

# Southfield School

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Individuality

Synergy

**Policy Name:** PREVENTING RADICALISATION POLICY

**Policy Type:** Discretionary

**Issue Date:** January 2026

**To Be Reviewed:** Annually – 16<sup>th</sup> January 2027

**Policy Owner:** Jyoti Pankhania

## 1. Introduction and Statutory Context

At Southfield School, we are committed to safeguarding all students and promoting the values of The Southfield Way: Be Ready, Be Respectful, Be Responsible, and Be Proud to be Southfield. We create a safe, inclusive environment where students can thrive and develop into responsible citizens.

Southfield School has a statutory duty under the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 and the Prevent Duty Guidance (December 2023) to have due regard for the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism. This policy should be read alongside Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE) 2025 and our wider safeguarding policies.

## 2. Key Definitions

### 2.1 Extremism

The Government's definition of extremism (March 2024) is:

*"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
- Undermine, overturn or replace the UK's system of liberal parliamentary democracy; or
- Intentionally create a permissive environment for others to achieve either of the above."

### 2.2 Radicalisation

*"The process by which a person comes to support terrorism and extremist ideologies associated with terrorist groups."*

### 2.3 Terrorism

As defined by the Terrorism Act 2000: an action that endangers or causes serious violence, serious damage to property, or seriously disrupts an electronic system. The use or threat must be designed to influence the government or intimidate the public for advancing a political, religious, or ideological cause.

## 3. Understanding the Risk of Radicalisation

### Important context:

- There is no 'typical extremist' – those involved come from diverse backgrounds
- Most individuals with radical views do not become involved in violent extremism
- Young people may become susceptible through social, personal, and environmental factors

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- Extremists exploit vulnerabilities to isolate individuals from families and communities

### 3.1 Current Threat Landscape

According to Prevent Duty Guidance (December 2023) and CONTEST 2023, current threats include:

- Islamist terrorism (approximately 67% of attacks since 2018)
- Extreme right-wing terrorism (45% of Channel cases in 2023/24)
- Emerging concerns: school massacre fixations, incel ideology, mixed/unclear ideologies
- Growing online radicalisation through social media, gaming platforms, and encrypted messaging

### 3.2 Indicators of Vulnerability

Staff should be alert to changes in behaviour. The following indicators are not exhaustive, nor does their presence automatically mean risk, but staff should consider:

#### Personal Vulnerability Factors:

- Identity crisis – discomfort about cultural/religious heritage or place in society
- Personal crisis – family tensions, isolation, low self-esteem, changing friendship groups
- Personal circumstances – migration, community tensions, experiences of racism or discrimination
- Unmet aspirations – perceptions of injustice, feeling of failure
- Special educational needs – difficulties with social interaction, empathy, understanding consequences
- Mental health issues – particularly when combined with online activity

#### Behavioural Indicators:

- Becoming distant from friends and activities
- Significant changes in appearance, behaviour, or friendship groups
- Using extremist narratives to explain personal disadvantage
- Increased secrecy, particularly around internet use
- Possession of or access to extremist literature or materials
- Justifying violence to solve societal issues

### 3.3 Critical Risk Factors Requiring Immediate Action

- Contact with extremist recruiters
- Accessing violent extremist websites with social networking elements
- Planning or expressing desire to travel to conflict zones
- Possessing illegal materials related to terrorist activity

## 4. School Responsibilities Under the Prevent Duty

### 4.1 Risk Assessment

We will assess the local risk of students being drawn into terrorism, working with North Northamptonshire Council's Safeguarding Partnership, local Prevent coordinator, and police. Risk assessments will be reviewed annually and updated when there are significant changes in the local or national threat picture.

## 4.2 Staff Training

All staff will receive training to understand radicalisation, identify at-risk students, challenge extremist ideas appropriately, and know referral procedures.

### Training requirements:

- All staff: Prevent awareness training at induction and annually thereafter
- Designated Safeguarding Leads: Specific Prevent training every two years
- Governors: Prevent awareness training at induction and regular updates

## 4.3 Building Resilience Through Curriculum

We build student resilience to radicalisation through:

- Promoting fundamental British values across the curriculum
- Age-appropriate PSHE teaching about radicalisation and staying safe online
- Teaching critical thinking skills to challenge extremist narratives
- Creating safe spaces for balanced discussion of sensitive topics
- Celebrating diversity and challenging discriminatory attitudes
- Embedding The Southfield Way values in all aspects of school life

## 4.4 Internet Safety

Recognising that much radicalisation occurs online, we maintain effective filtering and monitoring systems, teach students online safety, work with parents to promote safe internet use at home, and regularly review our Online Safety Policy.

## 4.5 Visiting Speakers and External Groups

We maintain a clear policy for assessing and approving visiting speakers, conduct due diligence on external organisations, ensure speakers are supervised, and maintain records of all external activities.

## 5. Referral Process and Procedures

### 5.1 When to Make a Referral

If any staff member has a concern about a student being at risk of radicalisation:

- Report concerns immediately to the Designated Safeguarding Lead
- Do not wait until certain – early intervention is critical
- Record concerns using the school's safeguarding recording system
- Maintain confidentiality on a need-to-know basis

### 5.2 The Channel Programme

Channel is a voluntary, confidential support programme providing early-stage support to people vulnerable to being drawn into terrorism. It is a multi-agency panel that assesses vulnerability and develops appropriate support packages. Participation is voluntary and requires consent. In 2023/24, approximately 89% of those who completed Channel showed no further concerns of radicalisation.

### 5.3 Key Contacts

- North Northamptonshire Prevent Team: 101 – Wicksteed Team
- DfE Helpline: 020 7340 7264 (non-emergency)

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- Anti-Terrorist Hotline: 0800 789 321
- Emergency: 999 (immediate risk)

## 6. Information Sharing and Data Protection

Personal information may need to be shared to ensure appropriate support. Information sharing will be assessed case-by-case, proportionate to risk, compliant with UK GDPR and Data Protection Act 2018, documented including legal basis, and shared securely. Consent is not required when there is a lawful safeguarding basis.

## 7. Roles and Responsibilities

### 7.1 All Staff

Complete Prevent training, remain vigilant, report concerns immediately, support students in understanding British values, challenge extremist views appropriately, and model The Southfield Way.

### 7.2 Designated Safeguarding Lead

Act as main contact for Prevent concerns, undertake specific training, assess concerns and make referrals, maintain detailed records, work with Channel panels, coordinate staff training, and report to leadership and governors.

### 7.3 Head of School and Senior Leadership

Ensure effective policy implementation, allocate appropriate resources, maintain oversight of referrals, ensure staff training, work with local partners, and report to governors.

### 7.4 Governing Body

Ensure the school meets statutory Prevent duty, approve and monitor policy, receive regular reports, ensure training provision, and challenge and support senior leaders.

## 8. Support Resources

### 8.1 Key Resources

- Educate Against Hate: [www.educateagainsthate.com](http://www.educateagainsthate.com)
- ACT Early: [www.actearly.uk](http://www.actearly.uk)
- Prevent Duty Guidance (December 2023): GOV.UK
- KCSIE 2024: Keeping Children Safe in Education
- Channel Duty Guidance: GOV.UK

### 8.2 Training Resources

- Home Office Prevent Training: [www.elearning.prevent.homeoffice.gov.uk](http://www.elearning.prevent.homeoffice.gov.uk)
- Channel Awareness: E-learning module
- North Northamptonshire Council: Local training opportunities

## 9. Monitoring and Review

This policy will be reviewed annually by the Head of School and Designated Safeguarding Lead, updated when there are significant changes to legislation or guidance, approved by the Governing Body, published on the school website, and shared with all stakeholders.

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The school monitors effectiveness through regular reports to governors, annual risk assessment reviews, staff and student feedback, engagement with local Prevent coordinators, and Ofsted inspection outcomes.

## **10. Related Policies**

This policy should be read in conjunction with: Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy, Online Safety Policy, Anti-Bullying Policy, Behaviour Policy, PSHE Policy, Equality and Diversity Policy, Visiting Speakers Policy, Acceptable Use Policy, and Staff Code of Conduct.

## **11. Conclusion**

At Southfield School, we are committed to safeguarding all students from radicalisation and extremism. Through this policy, we create a safe and supportive environment, build resilience through education and critical thinking, identify and support vulnerable students, work in partnership with families and agencies, and promote values of democracy, respect, tolerance, and individual liberty.

By embedding The Southfield Way throughout our work, we ensure all students develop the skills, knowledge, and attributes needed to become responsible citizens who contribute positively to society and resist the lure of extremist ideologies.