St Dunstan's College

PART OF
ST DUNSTAN'S EDUCATION GROUP

PREVENT DUTY POLICY

Policy owner	Deputy Head Pastoral (DHP)
ISSR reference	
Date of review	Autumn 2026
Approved by	Part A: Group Board; Part B: Head and School Leadership Team, with assurance through the Local School Board
Date of next review	Autumn 2027

Version Control Information

Reason for Amendment	Role	Date	Main Changes
New Tier 2 policy Annual review	Deputy Head Pastoral (DHP)	Autumn 2026	KCSIE 2026 updates

Part A: Group Level Policy

1. Aims

This policy is applicable to staff, students and parent/carers of St Dunstan's Education Group and aims to ensure all parties are clear on the mechanisms through which Prevent Duty is delivered and overseen in the school.

2. Legislative and regulatory framework

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 (Sept 2026)

3. Roles and responsibilities

3.1 St Dunstan's Education Group

The Group Board has ultimate responsibility for safeguarding but will delegate day-to-day responsibility to the Chief Executive Officer (CEO), who delegates responsibility to the school Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL).

The Group Board has a duty to:

- Review this policy annually

The Local School Board

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

3.2 The Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)

The DSL is 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'.

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 Dunstan's Education Group 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 Group and its schools place 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.

5. Monitoring

This policy will be reviewed by the Deputy Head Pastoral annually.

At every review, the policy will be approved by the Group Board

6. Links with other policies

This policy links with:

- Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy

Part B: School Specific Arrangements

B1. St Dunstan's College context

The borough of Lewisham was identified in the Government's Prevent Strategy as one of the priority local areas for action.

B2. Vulnerability to radicalisation or extreme viewpoints from the internet

St Dunstan's 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 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 and Stuart lessons.

B3. Visitors to St Dunstan's College

In order to safeguard pupils from visitors to St Dunstan's College 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 (Deputy DSL in the Junior School).
- Research any organisations which wish to have relationships with the school, particularly those in the voluntary sector.

B4. Staff Training

In order to fulfil the requirements of the Prevent Duty, St Dunstan's 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 (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, via CPOMS.
- 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.

B5. Education

St Dunstan's College ensures its pupils are offered a broad and balanced curriculum delivered by skilled teachers that aims to prepare them 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. St Dunstan's College 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 Dunstan's College 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 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 Dunstan's 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. In Stuart Additional Curriculum lessons, students learn about the Equality Act 2010 and Protected Characteristics and the importance of British Values.

B6. 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 Dunstan's College Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy including reporting the concern on CPOMS. The DSL will, where deemed necessary, liaise with our safeguarding partners 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.

B7. Prevent Contacts

Lewisham Prevent Programme
prevent@lewisham.gov.uk

Department for Education extremism helpline
020 7340 7264
counter.extremism@education.gov.uk