



# St John's School: Preventing Extremism and Radicalisation Policy

Reviewed June 2025

## 1. Policy Statement

St John's School is committed to safeguarding pupils from radicalisation and extremist views. Preventing extremism is part of our wider safeguarding duty and aligns with the **Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015**, the **Prevent Duty**, and **Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE 2025)**. In line with the Prevent Duty (Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015), the school has completed a Prevent Risk Assessment which is reviewed annually, or sooner if required. This assessment helps identify local risks and informs our whole-school approach to keeping pupils safe from extremism and radicalisation.

Safeguarding from radicalisation is no different to safeguarding from other forms of harm.

## 2. Key Contacts

- **Devon's Front Door:** 0345 155 1071 / [mashsecure@devon.gov.uk](mailto:mashsecure@devon.gov.uk)
- **Devon & Cornwall Police:** 999 or Anti-Terrorist Hotline 0800 789 321

## 3. Core Aims

- Build pupils' resilience to extremist influences.
- Equip staff to identify and respond to signs of radicalisation.
- Promote British Values: democracy, rule of law, individual liberty, mutual respect and tolerance.
- Provide a safe space for pupils to discuss sensitive issues.
- Engage parents and carers when concerns arise.
- Collaborate with local Prevent partners.

## 4. Definitions

- **Extremism:** Vocal or active opposition to British Values; may include calls for violence.
- **Radicalisation:** The process by which people come to support terrorism or extremism.
- **Prevent Duty:** The duty to reduce the risk of people becoming involved in terrorism.

## 5. Roles & Responsibilities

- **Board of Directors:** Understand and monitor the Prevent Duty; challenge leaders on its implementation.
- **DSL & Safeguarding Team:** Oversee staff training; manage concerns and referrals.



- **All Staff:** Remain vigilant; report concerns immediately via normal safeguarding routes.

## 6. Practice and Curriculum

- **Ethos:** Extremist views, discrimination or prejudice have no place at St John's.
- **Curriculum:** British Values and critical thinking are embedded across subjects, PSHCE, assemblies and tutor time. Pupils learn how to identify risk, debate respectfully and recognise propaganda.
- **E-Safety:** Internet use is monitored and filtered; pupils learn how to stay safe online and staff are trained to spot online radicalisation.

## 7. Signs of Radicalisation

Staff should watch for changes in behaviour, language or peer groups, unexplained travel, or online activity linked to extremist groups. No single sign is conclusive — staff should use professional curiosity and record all concerns.

## 8. Reporting Concerns

Staff must report concerns to the DSL. The DSL will:

- Use the **Extremism Screening Tool** to assess risk.
- Refer to Devon & Cornwall Police, Channel, or other agencies if needed.
- Engage with families where appropriate.

If urgent, any staff member can call the police directly.

## 9. Channel Programme

St John's will engage with **Channel**, a multi-agency safeguarding panel supporting individuals at risk of radicalisation with tailored interventions.

## 10. External Speakers & Visitors

All external speakers must be vetted by the DSL and/or Head of School to ensure they align with the school's ethos and do not promote extremist views. There is a visiting speaker form and policy to be completed before the visit.

## 11. Staff Training

All staff complete annual **Prevent** training and regular safeguarding updates. Governors are trained to understand their statutory duties.

## 12. Safer Recruitment



All recruitment follows **KCSIE 2025** guidance and best practice for safer recruitment. All new staff and volunteers are vetted to minimise risks.

### **13. Linked Policies**

This policy sits alongside our:

- Safeguarding & Child Protection Policy
- Behaviour Policy
- E-Safety Policy
- Equal Opportunities Policy
- Anti-Bullying Policy
- Recruitment Policy

### **14. Monitoring & Review**

This policy is reviewed annually and updated to reflect local or national changes. The Board of Directors will monitor its implementation.

## **SCREENING TOOL**

### **Appendix 1: Prevent Duty Extremism Screening and Assessment Prompt Sheet**

Purpose: This is an additional tool to be used by referring agencies, Family Support workers and Social Workers to support practitioners to think around and fully articulate the nature of extremism issues involved with CYP and their families.

#### **Relationships and networks Views and Behaviours Well Being Disengaged**

- Absence from school or NEET, home schooling
- Dysfunctional family
- Isolated from family and/or social life/friends
- Only spends time with new contacts or friends and rejects others
- Hides new lifestyle, allegiance and/or beliefs from family and friends Family
- Family history of child protection issues
- History of family members holding extreme views, undertaking violence acts based on extreme views and/or arrests under the Counter Terrorism and Security Act Contact with extremist influences
- In contact with groups/networks known to be violent extremists online or physical contact
- Has contact with people who have travelled to conflict zones
- Has contact with family, friends, gangs or others who are linked to extremism



- Expresses support for extremist groups

#### **Actions and violence**

- Desire and/or plans to travel to conflict zones
  - Plans and/or commits violent or hateful acts inspired by an ideology or extremist cause
  - Takes part in extremist activities
  - Encourages others to support violent extremist causes
  - Legitimises the use of violence to defend an ideology
  - Insistently preaches religious and ideological ideas to others
  - Refuses to take part in group activities or interact with individuals based on the latter's religion, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation or other discriminatory factors
  - Sudden changes in habits
  - Displays symbols of affiliation or support associated with extremist groups
  - Adopts physical signs to express new identity (e.g. clothes, haircut, tattoos)
  - Unsupervised access to the internet; Access to extremism material - online and/or physical
- Beliefs**
- Converts or adopts new religious, ideological and/or political beliefs
  - Expresses hatred for other groups
  - Reinforces beliefs through regular use of violent extremist forums or sites

#### **Unhealthy behaviours**

- Drugs misuse
- Alcohol misuse
- Self-harming, eating disorders, suicide attempts
- Challenging behaviour, aggression

#### **Psychological state**

- Mental health
- Lack of self-esteem
- Lack of belonging
- Expresses strong need for excitement or adventure
- Easily controlled or controlling of others
- Paranoia or extreme mistrust of others
- Drawn to conspiracy theories or discourse
- Becomes obsessed with end of the world or messianic views
- Grievance or sense of injustice and desire to correct these
- Lack of trust in authorities



- Sense of victimisation and rejection – being singled out

**Relationships and networks Views and Behaviours Wellbeing**

- Contact with other vulnerable people

**Grooming**

- Multiple unknown callers
- Accompanied to appointments with unknown adult that causes concern
- Evidence of grooming including unexplained amounts of money, expensive clothes or other items
- Has relationship with controlling individual which might involve physical and/or emotional abuse
- Attends vulnerable locations where extremist views are influential
- Limited understanding of theological and/or political issues
- Expresses polarised views of the absolute truth
- Rejects rules and regulations of organisations based on ideological, political or religious beliefs
- Argues avidly to defend belief