Policy Name	Prevent and Anti-Radicalisation				
Effective Date	September 2025	**Date of last revision**	October 2026	**Version No.**	1
Author	Whole School Designated Safeguarding Lead				

Version History				
Version	**Approved by**	**Revision Date**	**Details of Changes**	**Author**
1	**MT**	**30/10**	**Updated definition of extremism**	**MN**
	MT	**30/10**	**Updated links to statutory docs**	**MN**
	MT	**Sept 25**	**Enhanced Channel Information**	**MN**
2	**MT**	**Oct 26**	**Included mention of local risk assessment**	**MN**
	MT	**Oct 26**	**Updated terminology to reflect KCSIE 2026**	**MN**
	MT	**Oct 26**	**Included staff attendance to channel panel**	**MN**
	MT	**Oct 26**	**Made specific reference to SEND not being a cause of radicalisation.**	**MN**

Policy Statement

Prevent and Anti-Radicalisation Policy Documentation for Regulatory Compliance 7a ICS London (hereafter referred to as 'the School') is committed to safeguarding its pupils from radicalisation/ extremism and preventing them from being drawn to terrorism. The School is equally committed to working with relevant sectors and institutions if it is discovered that a member of the School's community is in danger of becoming/ has become radicalised or has been/ is in danger of being drawn to terrorism.

The School recognises its duty under Section 26 of the Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015 (the CTSA 2015) to have "due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism".

For this policy, the definitions of extremism and radicalisation are those provided by Keeping Children Safe in Education 2026 and updated to reflect the most recent guidance of definitions March 2024.

Extremism is the promotion or advancement of an ideology based on violence, hatred or intolerance, that aims to:

- negate or destroy the fundamental rights and freedoms of others; or
- undermine, overturn or replace the UK's system of liberal parliamentary democracy and democratic rights; or
- intentionally create a permissive environment for others to achieve the results in the points above.

Radicalisation refers to the process by which a person comes to support terrorism and extremist ideologies associated with terrorist groups.

Scope of this policy

CONTEST is the name given to the United Kingdom's anti-terrorist policy and is made up of four strands:

- Prevent – stop people from becoming a terrorist or from supporting terrorism
- Pursue – stop terrorist attacks by detecting, prosecuting and otherwise disrupting those who plot to carry out attacks against the United Kingdom or its interests overseas
- Protect – strengthen protection against a terrorist attack in the United Kingdom or against its interests overseas

- Prepare – to mitigate the impact of a terrorist attack where that attack cannot be stopped.

The Prevent strategy was explicitly changed in 2011 to deal with all forms of terrorism and with non-violent extremism, which can create an atmosphere conducive to terrorism and can popularise views which terrorists then exploit. It also made clear that preventing people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism requires challenge to extremist ideas where they are used to legitimise terrorism and are shared by terrorist groups. The strategy also means intervening to stop people moving from extremist (albeit legal) groups into terrorist-related activity.

Section 26 of the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 places a duty on certain bodies ('specified authorities'), in the exercise of their functions, to have "due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism". Independent schools are considered a 'specified authority' and, as such, the leadership and staff of ICS London recognise their statutory duty to 'prevent people from being drawn into terrorism.'

Relevant Legislation

This policy is informed by the guidance offered in Section 29 of the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act (2015). It supports the safeguarding principles included in the School's Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy, which is informed by guidance offered in 'Working Together to Safeguard Children 2026' and Keeping Children Safe in Education 2026.

Channel

Where the police assess a radicalisation risk following a Prevent referral, a Channel panel will meet to discuss the referral, assess the risk and decide whether the person should be accepted into Channel.

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

1. identifying individuals at risk;
2. assessing the nature and extent of that risk; and
3. developing the most appropriate support plan for the individuals concerned.

Channel may be appropriate for anyone who is susceptible 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 related activity. Channel is a

voluntary process and an individual would be required to provide their consent prior to receiving support from the programme.

In cases where the person is under 18 years of age, consent is provided by a parent, guardian or the agency that has responsibility for their care. Where risks cannot be managed in Channel, they will be kept under review by the police.

The Channel Process includes these stages:

1. Identifying Individuals: There is no single way of identifying who is likely to be susceptible to being drawn into terrorism. Factors that may have a bearing on someone becoming susceptible may include: peer pressure, influence from other people or via the internet, bullying, crime against them or their involvement in crime, antisocial behaviour, family tensions, race/hate crime, lack of self-esteem or identity and personal or political grievances.
2. Referral Stage: Referrals are made to a Channel Police Practitioner (CPP) and are often likely to be made in the first instance by individuals who come into contact with vulnerable people.
3. Screening and Information Gathering Stage: If the initial information received through the referral shows a susceptibility that is not terrorist related then the case is not suitable for Channel; the Channel Police Practitioner (CPP) will refer the individual to other more appropriate support services. This will ensure that only those cases where there is a genuine vulnerability to being drawn into terrorism are processed through Channel.

   A representative from the school may be asked to attend the Channel panel to help with this assessment. This will usually be the Whole School Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) or Head of School.

   All referrals that progress through to the Channel process will be subject to a thorough assessment by the Channel panel. The preliminary assessment is led by the CPP and will include their line manager and, if appropriate, senior personnel of panel partners. Partners of a panel may be requested to provide information about an individual to the CPP during the information gathering stage. The default for panel partners when determining what information can be shared should be to consider seeking the consent of the individual (or their parent/guardian). In some circumstances, consent from the individual will not be sought at this early stage.

4. Vulnerability Assessment: Framework (VAF) Channel assesses susceptibility using a consistently applied assessment framework built around three criteria.

The three criteria are:

a. Engagement with a group, cause or ideology. Engagement factors are sometimes referred to as “psychological hooks”. They include needs, susceptibilities, motivations and contextual influences and together map the individual pathway into terrorism and can include: feelings of grievance and injustice, feeling under threat, a need for identity, meaning and belonging, a desire for status, a desire for excitement and adventure, a need to dominate and control others, susceptibility to indoctrination, a desire for political or moral change

b. Intent to cause harm. Not all those who become engaged by a group, cause or ideology go on to develop an intention to cause harm, so this dimension is considered separately. Intent factors describe the mind-set that is associated with a readiness to use violence and address what the individual would do and to what end. They can include: over-identification with a group or ideology, ‘Them and Us’ thinking, dehumanisation of the enemy, attitudes that justify offending, harmful means to an end, harmful objectives

c. Capability to cause harm. Not all those who have a wish to cause harm on behalf of a group, cause or ideology are capable of doing so, and plots to cause widespread damage take a high level of personal capability, resources and networking to be successful. What the individual is capable of is therefore a key consideration when assessing risk of harm to the public. Factors can include: individual knowledge, skills and competencies, access to networks, funding or equipment, criminal capability.

The criteria are considered separately as experience has shown that it is possible to be engaged without intending to cause harm and that it is possible to intend to cause harm without being particularly engaged. Experience has also shown that it is possible to desist (stop intending to cause harm) without fully disengaging (remaining sympathetic to the cause); though losing sympathy with the cause (disengaging) will invariably result in desistance (loss of intent).

5. Support: If the person who has been referred is suitable for help through the Channel process, support packages and interventions will be put in place.

It is important to note that Keeping Children Safe in Education 2026 states that SEND conditions do not cause radicalisation, though unmet needs can increase a young person's vulnerability due to reduced critical understanding and higher susceptibility.

Links with extremist groups

The Prevent strategy 2011 makes clear that Channel is about stopping people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism, and that this will mean intervening to stop people moving from extremist groups or from extremism into terrorist-related activity. Where people holding extremist views appear to be attracted to or moving towards terrorism they clearly become relevant to Channel.

Association with organisations that are not forbidden by law and that espouse extremist ideology as defined in the Prevent strategy is not, on its own, reason enough to justify a referral to the Channel process. If professionals at a local level determine that someone attracted to the ideology of such groups also exhibits additional behavioural indicators that suggest they are moving towards terrorism then it would be appropriate to make a referral to Channel. It would be the presence of additional 4 behavioural indicators that would determine the suitability of the Channel process and not the fact they are associating with or attracted to a group that manifests extremist ideologies.

ICS London Prevent Actions

ICS London is committed to protecting pupils from radicalisation and preventing them from being drawn to terrorism by:

Assessing risk: the School has a robust Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy which is updated annually. All guest speakers must be approved by the Principals and are supervised during visits to the School. Staff are prepared to interrupt a presentation should a guest speaker start discussing material deemed unsuitable or inappropriate.

Additionally, the school receives the local Risk Assessment from Westminster Prevent annually and uses this to support risk management within our local context.

Working in partnership: the School's Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy takes into account London Child Protection Procedures and Guidance as directed by our LSCP for Kensington, Chelsea and Westminster. All members of SLT and the School's Designated Safeguarding Lead are committed to working with relevant organisations to ensure pupils' wellbeing.

Training staff: all staff at ICS London receive training in the safeguarding of children and the School's Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy is updated annually. All staff complete The Prevent Duty training through Educare. Additionally, students and staff attend workshops run by The Westminster Prevent Officer.

Monitoring and filtering of IT activity: the School takes all reasonable steps to ensure that children are safe from terrorist and extremist material when accessing the internet using the ICS London Network. The School employs appropriate software to monitor pupil behaviour and filter internet access and all staff, pupils and visitors are required to agree to the School's Acceptable Use Policy.

Guest speakers: In line with Prevent Duty guidance, the School requires anyone inviting a visiting speaker (be they a member of staff or student) to take reasonable steps to ensure that the speaker is suitable and appropriately supervised. A form must be completed by the person inviting the visiting speaker to the School. All materials to be shared with the children are checked by the person inviting the guest speaker prior to the visit.

Visits and lectures: staff are expected to use their professional judgement when escorting students on excursions to ensure that they are not exposed to extremist views. Any proposed exposure will be discussed with the DSL as part of the trip planning process, who will refer to the Head of School as necessary.

The measures listed above add to the School's integrated approach to Safeguarding, which includes both pastoral and curricular policies designed to promote British values and ensure the safety and wellbeing of all pupils at ICS London.

Making a Referral and Finding out More

- For enquiries and referrals, contact Ms Julie Knotts - Westminster's Prevent Officer.
    - Contact details: email: jknotts@westminster.gov.uk
    - Tel: 0207 641 6000

- The Metropolitan Police has a dedicated anti-terrorist hotline: 0800 789 321
- DFE Counter Extremism Helpline: 0207 340 7264
- You can dial 101 (non-emergency police telephone number) to find out more around the Prevent strategy or to express concerns about links to terrorism or violent extremism.
- Educate Against Hate (https://educateagainsthate.com), a website launched by the Her Majesty's Government, has been developed to support and equip school and college leaders, teachers, and parents with information, tools and resources (including on the promotion of fundamental British values) to help recognise and address extremism and radicalisation in young people.