

George Watson's College, working with other local partners, families and communities, seeks to play a key role in ensuring that the children, young people and staff who attend the School or use its services are safe from the threat of extremism and radicalisation and are protected against being drawn into radicalisation. A list of potential risk factors is shown in Annex 1.

We recognise that extremism and exposure to extremist materials and influences can lead to poor outcomes for our pupils. We also recognise that if we fail to challenge extremist views we are failing to protect our pupils. Extremists of all persuasions aim to develop destructive relationships between different communities by promoting division, fear and mistrust of others based on ignorance or prejudice and thereby limiting the life chances of young people. Education is a powerful weapon against this; equipping young people with the knowledge, skills and critical thinking, to challenge and debate in an informed way.

We believe that George Watson's College should be a safe place where everyone can discuss and understand sensitive topics, including terrorism and the extremist ideas that are part of the terrorist ideology, and learn how to challenge such ideas. We recognise that one of the fundamental values we seek to protect is the right of free speech and we will guard against the implementation of this Policy becoming an unwarranted curb on the expression of heterodox or controversial views.

## **Context**

The Counter-Terrorism and Security Act (July 2015) places upon the School, the responsibility 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 UK Government's Prevent Strategy aims to reduce the threat from terrorism by stopping people becoming involved in criminal behaviour associated with terrorism. It recognises that people can become vulnerable to violent extremist or terrorist narratives, including non-violent extremism, which can create an atmosphere conducive to terrorism and can popularise views which terrorists exploit.

Prevent work is intended to deal with all kinds of terrorist threats to the UK, including those from groups in Syria and Iraq and Al-Qaeda associated groups. It also includes threats related to Northern Ireland. Where either dissident republican or loyalist activity extends into Scotland, Prevent work is considered. Individuals and groups from the extreme right also pose threats to safety and security. The Prevent Duty Guidance for Scotland indicates that Prevent activity may include issues associated with sectarianism and extremism

This policy has been developed in accordance with the principles established by the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act July (2015) and in line with government publications, Revised Prevent Duty Guidance: for Scotland" (July 2015).

Prevent Duty should be seen as part of our existing safeguarding framework which includes our GIRFEC arrangements and this policy should be read in conjunction with our Child Protection Policy.

## **Aims of this Policy**

- To comply with the requirements of the Prevent Duty
- To ensure all staff understand the risks of extremism and radicalisation and how this risk may change from time to time.
- To ensure staff are aware of the Prevent Strategy and are able to protect pupils and staff who are vulnerable or may be at risk of being radicalised.

## Prevent Duty

As a school, we support the Prevent Strategy and will therefore comply with the Prevent Duty and will maintain appropriate records to show our compliance. The requirements of the Duty fall under four main areas of responsibility, Leadership, Partnership, Capability and Sharing of Information. There are also sector specific requirements for Independent Schools. Below is a summary of all the requirements within the Duty that apply to George Watson's College.

### Leadership

It is expected that those in leadership positions

- Identify a single point of contact for Prevent, to liaise with Education Scotland and local authority Prevent leads in order to benefit from best practice.
- Ensure staff understand the risk and build the capabilities to deal with it;
- Communicate and promote the importance of the duty; and
- Ensure staff implement the duty effectively

### Working in Partnership

- Demonstrate how we link into the single national strategic lead for Prevent in our sector

### Capabilities

- Frontline staff who engage with the public should understand what radicalisation means and why people may be vulnerable to it.
- Staff need to know what measures are available to prevent people from becoming drawn into terrorism. They need to understand how to access support for people who may be being exploited by radicalising influences.
- Ensure we provide appropriate training for staff involved in the implementation of this duty

### Sharing Information

- We will have robust procedures in place for sharing information about vulnerable individuals (where appropriate to do so) and to link these policies into existing safeguarding good practice.
- Where information needs to be shared, for example, if a person at risk of radicalisation is given appropriate support (for example through the Prevent Professional Concerns process) this must be assessed on a case-by-case basis and is governed by legislation. To ensure the rights of individuals are fully protected ensure information sharing agreements are in place. Take account of the following:
  - Necessity and proportionality: personal information should only be 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 should be obtained before sharing any information about them.
  - Satisfy the requirements of the Data Protection Act 1998/GDPR 2018 and the Human Rights Act 1998.
- There may be some circumstances where, in the course of Prevent related work, we identify someone who may already be engaged in illegal terrorist-related activity. People suspected of being involved in such activity must be referred to Police Scotland.

### Actions

The following ensures we will fulfil our Prevent Duties:

- Our Lead persons on Prevent are the Head of Senior School and the Head of Junior School. Responsibilities are listed in Annex 2.
- The Head of Senior School and the Head of Junior School are responsible for the wellbeing of our pupils;
- Maintain robust safeguarding procedures which take into account the Child Protection policy and procedures
- Actively promote the School's values to our pupils in particular as epitomised in *ex corde caritas*, including mutual respect, tolerance and democratic participation, as part of our wider Personal and Social Development Programme, as well as within other subject areas and assemblies;
- Respect pupil and staff diversity, encouraging freedom and openness;
- Assess the risk of pupils and staff of being drawn into terrorism;
- Identify extremism/radicalisation as issues to be reported promptly to the Named Person where concern is related to a pupil, and Head of HR where concern is about a member of staff;

- Give staff training so that they have the knowledge and confidence to identify people at risk of being drawn into terrorism, and to challenge extremist ideas which can be used to legitimise terrorism;
- Where possible, conduct due diligence checks on groups or individuals seeking to hire or use School premises; visitors (particularly visiting speakers) and contractors working on site
- Ensure IT Policies and guidance around usage of IT systems and the internet are developed and communicated and through technology, ensure pupils and staff are safe from terrorist and extremist material when accessing the internet from School systems through robust
- Annually review our policies
- Report any incidents to Governing Council

## Supportive Interventions

In most cases of concern, the School would intervene and counsel a person appropriately, as part of our GIRFEC/Prevent procedures. In critical situations or where School support alone would not be sufficient, we would work with other agencies to protect pupils within the Prevent framework.

In Scotland there is a multi-agency approach to protect people at risk from radicalisation, which aims to identify individuals at risk of being drawn into terrorism, assess the nature and extent of that risk, and develop the most appropriate support plan for the individuals concerned. This process is called Prevent Professional Concerns (PPC).

## Further Advice/Information

Prevent Delivery Unit East

0131 311 3230

[PreventDeliveryUnit@Scotland.pnn.police.uk](mailto:PreventDeliveryUnit@Scotland.pnn.police.uk)

Alternatively, to access relevant support and advice, the School would contact the local police 101– non emergency – or our Community Police.

Reports of more serious threats may also be made via [www.gov.uk/report-suspicious-activity-to-mi5](http://www.gov.uk/report-suspicious-activity-to-mi5)

## Definitions

For the purposes of this policy:

**Radical or extreme ideology** is ‘a set of ideas which could justify vilification or violence against individuals, groups or self’.

**Extremism** is defined by the Government in the Prevent Strategy 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. We also include in our definition of extremism calls for the death of members of our armed forces, whether in this country or overseas.

## Sectarianism

The independent Advisory Group on Tackling Sectarianism in Scotland published its findings in December 2013 and uses the following working definition: Sectarianism in Scotland is a complex of perceptions, attitudes, beliefs, actions and structures, at personal and communal levels, which originate in religious difference and can involve a negative mixing of religion with politics, sporting allegiance and national identifications. It arises from a distorted expression of identity and belonging. It is expressed in destructive patterns of relating which segregate, exclude, discriminate against or are violent towards a specified religious other, with significant personal and social consequences.

## Implementation and Review

The Director of Professional Learning has School-wide responsibility for Child Protection training and will ensure all staff receive the level of training they require in order to implement this policy.

This policy was approved by Governing Council.

## **Related Policies, Procedures and Documentation**

[Child Protection Policy](#)

[GIRFEC Policy and Procedures](#)

## **Relevant Legislation and Government Guidance**

Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015

Prevent Duty Guidance for Scotland; (Revised 16 July 2015)

GIRFEC, 2005

Children Scotland Act, 1995

The Human Rights Act, 1998

The Data Protection Act, 1998

## Possible Indicators of Risk

Possible Indicators of Risk may include:

- Racist graffiti/symbols/comments made ;
- Speaking out or writing in favour of extremist ideas;
- Extreme comments shared on social media;
- Distribution of extreme or terrorist propaganda to others;
- Association with those known to be involved in extremism (including via the internet);
- Travel for extended periods of time to international locations known to be associated with extremism;
- Disguising of a child's identity, for example, in documentation;
- A simplistic or flawed understanding of religious/political/global issues;
- A significant other in a child/young person's life who has extremist views or sympathies;
- Vulnerable person being influenced by others (although we are aware of a need to avoid over-simplified assessments of who might be 'vulnerable'), because of the existence of one or more factors, which may include:
  - An identity crisis, involving an individual's distance from their cultural/ religious heritage, including peer/ family/ faith group rejection;
  - A personal crisis, including family tension/social isolation/friendship issues;
  - Personal circumstances, such as migration, experience of racism;
  - Unmet aspirations;
  - Criminality;
  - Experience of poverty, disadvantage, discrimination or social exclusion;

However, this list is not exhaustive, nor does it mean that all young people demonstrating the above are at risk of radicalisation for the purposes of violent extremism.

Other Critical Risk factors, being:

- Contact with extremist recruiters;
- Articulation of support for extremist causes/ leaders;
- Accessing violent extremist websites, especially those with a social networking element
- Possessing or accessing violent or extremist literature;
- Using extremist narratives and a global ideology to explain personal disadvantage;
- Justifying the use of violence to solve societal issues;
- Joining or seeking to join extremist organisations
- A significant shift in a person's behaviour or outward appearance, particularly involving conflict with his/her family and/or faith group
- Experiencing a high level of social isolation resulting in issues of identity crisis and / or personal crisis.

# Prevent Lead: Roles and Responsibilities of the Single Point of Contact (SPoC)

The SPoCs for George Watson's College are Head of Senior School and Head of Junior School, who are responsible for:

- Demonstrating an understanding of the local and national multi-agency Prevent governance arrangements.
- Ensuring that staff of the School are aware that you are the SPoC in relation to protecting pupils and staff from radicalisation and involvement in terrorism;
- Maintaining and applying a good understanding of the relevant guidance in relation to
- Preventing pupils from becoming involved in terrorism, and protecting them from radicalisation by those who support terrorism or forms of extremism which lead to terrorism;
- Raising awareness about the role and responsibilities of George Watson's College in relation to protecting pupils from radicalisation and involvement in terrorism;
- Monitoring the effect in practice of the School's curriculum and assembly policy to ensure that they are used to promote community cohesion and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs;
- Raising awareness within the School about the safeguarding processes relating to protecting pupils from radicalisation and involvement in terrorism;
- Acting as the first point of contact within the School for case discussions relating to pupils who may be at risk of radicalisation or involved in terrorism;
- Collating relevant information in relation to referrals of vulnerable pupils
- Sharing any relevant additional information in a timely manner.

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