate danger of harming himself/herself or others, call 999.

If a member of the College staff has a concern about a particular pupil, they should follow the College's normal *Safeguarding Procedures* including reporting the concern on MyConcern. The DSL will, where deemed necessary, liaise with Childrens' Social Care and/or the Lewisham Prevent Programme Lead.

Staff can also contact local police or dial 101 (the non-emergency number). They can talk to you in confidence about your concerns and help you gain access to support and advice.

## PREVENT CONTACTS

Lewisham Prevent Programme  
07710 387930  
[prevent@lewisham.gov.uk](mailto:prevent@lewisham.gov.uk)

Department for Education extremism helpline  
020 7340 7264  
[counter.extremism@education.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:counter.extremism@education.gsi.gov.uk)

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