ST MARY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL, ASTON-LE-WALLS

PREVENT POLICY 2026-2027

Whole School Policy Including EYFS

Approved by: Governing Body
Policy Lead: Headteacher / Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)
Date of Approval: September 2026
Review Date: September 2027
Next Scheduled Review: September 2027 (or sooner should guidance or legislation change)

Mission Statement

At St Mary's Catholic Primary School, safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is everyone's responsibility. We are committed to providing a safe, inclusive and nurturing environment where all pupils are respected, valued and protected from harm, including the risk of radicalisation and extremism.

As a Catholic school, we promote the values of dignity, compassion, respect, tolerance and service to others. We encourage pupils to become responsible citizens who contribute positively to society and who understand the importance of democracy, individual liberty, mutual respect and the rule of law.

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1. Policy Statement

The Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 places a duty on schools to have "due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism." This is known as the Prevent Duty. The Prevent Duty forms part of the school's wider safeguarding responsibilities and is embedded within the school's safeguarding culture and procedures.

Protecting children from the risk of radicalisation is part of safeguarding and, like all safeguarding concerns, should be approached through established child protection processes.

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2. Aims

The aims of this policy are to:

- Safeguard pupils from the risk of radicalisation and extremism.
- Ensure staff understand their Prevent Duty responsibilities.
- Promote a culture of respect, tolerance and inclusion.
- Equip pupils with the knowledge and resilience to challenge extremist narratives.
- Support pupils to develop critical thinking skills.
- Establish clear procedures for identifying, reporting and responding to concerns.
- Work in partnership with families and external agencies to protect children from harm.

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3. Legal Framework

This policy should be read alongside:

- Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015
- Prevent Duty Guidance for England and Wales
- Working Together to Safeguard Children (2023)
- Keeping Children Safe in Education (2026)
- Children Act 1989
- Children Act 2004
- Education Act 2002
- Online Safety Act 2023
- St Mary's Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy
- Online Safety Policy
- Behaviour Policy
- Whistleblowing Policy
- Staff Code of Conduct.

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4. Definition of Radicalisation

Radicalisation refers to the process by which a person comes to support terrorism or forms of extremism leading to terrorism.

For the purposes of this policy, extremism is defined 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."

Radicalisation can occur through:

- Online platforms and social media.
- Gaming networks and chat forums.
- Peer groups.
- Family influences.
- Exposure to extremist literature or propaganda.
- Local, national or international events.

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5. Roles and Responsibilities

Governing Body

The Governing Body will:

- Ensure Prevent duties are fulfilled.
- Review safeguarding and Prevent arrangements annually.
- Ensure appropriate training is in place.
- Receive annual assurances regarding Prevent compliance.

Headteacher and DSL

The Prevent Lead is:

Laura Concannon (Headteacher and DSL)

Deputy Prevent Lead:

Denise Morgan (Deputy DSL)

The DSL will:

- Lead Prevent arrangements within school.
- Undertake Prevent training.
- Manage referrals where concerns arise.
- Maintain records.
- Provide advice and support to staff.
- Complete and review the Prevent Risk Assessment.

All Staff

All staff have a responsibility to:

- Remain vigilant to signs of radicalisation.
- Report concerns immediately to the DSL.

- Complete Prevent training.
- Promote British Values through everyday practice.
- Challenge discriminatory language and behaviour.

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6. Staff Training

The school will ensure:

- All staff complete Prevent training as part of induction.
- Annual safeguarding updates include Prevent responsibilities.
- The DSL receives advanced safeguarding and Prevent training.
- Governors receive regular safeguarding and Prevent updates.
- Staff understand local referral pathways and Channel procedures.

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7. Curriculum

The curriculum plays a key role in building resilience to extremism.

Pupils are taught:

- Respect for different beliefs and cultures.
- British Values.
- Online safety.
- Critical thinking skills.
- Responsible use of technology.
- Healthy relationships.
- Respectful discussion and debate.

These themes are delivered through:

- Religious Education
- Life to the Full RSE Programme
- PSHE and Life Skills
- Computing
- Assemblies
- Collective Worship
- Pupil Leadership Opportunities.

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8. Online Safety

The school recognises that online activity presents one of the most significant risks regarding radicalisation.

The school therefore:

- Operates internet filtering and monitoring systems.
- Monitors alerts generated through Talk Straight safeguarding software.
- Teaches pupils safe online behaviours.
- Responds promptly to concerning online activity.
- Works with parents to promote safe internet use at home.

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9. Visiting Speakers and Visitors

The school ensures that:

- All visitors have a clear educational purpose.
- Appropriate vetting is completed.
- Photographic identification is checked.
- Visitors are supervised throughout their visit.
- Sessions support and do not undermine British Values.
- Records are maintained for all visiting speakers.

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10. Lettings and Community Use

The school will not knowingly allow premises to be used by individuals or groups seeking to promote extremist views.

Appropriate checks will be undertaken prior to any lettings agreement being approved.

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11. Identifying Concerns

Indicators which may suggest vulnerability to radicalisation may include:

- Sudden changes in behaviour.
- Intolerance of differing views.
- Repeated use of extremist language.
- Increased secrecy regarding online activity.
- Isolation from peers.
- Obsession with ideological causes.

- Accessing inappropriate material online.
- Expressions of support for extremist groups.

These indicators do not necessarily mean a child is being radicalised but should prompt further consideration within safeguarding processes.

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12. Reporting Concerns

Staff must:

1. Record concerns immediately- CPOMS
2. Inform the DSL without delay.
3. Follow safeguarding procedures.
4. Maintain confidentiality.

The DSL will:

- Assess the level of concern.
- Seek advice where necessary.
- Consider Early Help support.
- Make a Channel referral where appropriate.
- Work with safeguarding partners and the Local Authority.

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13. Working with Parents and External Agencies

The school recognises that effective safeguarding depends on strong partnerships.

The school will work collaboratively with:

- Parents and carers.
- Northamptonshire Safeguarding Children Partnership.
- Local Authority Prevent Team.
- Police Prevent Officers.
- Health Services.
- Early Help Services.
- Channel Panels and multi-agency partners.

APPENDIX A

PREVENT RISK ASSESSMENT 2026-2027

Area	Risk Identified	Current Controls	Risk Rating	Further Actions
Leadership	Prevent duties not fully implemented	DSL trained, annual review, governor oversight	Low	Continue annual compliance review
Staff Awareness	Concerns not recognised	Whole staff Prevent training	Low	Annual refresher sessions
Curriculum	Pupils vulnerable to extremist narratives	British Values, PSHE, RSE and RE curriculum	Low	Annual curriculum audit
Online Safety	Access to extremist content	Filtering, monitoring and Talk Straight alerts	Medium	Review filtering annually
Visitors	Risk of inappropriate influence	Vetting, ID checks and supervision	Low	Continue record keeping
Lettings	Community use promotes extremist views	Open-source checks, hiring agreements	Low	Annual review of procedures
Vulnerable Pupils	Increased susceptibility to influence	Pastoral support and safeguarding monitoring	Medium	Termly safeguarding review
Social Media	Exposure to misinformation and radicalisation	Online safety lessons and monitoring	Medium	Parent workshops and awareness
Referral Pathways	Delayed referrals	DSL oversight and clear procedures	Low	Staff reminder briefings
Community Events	External events affecting attitudes	Assemblies and curriculum response	Medium	Responsive safeguarding discussions

Overall Risk Rating

Low to Medium

The school has robust safeguarding systems in place. The principal areas of risk relate to online influences and external social media content. Existing controls are considered effective, and ongoing monitoring will ensure that emerging risks are identified and addressed.

Monitoring and Policy Review

This policy will be reviewed annually by the Governing Body and updated sooner if:

- National guidance changes.
- Local safeguarding arrangements change.
- Significant safeguarding concerns emerge.
- Lessons learned from incidents indicate amendments are required.

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