



St Christopher's the Hall School



Prevent Policy

Policy Owner: Head of Rosemead

ISSR Reference:

Reviewed: Michaelmas 2025

Approved: Full Governing Body Michaelmas 2025

Next Review: Michaelmas 2026

Version Control Information

Reason for Amendment	Role	Date	Main Changes
Annual review	Head of School	Autumn 2025	New template KCSIE 2024 updates

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1. Aims

This policy is applicable to staff, students and parent/carers of St Christopher’s the Hall (‘the school’) and aims to ensure all parties are clear on the mechanisms through which Prevent Duty is delivered and overseen in the school.

2. Legislation

This policy is based on expectations set out by the Independent Schools Inspectorate (ISI), and informed by the following legislation:

- Keeping Children Safe in Education

3. Roles and responsibilities

3.1 St Dunstan’s Education Group

The governing body has ultimate responsibility for safeguarding but will delegate day-to-day responsibility to the Head of St Dunstan’s Education Group, who delegates responsibility to the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL).

The governing body has a duty to:

- Review this policy annually
- Ensure the school follows what is articulated within this policy.

3.2 The Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)

The DSL is are responsible for safeguarding. This involves:

- Ensuring all staff in the school follow what is articulated within this framework
- Staff receive sufficient training on how to implement the principles outlined in the policy

3.3 Staff

Staff are responsible for the provision of pastoral care in the school. Staff will:

- Implement the framework outlined in this policy, including specific roles for tutors and teachers

3.4 Students and parents/carers

Students and parents/carers are responsible for communicating effectively with the school regarding any support that may be required. Students and parents /carers will:

- Adhere to the parent / carer communications pyramid
- Use My School Portal to keep up to date with communications from the school.

4. Prevent Duty

4.1 Introduction

The Counterterrorism 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.

4.2 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”.

4.3 Aims

To ensure all staff understand the risks of radicalisation within St Christopher’s 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.

4.4 Vulnerability to radicalisation or extreme viewpoints from the internet

St Christopher's 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 school 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 Computer Science lessons, Stuart lessons and additional drop down days.

Refer to the School's ICT Policy for further details.

4.5 Visitors to St Christopher's

In order to safeguard pupils from visitors to St Christopher's who may have extreme or radical views the school will:

- Ensure all visitors 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. Visiting speakers need to be signed off by the DSL.

- Research any organisations which wish to have relationships with the school, particularly those in the voluntary sector.

4.6 Staff Training

In order to fulfil the requirements of the Prevent Duty, St Christopher's 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 (by undertaking Prevent training through iHASCO) 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 school's *Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy*.

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 school *Attendance Policy*.

Ensure staff and governors are aware of how to identify and respond to risks to children from extreme or radical views.

4.7 Education

St Christopher's 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 (covered through the Stuart Additional Curriculum and form/tutor time) 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 Christopher'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 (which are explicitly taught through the Stuart Additional Curriculum).

St Christopher'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.

St Christopher's 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. In Stuart Additional Curriculum lessons, students learn about the Equality Act 2010 and Protected Characteristics and the importance of British Values.

4.8 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 Group staff has a concern about a particular pupil, they should follow St Christopher's *Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy* including reporting the concern to the DSL who will, where deemed necessary, liaise with our safeguarding partners.

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.

4.9 Prevent Contacts

Bromley Prevent Officer

0800 011 3764

prevent@bromley.gov.uk

Department for Education extremism helpline

020 7340 7264

counter.extremism@education.gsi.gov.uk

5. Monitoring

This policy will be reviewed by the Head Teacher annually.

At every review, the policy will be approved by the Education committee (SS)

6. Links with other policies

This policy links with:

- Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy