Appendix 1: Prevent Duty- Risk Assessment

Adopted by

Walkwood Church of England Middle School

September 2026

This Risk Assessment is reviewed at least annually by the governing body

Last reviewed on: September 2026 Next Review Date: September 2027

Prevent Duty Risk Assessment

The aim of the Prevent strategy is to reduce the threat to the UK from terrorism by stopping people being drawn into terrorism.

We are required to take a risk-based approach to the Prevent duty, under paragraph 14 of the Home Office's statutory guidance.

This document demonstrates our awareness of the specific risks of extremism and radicalisation in our Trust, school and our area.

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. Extremism isn't exclusive to any section of society and can take many forms.

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

Each hazard within the risk assessment is assessed according to risk and a RAG rating has been applied:

High- risk hazard	Medium-risk hazard	Low-risk hazard

Prevent Duty: Current Threat, Risk and Practice

The school applies a proportionate, safeguarding-led and risk-based approach to Prevent. In line with statutory Prevent duty guidance, Prevent aims to stop people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism by tackling ideological causes, intervening early to support people susceptible to radicalisation, and enabling disengagement and rehabilitation.

National and local context

Nationally, schools should be alert to Islamist terrorism, Extreme Right-Wing Terrorism and other ideologies or mixed, unclear and unstable grievance narratives where there is a genuine terrorism-related concern. Attention should include online radicalisation, conspiracy narratives, misogynistic or incel-related grievance where linked to terrorism, and fascination with extreme violence or mass-casualty attacks.

Latest Home Office data for the year ending 30 September 2025 recorded 10,293 Prevent referrals. Education made 3,496 referrals (34%). Children aged 11 to 15 were the largest age group at 36% of referrals where age was known. Of referrals where concern type was recorded, 20% concerned extreme right-wing radicalisation, 8% Islamist extremism and 56% no-ideology categories. These statistics inform vigilance and must never be used to stereotype a pupil, family or community.

Worcestershire County Council identifies current concerns including online and social-media radicalisation, Extreme Right-Wing and Islamist extremism, mixed/unclear/unstable ideologies, fascination with extreme violence or mass-casualty attacks, and potentially relevant misogynistic or incel-related material. The school will keep its local understanding current through Worcestershire Prevent partners, West Mercia Police and, where available, the Counter-Terrorism Local Profile.

Risk assessment and indicators

The DSL will maintain a documented Prevent risk assessment and action plan, reviewed at least annually and sooner when risk changes, following a relevant incident or referral, or when school circumstances materially change. It will consider local risk, pupil age and phase, school context, online environment, curriculum, premises use, external speakers, staff capability, partnership arrangements and referral pathways.

There is no single checklist, profile or characteristic that identifies radicalisation. Staff should consider the totality and context of concerns. Push factors can include isolation, lack of belonging or purpose, low self-esteem, unmet aspirations, anger, frustration, injustice or grievance. Pull factors can include offers of belonging, status or purpose, manipulated identity narratives, conspiracy theories, an us-versus-them worldview, blaming communities, supremacist ideas, or encouragement of hatred or violence.

Changes in appearance, friendships, faith or political opinion are not, by themselves, evidence of radicalisation. Staff must avoid discriminatory assumptions and focus on behaviour, context, safeguarding need and any credible connection to extremist ideology or terrorism.

Online safety, AI, filtering and monitoring

Radicalisation can occur online or offline and can develop quickly. Online concerns will be addressed through the same safeguarding procedures as offline concerns. Pupils will be taught to evaluate information critically, recognise manipulation and grooming, challenge misinformation and conspiracy narratives, and know how to seek help.

In line with KCSIE 2026, the school will consider safeguarding risks from emerging technology and artificial intelligence, including AI-generated or manipulated content. Prevent risk will be reflected in online-safety arrangements. Filtering and monitoring provision will be reviewed at least annually, with appropriate governance oversight.

Responding to a concern and referral pathway

Any member of staff with a Prevent concern must record and report it promptly to the DSL or deputy through the school safeguarding system. Staff should not investigate the concern themselves or wait for certainty. The DSL will consider the concern alongside other safeguarding information and seek advice where necessary.

For Worcestershire, the school will follow the current local Prevent referral pathway. Where there is a genuine concern that a person may be susceptible to radicalisation, the DSL should seek advice and, where appropriate, submit a Prevent referral using the current national referral arrangements. Where wider safeguarding or exploitation concerns also exist, the appropriate safeguarding referral should be made and cross-referenced. If there is an immediate threat to life, call 999.

Channel is a confidential, multi-agency early-intervention process and support is voluntary. A Prevent referral is a safeguarding action and is not, in itself, a criminal allegation.

Leadership

Hazard	Who is at Risk?	Actions in place	Owner	Risk Level	Additional notes/ next steps
The values and ethos of the school are unsuitable for promoting resilience against extremist ideologies and promoting British values	Pupils, staff and governors	The school values clearly set out our commitment to British values. • The values are displayed in and around school and are clear on the website, our values include Honesty, Respect, Kindness and Friendship.			
Leaders are unaware of their responsibilities under the Prevent duty, and of the context of the school relating to the risk of extremism	Pupils and staff	School leaders are aware of their duty to prevent pupils being drawn into terrorism, and make sure all staff know the same. School leaders stay up to date with local developments and risks. • The school is in regular communication with local police through local DSL network meetings/ updates and visits from local policing • DSL team have received regularly PREVENT training through the home office to keep up to date with duty and responsibilities of staff.			School leaders also enrol in further Prevent training regarding referral pathways in addition to home office training. School attend regular DSL network meetings and DSL updates from the trust. School attend regular police locality meetings.

Training and capability

Hazard	Who is at Risk?	Actions in place	Owner	Risk Level	Additional notes/ next steps
School staff are unaware of their responsibilities under the Prevent duty, and the need to promote British values	Pupils and staff	All staff have read our child protection policy and at least part 1 of Keeping Children Safe in Education. All staff have completed Prevent training (September 2024. Staff members are aware that they can go to Safeguarding team for advice, support, and to escalate concerns.			
Governors cannot carry out their role to monitor the school's Prevent strategy effectively	Pupils and staff	All governors have read the relevant safeguarding and child protection policy and the current Keeping Children Safe in Education dfe document We have a dedicated link governor Brian Albutt that oversees our compliance with the Prevent duty.			
Staff do not support the school's values and ethos, or they support and promote extremist ideas	Pupils and staff	The staff recruitment process reflects the school's values and promotes good safeguarding practice. Include specific steps taken, for example: • School values and commitment to safeguarding are included when recruiting and in job advertisements • Safer recruitment procedures are followed. SLT/Office manager are			

		training in safer recruitment processes. • Safeguarding training for all new staff, including Prevent.			

Working in Partnership

Hazard	Who is at Risk?	Actions in place	Owner	Risk Level	Additional notes/ next steps
Staff do not feel comfortable or capable working with external agencies and sharing concerns about extremism externally	Pupils and staff	We work and communicate with local safeguarding partners and other relevant agencies regarding concerns about extremism. The DSL/Prevent lead is aware of the process to contact other agencies and expedite concerns about extremism. Records of referrals are kept, and referrals are followed up appropriately. There is a dedicated category on our CPOMS recording system where staff can report and record upon any PREVENT concerns.			

Speakers and events

Hazard	Who is at Risk?	Actions in place	Owner	Risk Level	Additional notes/ next steps
Pupils are exposed to extremist ideologies by visiting speakers	Pupils	Prior to visitors speaking to pupils and visiting our school: • The materials that visiting speakers deliver are discussed and approved prior to their visit • Visitors are never left alone with pupils			
The school site is used to host events which support extremist ideologies or promote hatred	Pupils and staff	All hiring and lettings agreements state that the school site will not be hired to groups who support extremist ideologies or promote hatred.			

School curriculum and culture

Hazard	Who is at Risk?	Actions in place	Owner	Risk Level	Additional notes/ next steps
The curriculum teaches damaging material or fails to challenge extremist ideologies and promote British values	Pupils	Opportunities to promote British values are clearly identified within all curriculum areas. Use of PSHE or RSE lessons for sensitive and supportive discussions on radical issues and extreme ideologies.			
A culture of inequality or abuse is allowed to grow,	Pupils, staff, governors and parents	Our behaviour policy clearly sets out that hateful behaviour is not tolerated.			

enabling extremist ideology and hate to develop		Staff know how to respond to witnessing harassment and abusive behaviour. Pupils are encouraged to appropriately challenge harassment or abusive behaviour among their peers.			
British values are not promoted outside of the classroom	Pupils and staff	British values are promoted within school: • Pupils participate in democracy through pupil parliament and hustings. • Assemblies include promoting diversity, human rights, and respect • Celebrations from multiple religions and cultures are celebrated around the school			

IT and internet safety

Hazard	Who is at Risk?	Actions in place	Owner	Risk Level	Additional notes/ next steps
Pupils use the school network or school hardware to access extremist material	Pupils	Our Safeguarding & child protection policy makes reference to the risks of online extremist material. Pupils are encouraged to report any material they come across online which makes them worried or uncomfortable. IT safety and monitoring systems: • The school IT network has appropriate filters and monitoring			

		system to block sites deemed inappropriate or unsafe • Critical incident alerts flag up to DSL staff to allow them to review any concerning images/searches/activity on the IT system.			
Pupils access extremist material on their own devices or on social media, or are specifically targeted for online radicalisation	Pupils	The ICT curriculum includes teaching pupils how to stay safe online. Parents are provided with support on how to help their children access the internet safely and spot the signs of online radicalisation. Parents have access to the National online safety courses and also Wake Up Wednesday resources via facebook which gives internet safety advice. Parents also receive specific online safety information in the half termly safeguarding newsletter.			

School Security

Hazard	Who is at Risk?	Actions in place	Owner	Risk Level	Additional notes/ next steps
Non-approved visitors access the school site to spread extremist ideology	Pupils and staff	The school has clear and robust visitor procedures:			

		• All visitors to the school must be signed in at reception and wear ID badges. • Red ID badges for visitors with no DBS and must not unsupervised. • Green ID badges for visitors with DBS and can be unsupervised. • Contractors safeguarding policies will be requested prior to working on a school site. • Visitors who need to see children on a 1:1 will always be in a room with a window and not in a private space.			

HEADTEACHER:	
SIGNATURE	DATE
DSL/PREVENT LEAD:	
SIGNATURE	
SAFEGUARDING GOVERNOR:	
SIGNATURE	DATE
Date of next review: September 2027	