



SAFEGUARDING-THE PREVENT POLICY

Michaelmas TERM 2026

St Helen and St Katharine places safeguarding at the heart of all that we do and recognises the wide-ranging aspects of the term.

There are three policies that comprise the Safeguarding Group - Child Protection, Prevent and Online Safety. This policy focuses on safeguarding in terms of 'Prevent'.

The Safeguarding Policy Group has alongside it a range of other important policies that work together to safeguard the individuals at this school.

This policy is part of the group of policies that consider safeguarding issues. Other policies are Whistleblowing, Anti-bullying, ICT Acceptable use, Equal Opportunities, Safer Recruiting, Relationships and Sex Education, Health and Safety, Pastoral Care, Behaviour, Work Experience, the Staff Code of Conduct, Contractors Policy.

In writing this policy we have referred to: Prevent Duty Guidance: Guidance for England and Wales (2024). The Prevent Duty: an introduction for those with safeguarding responsibilities (2023). Understanding and identifying risk in your educational setting (2023), Managing risk of radicalisation in your educational setting (2023), Prevent duty: safeguarding learners vulnerable to radicalisation (2022). The Prevent duty: Departmental advice for schools and childminders (June 2015); The use of social media for on-line radicalisation (July 2015); Keeping Children Safe in Education (September 2025) Counter-terrorism strategy (CONTEST) (2018) guidance on promoting British Values (2014) Prevent Duty Toolkit for Local Authorities and Partner Agencies (2018), Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) and Health Education (2019, updated September 2021). Working together to safeguard children (2023), Safer Oxfordshire Partnership: Working with individuals vulnerable to extremism (2022), educate against hate website, specifically 'hosting speakers on school premises'

If you are worried about a child

- 1. If it is an emergency phone 999**
- 2. Inform the DSL Liz Bedford ebedford@shsk.org.uk or any one of the DDSLs**
Sophia Scott-Malden, Helen Whitworth (tbc), Kay Taylor, Rachel Green, Nina Bass
(contact details in table below)
- 3. Alternatively, if you have significant concerns you can contact the MASH directly**
0345 050 7666

If you have concerns about an adult's behaviour in or linked to school

- 1. If it is an emergency phone 999**
- 2. Inform the Head Sarah Rollings head@shsk.org.uk 01235 546502**
- 3. Or if your concerns are about the Head, the Chair of Governors Sara Benbow Or if your concerns are about the Head, the Chair of Governors Sara Benbow**

The Chair of Governors may be contacted via post sent to the school address: St Helen and St Katharine, Faringdon Road, Abingdon, OX14 1BE. Correspondence should be addressed to the Chair of Governors and marked as 'confidential'. Alternatively, please contact the Clerk to the

Governors, or outside of term time, the Executive Assistant to the Head, via telephone on 01235 520173 / 01235 546502. For contact by email, her address is in the table below.

4. Alternatively, you can contact the LADO (see below)

KEY CONTACTS

Key contact details for safeguarding in the local area

Local Authority Designated Officer	Jo Lloyd TEL: 01865 810603 lado.safeguardingchildren@oxfordshire.gov.uk
OSCB-National Prevent Referral Form	Saved in the Heads of Section Group on staff intranet
Locality and Community Support Service (South)	TEL: 0345 2412608 EMAIL: LCSS.South@oxfordshire.gov.uk
Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub – Oxfordshire	TEL: 0345 050 7666 / 0333 014 3325 OUT OF HOURS: 0800 833408
Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub - Berkshire	TEL: 01635 503090 EMERGENCY OUT OF HOURS: 01344786543
NSPCC Whistleblowing Advice Line	ADDRESS: Weston House 42 Curtain Road London EC2A 3NH TEL: 0800 028 0285 EMAIL: help@nspcc.org.uk
Prevent referral to the police-national advice line	TEL: 0800 011 3764 EMAIL: preventreferrals@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk
Non-emergency alternative police telephone number	TEL: 101
General enquiries to the police- Prevent Gateway Team	TEL: 01865 555618 EMAIL: PreventGateway@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk

Sources of advice and information

National police Prevent advice line	TEL: 0800 0113764
Information about Prevent	https://actearly.uk/
Non-emergency guidance for staff and governors	TEL: 020 7340 7264 EMAIL: counter.extremism@education.gov.uk

Key school contact details

Governors	Chair of Governors Sara Benbow EMAIL: S8Benbow@shsk.org.uk Nominated Safeguarding Governor Bernadette Stubley EMAIL: bstubley@shsk.org.uk
Designated Safeguarding Lead (“DSL”) {and Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead (“DDSL”)}	Main DSL for the School Liz Bedford EMAIL: ebedford@shsk.org.uk Deputy DSLs Nina Bass (Junior) nbass@shsk.org.uk Rachel Green (Junior) EMAIL: rgreen@shsk.org.uk Kay Taylor (Lower) EMAIL: ktaylor@shsk.org.uk EMAIL: Sophia Scott-Malden (Sixth Form)) EMAIL: sscott-malden@shsk.org.uk
DDSL-external users and lettings	Operations Team-duty person EMAIL: operations@shsk.org.uk
Designated Teacher for Looked After Children	Liz Bedford EMAIL: ebedford@shsk.org.uk
Head	Sarah Rollings EMAIL: head@shsk.org.uk

Key terms

For the purposes of this policy extremism and radicalisation are defined as:

- Extremism. The Government has defined extremism (March 2024) as:
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

- Erode democratic institutions, social capital, and cohesion; or
- Incite hatred; or
- Leads to acts of terrorism

Radicalisation is a process by which a person comes to support terrorism and extremism ideologies associated with terror groups.

Radicalisation can be both violent and nonviolent. Violent extremism is caused by a combination of interlocking factors: ▪ An ideology which justifies terrorism by manipulating theology as well as history and politics; ▪ Radicalisers and their networks which promote violent extremism through a variety of places, institutions and media; ▪ Individuals who are vulnerable to the messages of violent extremists; ▪ Communities, which are sometimes poorly equipped to challenge and resist violent extremism; and ▪ grievances, some genuine and some perceived, and some directed very specifically against the government.

Preventing Extremism and Radicalisation

St Helen and St Katharine recognises the responsibilities held by all schools under the Prevent Duty Guidance (2024) and Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015, which ensure the safeguarding of our students against the threat of extremism and radicalisation.

The Prevent duty requires specified authorities including schools to help prevent the risk of people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism. The duty helps to ensure that people who are susceptible to radicalisation are supported as they would be under safeguarding processes. When carrying out the Prevent duty, the School will be mindful of data protection legislation and the Equality Act 2010.

The Prevent duty notes that young people are more likely to be 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.

Areas of extremism identified in the Prevent duty include: Islamist ideology, Extreme Right-Wing ideology (cultural nationalism, white nationalism, white supremacism). Common themes include: anti-Semitism, misogyny, anti-LGBT, religious or ethnic superiority and anti-establishment perspectives. Extreme Left Wing and Anarchist views are also possible but less common¹. Conspiracy theories can act as a gateway to radicalized thinking. Some individuals with extremist thinking may not subscribe to any specific ideology but have a fascination with extreme violence e.g. weapons, school shootings or attacks such as the Southport attack of 2024.

We believe that St Helen and St Katharine should be a safe place where students can understand and discuss sensitive topics, including terrorism and the extremist ideas that are part of the terrorist ideology and extreme ideologies and learn how to challenge such ideas.

The following arrangements are in place to ensure the school carries out the Prevent duty:

- There is a designated member of Leadership responsible for the Prevent Policy, training and implementation. The Pastoral Deputy Head (DSL) fulfils this role.
- The DSL and DDSLs will update their training at least every two years to ensure they have an understanding of the changing threat.
- When joining the school, all staff and Governors will complete training in Prevent

¹ Paragraph 24 p10 Prevent Duty Guidance 2023

- Staff will have training annually in understanding extremism and identifying those at risk of radicalisation and are kept informed of how to report concerns about a student or member of staff.
- The DSL will complete an annual risk assessment which will be reviewed by the Leadership team and the Governance Committee. If there is an incident, either linked to the school or the local area, this risk assessment will be reviewed. The risk assessment can be found in the policies and procedures section in the staff SharePoint area.
- Staff will actively promote Fundamental British Values, including mutual respect, tolerance and democratic participation
- Staff will ensure that outside speakers are assessed for suitability of message/content-see Appendix 1 - Protocol on Visiting Speakers
- Personal Development/General Studies lessons will include work to encourage critical thinking related to online content and resilience to online extremism. Students will be taught to understand the risks posed by adults or young people who use the internet and social media to bully, groom, abuse or radicalise young people
- Working with CTS (IT managed service provider), the DSL will ensure that an appropriate level of internet content filtering is in place on the school IT system and that students and staff are monitored by an external provider for extremist searches/ activity online. This will reduce the possibility of a permissive environment being encountered.
- Bursary staff will conduct due diligence checks on groups/ individuals seeking to hire or use school premises and on contractors working on the school site during the term. (see Contractors' Policy)
- Respond to information from the Education Safeguarding Advisory Team or the police that outlines the latest trends and figures for Oxfordshire.

Procedures in the event of a concern about radicalisation If people are at immediate risk of harm- phone 999

The procedures within school are the same as for any child protection issue. Any member of staff with a concern about a student should report this to the DSL (Pastoral Deputy Head), or in her absence any of the DDSLs (Heads of Section Y5-U6). If the concern is about a member of staff, they should report it to the Head. If the concern is about the Head, they should report it to the Chair of Governors.

Methods of reporting can be in person, by phone or by email or CPOMs. If an online version is used, the member of staff should follow up that day to ensure that it has been received.

In Oxfordshire, there is one pathway so the decision to refer to Channel or Children's Social care is made through that framework.

- The DSL/DDSL will report the concern to the MASH 0345 0507666 (or County equivalent) and complete a Prevent Referral Form (found in the Heads of Section group on SharePoint and [OSCB website](#)) and email it to preventreferrals@thamesvalley.police.uk
- This will then follow the Prevent National Referral Form pathway with automatic referral to the MASH, Prevent Gateway and Thames Valley Police FIMU
- If the DSL/DDSL is unsure whether to make a referral they can email prevent@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk to seek advice.

Procedures around online extremist or terrorist content

The school uses filters and the forensic monitoring service Smoothwall to filter and screen activity on the School network (see Online Safety policy for further detail). Should any member of staff encounter or be aware of the following content, they should report it to www.gov.uk/report-terrorism or report it to the DSL who will, in turn report it to the website above.

Reportable content includes:

- articles, images, speeches or videos that promote terrorism or encourage violence
- content encouraging people to commit acts of terrorism
- websites made by terrorist or extremist organisations
- videos of terrorist attacks.

Governor scrutiny

The Governor responsible for Safeguarding scrutinises this policy to ensure that it has the relevant content and reviews the risk assessment. The DSL meets with the Governor at least once a term to update them on any issues. The Governor carries out regular checks of staff to ensure practice is followed. There are termly updates to all Governors from the DSL both through written reports and the Governance committee. The Governance committee scrutinizes the Risk Assessment at least annually.

Policy last reviewed.....Lent 2026
 Next review due..... Lent 2027
 Person responsible for review Pastoral Deputy Head, annually by Governing Body
 Audience.....Staff/Parents/Governors

Appendix 1 Protocol on visiting speakers

Key concepts

The member of staff inviting the speaker into school has the responsibility to undertake due diligence checks. See the actions list below. All speakers must uphold fundamental British values which means that:

- The presentation must not incite hatred, violence, or call for the breaking of the law.
- The visiting speaker is not permitted to encourage, glorify or promote any acts of terrorism, including individuals, groups or organisations that support such acts.
- The visiting speaker must not spread hatred, intolerance or suspicion of any minority group/s in the community.
- The visiting speaker must seek to avoid insulting other faiths or groups, within a framework of positive debate and challenge.
- Visiting speakers are not permitted to raise or gather funds for any external organisation of cause without express permission from the Head. This is unlikely to be given and speakers should be made aware of this before they confirm.

School staff must not create a situation where a visiting speaker can engage in political indoctrination.

School staff are responsible for managing a situation during which there is a violation of the requirements above. This might include ensuring that a counter argument is outlined; it could mean requiring the immediate ending of the talk/presentation. Staff should be aware that deliberately allowing exposure of students to someone who undermines fundamental British values could be considered misconduct.

Actions you should take to ensure due diligence on speakers

1. Know the organisation they are from and research it to understand the organisations and speaker's background. You may decide that you need a biography from the speaker. You will need to do an online/social media check.
2. Ensure that you record your checks on the online form on SharePoint. Staff should be aware that without these checks taking place, the School does not give permission for the event to go ahead.
3. Understand the outline of the talk/presentation in advance.
4. If you have any concerns discuss these with the Pastoral Deputy Head before issuing a formal invitation to the speaker.
5. Speakers can be controversial and we want our students to be open to provocative debate. Provided a speaker pays due attention to the Equality Act 2010 and you have a plan to balance any views then we should not take action that limits freedom of speech. However, speakers must uphold fundamental British Values and the rule of law. You need to make this clear to them.
6. If you wish to book a speaker who is known to be controversial, then discuss your plans with the Pastoral Deputy Head. It may be prudent to have a member of the Leadership Team at the event to provide additional management support.
7. If you are concerned about anything said during the talk and feel the views are either extreme or not in line with the School's aims and ethos you should **stop** the talk early.

Please note:

- Speakers are not allowed to ask students to join an organisation. There may be occasions when it is appropriate for them to suggest that students sign up afterwards in their own time (e.g. voluntary service organisations) but this needs to be pre-agreed with the Pastoral Deputy Head.

Appendix 2- basic information on Prevent.

Recommended website for reference: <https://educateagainsthate.com/>

Source: <https://www.oscb.org.uk/safeguarding-themes/prevent/>

Radicalisation

The Government has defined extremism 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”.

Children and young people can be radicalised in different ways:

- They can be groomed either online or in person by people seeking to draw them into extremist activity. Older children or young people might be radicalised over the internet or through the influence of their peer network – in this instance their parents might not know about this or feel powerless to stop their child’s radicalisation;
- They can be groomed by family members who hold harmful, extreme beliefs, including parents/carers and siblings who live with the child and/or person(s) who live outside the family home but have an influence over the child’s life;
- They can be exposed to violent, anti-social, extremist imagery, rhetoric and writings which can lead to the development of a distorted world view in which extremist ideology seems reasonable. In this way they are not being individually targeted but are the victims of propaganda which seeks to radicalise

A common feature of radicalisation is that the child or young person does not recognise the exploitative nature of what is happening and does not see themselves as a victim of grooming or exploitation. Extremists can target and groom impressionable young people through social media and the internet in order to influence their minds in much the same way that sexual predators operate online. Their message can have a powerful impact on someone who is young and vulnerable; possibly unsure of their path in life, and who may lack confidence.

Prevent is one of the four core elements of the: **Government’s Strategy for countering terrorism (CONTEST)**

- **Pursue:** to stop terrorist attacks
- **Prevent:** to stop people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism
- **Protect:** to strengthen our protection against a terrorist attack
- **Prepare:** to mitigate the impact of a terrorist attack

The Prevent strategy has three main objectives:

- **Objective one:** Ideology – respond to the ideological challenge of terrorism;
- **Objective two:** Supporting vulnerable people – prevent people from being drawn into terrorism; and
- **Objective three:** Work with key sectors and institutions – address risks.

