

Belton Church of England Primary School

Radicalisation and Prevent Policy



September 2026 – August 2027

Updated to reflect Keeping Children Safe in Education 2026 and the Prevent duty guidance for England and Wales (2023), which came into force on 31 December 2023.

Reviewed: September 2026

Policy owner: Designated Safeguarding Lead / Headteacher

Approved by: Governing Body

Review date: September 2027

1. Purpose and aims

Belton Church of England Primary School is fully committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all pupils. The school recognises that protecting children from radicalisation and extremist influences is part of its wider safeguarding responsibilities.

The Prevent duty requires the school, as a specified authority, to have due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism. Prevent is part of the school's wider safeguarding arrangements and is not a separate process from child protection.

The school's approach is based on three linked principles:

- Prevention – promoting resilience, critical thinking, respect and understanding through the curriculum and school culture.
- Protection – identifying children or adults who may be susceptible to radicalisation and responding promptly to concerns.
- Support – working with families, the local authority, Prevent practitioners, police and other agencies to provide proportionate support.

This policy applies to pupils, staff, governors, volunteers, visitors, contractors and parents/carers where their actions may affect safeguarding within the school.

2. Prevent and safeguarding

The school will consider vulnerability to radicalisation in the same way as other safeguarding concerns. Staff are expected to maintain an attitude of professional curiosity and understand that safeguarding concerns, including radicalisation, can occur in any community.

The school recognises that radicalisation can occur online and offline and that children may be exposed to extremist narratives through social media, online communities, gaming platforms, messaging services, peers, adults or other sources.

The school will consider the individual needs and circumstances of each child. A child's protected characteristic, religion, ethnicity, political views or lawful expression of belief must not, in itself, be treated as evidence of vulnerability to terrorism.

3. Roles and responsibilities

Governing Body

- Ensure that effective arrangements are in place to safeguard pupils from radicalisation and extremist influences.
- Ensure that this policy is reviewed at least annually and alongside the Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy.
- Ensure staff receive appropriate safeguarding and Prevent training.
- Ensure the school has proportionate arrangements for assessing local and school-specific radicalisation risks.
- Provide appropriate oversight of the school's Prevent arrangements.

Headteacher

- Ensure Prevent forms part of the school's wider safeguarding arrangements.

- Support the DSL in implementing the school's Prevent procedures.
- Ensure visitors and external speakers are appropriately vetted and supervised.
- Ensure concerns about adults are managed through safeguarding, allegations-against-staff and/or whistleblowing procedures as appropriate.

Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)

- Act as the school's main point of contact for concerns about radicalisation and extremism.
- Ensure staff know how to recognise and report concerns.
- Consider concerns on a case-by-case basis and decide what safeguarding action is required.
- Follow local authority and Prevent referral arrangements.
- Liaise with local Prevent practitioners, police, Children's Social Care and other agencies as appropriate.
- Maintain accurate records of concerns, referrals, decisions and actions.
- Ensure relevant Channel information and outcomes are securely transferred within safeguarding records when a child moves school, where required.

All staff, volunteers and regular visitors

- Understand that Prevent is part of safeguarding.
- Complete required safeguarding and Prevent training.
- Remain alert to concerns that a child may be susceptible to radicalisation.
- Report concerns immediately to the DSL or deputy DSL.
- Challenge inappropriate extremist narratives where it is safe and appropriate to do so, while following the school's safeguarding procedures.

4. Training

All staff will receive safeguarding training which includes awareness of Prevent and radicalisation. Staff will understand the local threat picture and how concerns should be escalated.

- Staff will understand the difference between holding lawful beliefs or views and behaviour that indicates a safeguarding concern relating to terrorism or extremist influence.
- Staff will know how to respond to disclosures and record concerns.
- Staff will understand that online radicalisation is a potential safeguarding risk.
- The DSL and relevant leaders will maintain appropriate knowledge of local Prevent arrangements and referral pathways.
- Governors will receive appropriate information or training so they can provide effective oversight.

The school will use current Home Office/DfE Prevent training and local Prevent team resources where appropriate. The current statutory Prevent duty guidance expects education settings to have suitable training arrangements and effective cooperation with local Prevent staff, police and local authorities.

5. Curriculum, resilience and fundamental British values

The curriculum will support pupils to develop resilience, critical thinking and the knowledge and skills needed to participate positively in society. The school will promote respect for democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs.

- Relationships, PSHE and wider curriculum teaching will promote respectful relationships and challenge prejudice and discrimination.
- Pupils will be taught to recognise unsafe online content and understand how to seek help.

- Pupils will be encouraged to question information and consider different perspectives appropriately.
- The school will create opportunities for pupils to participate in democratic processes and develop their voice.
- The school will promote respect for different cultures, faiths and beliefs without stereotyping or making assumptions about individuals.

6. Risk assessment and local threat

The school will maintain a proportionate assessment of the risk of pupils or staff being drawn into terrorism or exposed to extremist influences. The assessment will take account of the school's phase, size, local context, online risks and information shared by local partners.

- Local Prevent risk information and intelligence will be considered where available.
- The school will consider risks associated with online activity and access to extremist material.
- Where specific risks are identified, the school will consider an action plan to reduce those risks.
- The use of school premises by external organisations or speakers will be included in risk considerations.
- The risk assessment will be reviewed when local circumstances or the threat picture changes.

7. Visitors, speakers and use of school premises

The school recognises that visitors and external speakers can enrich learning but must be appropriately managed. The school will undertake reasonable due diligence and ensure that visiting speakers and organisations are suitable.

- The purpose and content of a proposed activity will be considered in advance.
- The school will consider whether views likely to be expressed could encourage support for terrorism or otherwise create a safeguarding risk.
- Activities must be consistent with the school's ethos and safeguarding responsibilities.
- Speakers must not be permitted to promote violence, terrorism or unlawful discrimination.
- Visitors and external speakers will be appropriately supervised.
- Where the school uses external organisations, leaders will consider whether the organisation is appropriate and whether any relevant safeguarding checks are required.
- External use of premises will be managed through the school's lettings and safeguarding arrangements.

8. Managing concerns about radicalisation

Any member of staff, volunteer or visitor who receives a disclosure or has a concern that a child may be susceptible to radicalisation must report the concern immediately to the DSL or deputy DSL.

The DSL will:

1. consider the concern alongside other safeguarding information;
2. speak with relevant staff and, where appropriate, the child and family;
3. consider whether the concern indicates a safeguarding need, an immediate risk, or a need for Prevent support;
4. follow local Prevent referral procedures;
5. consult with the local Prevent team, police or Children's Social Care where appropriate;
6. consider whether a Channel referral is appropriate;
7. record the concern, actions, decisions and reasons clearly; and

8. continue to monitor and support the child.

The school will not attempt to conduct its own investigation into radicalisation or terrorism concerns where specialist agencies should be involved. The DSL will seek advice and make referrals in accordance with local procedures.

9. Channel and Prevent referrals

Prevent referrals are intended to identify people who may be susceptible to radicalisation and provide appropriate support at an early stage. A referral is not an accusation that a child or family has committed an offence.

Where the DSL considers that a Prevent referral may be appropriate, the school will use the current local Prevent referral route and/or national referral process as directed by the local authority and Prevent team.

Where a child is considered for Channel support, the school will cooperate with the Channel process and provide relevant information, subject to lawful information-sharing requirements. The child's welfare and individual circumstances will remain central.

The school will not use the old referral form reproduced in the 2025 policy as the sole mechanism for referral. Current local and national referral forms and pathways will be used.

10. Immediate safeguarding concerns

Prevent concerns may coexist with other safeguarding risks. If information suggests that a child is at immediate risk of harm, is being exploited, or that an offence may have occurred, the DSL will follow the school's Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy and contact Children's Social Care and/or the police as appropriate.

The school will not delay urgent safeguarding action while waiting for Prevent advice.

11. Information sharing and recording

The school will share information where this is necessary, lawful and proportionate to safeguard children or meet its Prevent duty. Consent is not always required where there is another lawful basis for sharing safeguarding information.

- Concerns will be recorded promptly and accurately on CPOMS.
- Records will include the concern, information considered, actions taken, referrals, advice received and reasons for decisions.
- Information will only be shared with people who need it for safeguarding or the relevant Prevent process.
- Where a child moves school, relevant safeguarding information, including Channel involvement and outcomes where applicable, will be transferred securely within the child protection file in accordance with current safeguarding requirements.
- Records will be retained in accordance with the school's safeguarding and data-protection procedures.

12. Online safety and extremist material

The school recognises the internet as a potential route through which children may encounter extremist narratives, recruitment or harmful content. Online safety education and technical controls will therefore form part of the school's Prevent arrangements.

- The school will use appropriate filtering and monitoring systems to reduce the likelihood of pupils accessing harmful or extremist content.
- Filtering and monitoring arrangements will be reviewed in accordance with the school's Online Safety Policy and safeguarding arrangements.
- Staff will report concerns about inappropriate or extremist online content through safeguarding procedures.
- Pupils will be taught how to respond to harmful online content and how to seek help.
- Parents/carers will be provided with appropriate online safety information.

13. Recognising vulnerability

There is no single profile of a person who may become susceptible to radicalisation. The school will avoid stereotyping and will consider the whole context of the child.

Factors that may contribute to vulnerability can include:

- identity or belonging difficulties;
- isolation or exclusion from peers;
- family or relationship difficulties;
- experience of discrimination, racism or prejudice;
- exposure to extremist or terrorist narratives online or offline;
- peer or adult influence;
- involvement with criminal groups or exploitation;
- unmet emotional, social or educational needs;
- significant changes in behaviour, friendships or interests; and
- other circumstances that may make a child susceptible to manipulation or exploitation.

These factors are not, by themselves, evidence of radicalisation. Staff must avoid assumptions and must consider concerns in context.

14. Indicators of concern

The following may indicate a safeguarding concern when considered alongside the wider circumstances of a child. The list is not exhaustive and no single indicator should automatically lead to a Prevent referral.

- accessing or sharing extremist or terrorist material;
- expressing support for terrorism or the use of violence to achieve ideological aims;
- attempting to recruit or influence others towards extremist or terrorist activity;
- significant and concerning changes in behaviour, relationships, language or interests linked to extremist narratives;
- contact with individuals or groups known to promote terrorism;
- increased secrecy about online activity where this is linked to extremist content;
- prejudice-related incidents or hostility towards groups where there is evidence of an extremist narrative;
- attempts to justify or glorify terrorist violence; and
- other behaviour suggesting that the child may be being groomed, coerced or exploited by an extremist influence.

15. Equality, religion and lawful expression

The school will apply Prevent proportionately and fairly. Holding a lawful religious, political or ideological belief is not, in itself, evidence of radicalisation or extremism. Staff will not make assumptions about a child's beliefs, background, religion, race or identity.

The school will distinguish between lawful expression of views and behaviour that indicates support for terrorism, incitement to violence, recruitment or other safeguarding concerns. Where there is uncertainty, the DSL will seek advice rather than making assumptions.

16. Allegations or concerns about adults

If an allegation or concern is received about an adult working in or associated with the school that suggests they may pose a safeguarding risk because of extremist or radicalising activity, it will be managed through the school's procedures for allegations against staff and other safeguarding procedures.

- The concern will be reported immediately to the Headteacher or appropriate senior safeguarding lead.
- Where the concern is about the Headteacher, the Chair of Governors will be informed in accordance with the school's safeguarding procedures.
- The school will contact the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO), police, Prevent team or other agency where appropriate.
- The school will follow whistleblowing arrangements where relevant.

17. Partnerships and local arrangements

The school will cooperate with the local authority, local Prevent team, police, safeguarding partners and other relevant agencies. The DSL will maintain awareness of the current local referral pathway and relevant contact arrangements.

The school recognises that effective Prevent work depends on productive cooperation with local Prevent staff, police and local authorities.

18. Monitoring and review

- The DSL and Headteacher will review Prevent concerns and referrals as part of safeguarding monitoring.
- The governing body will receive appropriate assurance about the school's Prevent arrangements.
- The school will review training needs and the effectiveness of preventative education.
- The school's risk assessment will be reviewed when local or national circumstances change.
- Lessons from concerns and referrals will inform safeguarding practice, curriculum planning and staff training.
- This policy will be reviewed annually and sooner if statutory guidance changes.

19. Local Prevent and safeguarding contacts

The original policy included Leicestershire Prevent contact information. Before approval of this 2026–2027 version, the school should verify all local referral routes and contact details against the current Leicestershire County Council and local Prevent arrangements.

Service	Current contact / referral route
Leicestershire Prevent / Prevent engagement team	0800 011 3764, (Advice line) 101 extension 2541.
Local Prevent referral route	Prevent.team@leicestershire.pnn.gov.uk
Leicestershire Children's Social Care	0116 3055500
Police	101 999 (if an emergency)

20. Statutory framework and key guidance

- Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015, particularly sections 26 and 29.
- Prevent duty guidance: England and Wales (2023) – statutory guidance; in force from 31 December 2023.
- Keeping children safe in education 2026 – Department for Education, effective from 1 September 2026.
- Working Together to Safeguard Children 2026.
- The Prevent duty: safeguarding learners vulnerable to radicalisation – Department for Education.
- Information sharing: advice for practitioners providing safeguarding services to children, young people, parents and carers.
- Education Act 2002 and relevant safeguarding duties.
- Equality Act 2010.

21. Glossary

Term	Meaning
Prevent	The government's strategy and statutory duty intended to stop people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism.
Radicalisation	The process by which a person comes to support terrorism or forms of extremist ideology associated with terrorism.
Extremism	The promotion or advancement of an ideology based on violence, hatred or intolerance that aims to negate or undermine fundamental rights and freedoms, or democratic systems and institutions, in accordance with the current government definition and guidance.
Terrorism	The meaning set out in the Terrorism Act 2000 and subsequent legislation.
Channel	A voluntary, multi-agency process that provides support to people who are susceptible to radicalisation.
Vulnerability / susceptibility	Factors or circumstances that may make an individual more susceptible to being drawn into terrorism. These must be considered in context and do not indicate radicalisation by themselves.

22. Policy review record

Date	Version	Changes	Approved by
September 2026	2026–2027	Updated from September 2025 policy to reflect KCSIE 2026, current Prevent duty guidance (2023), current terminology, risk-based Prevent arrangements, Channel, information sharing, online radicalisation, visitors/external speakers	Governing Body

		and current referral expectations.	
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Important local update: The 2025 policy contained a named Leicestershire Prevent email address and a reference to a Channel referral form. These have not been reproduced as fixed contact details because local referral routes and forms should be verified before the policy is approved for 2026–2027.