



ST CATHARINE'S UNDER FIVES PREVENT DUTY POLICY

Statement of Intent

From 1 July 2015, all schools registered as Early Years childcare providers and registered later years childcare providers (referred to in this advice as 'childcare providers') are subject to a duty under section 26 of the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015, in the exercise of their function, to have "due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism". This duty is known as the Prevent duty. It applies to a wide range of public-facing bodies.

The guidance for the framework of this policy has been obtained from:

DFE – The Prevent Duty. Department advice for school and childcare providers. June 2015

DFE Keeping children safe in schools. July 2015

HM Gov. Channel Guidance – Preventing vulnerable people from being drawn into terrorism

Aims

All staff to have an understanding of the prevent duty and how to assess risks posed to children and their families within the area

To identify, protect and prevent the children of St Catharine's Under Fives Playgroup as far as possible from radicalism

To promote children's personal, social and emotional development and understanding of the world.

To promote the British values of democracy, rule of law, individual liberty, mutual respect and tolerance for those with different faiths and beliefs that are implicitly embedded in the 2014 Early Years Foundation Stage.

What is Radicalism?

Radicalism refers to the process by which a person comes to support terrorism and forms of extremism. Protecting children from the risk of radicalism is seen as part of St Catharine's Under Fives wider safeguarding duties and is similar in nature to protecting children from other forms of harm or abuse. During the process of radicalism, it is possible to intervene to prevent vulnerable people being radicalised. There is no single way of identifying an individual who is likely to be susceptible to an extremist ideology. It can happen in many different ways and settings.



Specific background factors may contribute to vulnerability which are often combined with specific influences such as family, friends or online, and with specific needs for which an extremist or terrorist group may appear to provide an answer.

The internet and the use of social media in particular has become a major factor in the radicalisation of young people.

What is Extremism?

Extremism is 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, whether in this country or overseas.

Channel

Channel is a programme which focuses on providing support at an early stage to people who are identified as being vulnerable to being drawn into terrorism. It provides a mechanism for schools to make referrals if they are concerned that an individual might be vulnerable to radicalisation. An individual's engagement with the programme is entirely voluntary at all stages. Section 36 of the CTSA 2015 places a duty to all local authorities to ensure that Channel panels are in place. The panel must be chaired by a local authority and include the police for the relevant local authority area. Following a referral, the panel will assess the extent to which identified individuals are vulnerable to being drawn into terrorism, and, where considered appropriate and necessary consent is obtained, and support is arranged to be provided for those individuals.

Channel is available at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/channel-guidance>

Method

Staff are fully trained in Prevent Duty and how to identify children who may be vulnerable to radicalisation and know what to do when they are identified.

Protecting children from the risk of radicalisation is part of St. Catharine's wider safeguarding duties and is similar in nature to protecting children from other harms (e.g. drugs, gangs, neglect, sexual exploitation), whether these come from within their family or are the product of outside influences.

We can also build pupil's resilience to radicalisation by promoting fundamental British values and enabling them to challenge extremist views.

At St Catharine's Under Fives, we can emphasise this in daily work such as assisting the children's personal, social and emotional development and understanding of the world.

All staff are expected to assess the risk of the children or families being drawn into terrorism, including support for extremist ideas that are part of terrorist ideology. This means being able to demonstrate both a general understanding of the risks affecting children and young people in the area and a specific understanding of how to identify individual children who may be at risk of radicalisation and what to do to support them.



As with managing other safeguarding risks, staff should be alert to changes in the children's behaviour which could indicate that they may be in need of help or protection. Staff should use their professional judgement in identifying children who might be at risk of radicalisation and act proportionately which may include making a referral to the Channel program.

Procedure for reporting concerns

If a member of staff in playgroup has a concern about a particular child, they should follow the playgroups normal safeguarding procedures, including discussing with the playgroups designated safeguarding lead, who will, where deemed necessary, liaise with the children's social care.

You can also contact your local police force or dial 101 (the non-emergency number). They can talk to you in confidence about your concerns and help you gain access to support and advice. They can also advise if this would be the case for Channel. The Department for Education has a dedicated telephone helpline (0273407264) to enable staff and committee to raise concerns relating to extremism directly.

Concerns can also be raised by email to counter.extremism@education.gsi.gov.uk

Link to report concern to PREVENT: Specialbranch@gloucestershire.pnn.police.uk

Other Related Policies

Child Protection and Safeguarding policy.

This policy was adopted at a meeting of St Catharine's Under Fives

Held on (date)

Signed on behalf of the Management Committee

Role of signatory