

OUR LADY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL



We ASPIRE that through the love of Jesus everyone should
"have life and have it to the full".

John 10:10

PREVENT POLICY

Reviewed by: <i>Headteacher</i>	Approved by: <i>Governing Body</i>
Policy Date: <i>May 2026</i>	Next Review Date: <i>Summer 2028</i>
Review Frequency: <i>Annually</i>	



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1. Introduction

Our Lady's Catholic Primary School is fully committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all pupils.

We recognise that safeguarding against radicalisation and extremism is no different from safeguarding against any other vulnerability.

All staff are expected to uphold and actively promote fundamental British values, including:

- democracy
- the rule of law
- individual liberty
- mutual respect
- tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs

We recognise that early intervention is essential and that protecting children from radicalisation forms part of our wider safeguarding responsibilities.

This policy should be read alongside:

- Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy
- Online Safety Policy
- Behaviour Policy
- Whistleblowing Policy
- Staff Code of Conduct
- Safer Recruitment Policy

This policy is written in line with:

- Keeping Children Safe in Education 2025
- Department for Education Prevent Duty Guidance
- Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015
- Working Together to Safeguard Children
- Herefordshire Safeguarding Children Partnership procedures

Under the Prevent Duty, schools must:

“Have due regard to the need to prevent people from becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism.”

2. Aims

The main aim of this policy is to provide a clear framework for identifying, preventing and responding to concerns relating to vulnerability, radicalisation and exposure to extremist views.



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Our Lady's Catholic Primary School recognises that protecting pupils from radicalisation is part of our wider safeguarding responsibilities. We are committed to ensuring that all staff remain vigilant, understand that radicalisation can occur in any community and recognise that early intervention is essential.

We recognise that schools are well placed to identify safeguarding concerns early and provide support for children who may be vulnerable to radicalisation.

This policy outlines how the school will respond to concerns and how our curriculum, Catholic ethos and safeguarding practices help prevent extremism.

We are committed to working in partnership with parents/carers, external agencies and safeguarding professionals to ensure that all pupils remain safe from harm.

The objectives of this policy are to ensure that:

- all governors, staff, volunteers and visitors understand what radicalisation and extremism are and why vigilance is important
- all staff understand their responsibilities under the Department for Education Prevent Duty
- all staff understand procedures for reporting concerns quickly and appropriately
- pupils understand how to stay safe and know how to seek help if they are worried
- pupils develop resilience, critical thinking skills and respect for others
- parents/carers understand the school's safeguarding responsibilities
- the school regularly reviews procedures to ensure they remain effective and responsive to emerging risks

3. School Ethos & Approach

When operating this policy, Our Lady's Catholic Primary School uses the government definition of extremism:

"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, and/or calls for the death of members of our armed forces, whether in this country or overseas."

There is no place for extremist views of any kind within our school community. This includes pupils, staff, governors, parents/carers, visitors, external organisations and wider community groups using school facilities.

Our school is committed to creating a safe environment where pupils feel confident to discuss sensitive or controversial issues appropriately and where staff encourage respectful discussion, critical thinking and tolerance of different viewpoints.

We recognise that exposure to extremist ideologies, materials and influences can place children at risk of harm and negatively impact their wellbeing, relationships and future opportunities. For this reason, radicalisation is treated as a safeguarding concern.

We recognise that extremist narratives often seek to create division, fear and intolerance. Our role as a school is to help pupils develop resilience, critical thinking skills and an understanding of diversity so they can challenge harmful narratives safely.



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Through a broad and balanced curriculum, pupils are taught to value diversity, respect others, think critically and develop the knowledge and confidence needed to thrive in modern Britain.

As a Catholic school, we promote dignity, compassion, respect and understanding for all members of our community.

4. Definitions

For the purpose of this policy, Our Lady's Catholic Primary School uses the following definitions:

Extremism

The government defines extremism 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, and/or calls for the death of members of our armed forces, whether in this country or overseas."

Radicalisation

Radicalisation refers to the process by which a person comes to support terrorism or extremist ideologies associated with terrorist groups.

Radicalisation can happen online or offline and may involve exposure to harmful ideologies, misinformation, conspiracy theories or individuals seeking to influence vulnerable people.

Terrorism

Terrorism is an action that:

- endangers or causes serious violence to a person or people
- causes serious damage to property
- seriously disrupts electronic systems

and is carried out to influence the government or intimidate the public for political, religious or ideological purposes.

Prevent Duty

The Prevent Duty is the legal duty placed on schools under the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 to:

"Have due regard to the need to prevent people from becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism."

Channel Programme

Channel Programme is a voluntary, confidential multi-agency programme which provides support to individuals who may be vulnerable to being radicalised.

The programme focuses on early intervention and support.

5. Prevent Lead

The school's Prevent Lead is **Headteacher / Designated Safeguarding Lead**

Deputy DSLs support this role where required.



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The Prevent Lead is responsible for ensuring that the school meets its responsibilities under the Department for Education Prevent Duty and wider safeguarding requirements.

Responsibilities include:

- acting as the main point of contact for staff who have concerns about radicalisation or extremism
- receiving, recording and responding to concerns raised by staff, pupils, parents/carers or external agencies
- assessing the level of risk and determining appropriate next steps
- making referrals to the Channel Programme where appropriate
- working with Children's Social Care, Police and other external agencies where required
- maintaining accurate safeguarding records relating to Prevent concerns
- ensuring all staff receive appropriate safeguarding and Prevent training
- ensuring staff understand how to identify and report concerns
- monitoring local risks and emerging trends relating to extremism and radicalisation
- ensuring appropriate filtering and monitoring systems are in place to reduce the risk of pupils accessing extremist material online
- working with governors to ensure statutory safeguarding duties are met
- reviewing this policy regularly to ensure it remains effective and up to date

The Prevent Lead will seek advice from relevant external agencies where appropriate and ensure concerns are managed proportionately and sensitively.

6. Identifying Risks

There is no single profile of a child who may be vulnerable to radicalisation. Children may become vulnerable through a range of factors including personal circumstances, social influences, online activity, family issues or exposure to harmful ideologies.

Staff should use professional curiosity and remain alert to changes in behaviour, presentation or attitudes that may indicate a child requires additional support.

Possible indicators of vulnerability may include:

- sudden changes in behaviour, attitudes or beliefs
- becoming withdrawn or isolated from family or peers
- expressing extremist views or intolerance towards others
- use of hate-based, racist, sexist, homophobic or discriminatory language
- fixation on conspiracy theories or extremist narratives
- accessing extremist materials online
- secretive online behaviour



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- increased time spent on unsafe online platforms
- significant changes in friendship groups
- justifying violence or criminal behaviour
- expressing feelings of injustice, grievance or persecution
- becoming overly secretive about beliefs, online activity or associations
- significant changes in appearance or behaviour
- attempts to recruit others to extremist ideologies
- possession of extremist materials, symbols or propaganda

The school recognises that radicalisation may take place online through:

- social media platforms
- gaming communication platforms
- livestreaming platforms
- anonymous chat forums
- extremist websites
- misinformation and disinformation
- conspiracy theories
- AI-generated harmful content

These indicators do not automatically mean a child is being radicalised. However, they may indicate a safeguarding concern and should always be explored appropriately.

Staff should report concerns immediately to the Designated Safeguarding Lead/Prevent Lead in line with the school's safeguarding procedures.

7. Oline Safety

Our Lady's Catholic Primary School recognises that the internet and digital technologies can be used to radicalise and exploit children and young people.

Radicalisation can take place online through exposure to harmful content, extremist materials and individuals seeking to influence vulnerable pupils.

Online risks may include exposure through:

- extremist websites
- social media platforms
- gaming communication platforms
- livestreaming platforms
- anonymous chat forums



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- online grooming
- misinformation and disinformation
- conspiracy theories
- hate-based content
- harmful online communities
- AI-generated extremist content
- inappropriate online influencers

The school recognises that online radicalisation can happen quickly and may be difficult for parents, carers and professionals to identify.

To reduce risks, the school will:

- maintain appropriate filtering and monitoring systems in line with *Keeping Children Safe in Education* requirements
- regularly review filtering and monitoring arrangements
- ensure the Designated Safeguarding Lead understands filtering and monitoring systems
- educate pupils about online safety and critical thinking
- teach pupils how to identify harmful content and report concerns
- work with parents/carers to raise awareness of online risks
- respond quickly to any online safeguarding concerns

Pupils are regularly reminded to report concerns about anything they see online that makes them feel worried, unsafe or uncomfortable.

Any concerns relating to online radicalisation will be managed through the school's safeguarding procedures and referred to external agencies where appropriate.

8. Curriculum

The school recognises that building resilience to radicalisation is an important part of safeguarding and can be supported through a broad and balanced curriculum.

Through RE, PSHE, Relationships Education, Computing, assemblies and wider curriculum opportunities, pupils are taught the knowledge and skills needed to stay safe and make positive choices.

The curriculum promotes:

- democracy
- the rule of law
- individual liberty
- mutual respect
- tolerance of different faiths and beliefs



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- respect for diversity
- critical thinking
- online safety
- positive relationships
- emotional wellbeing
- how to seek help and report concerns

Pupils are encouraged to:

- challenge stereotypes
- recognise harmful narratives
- think critically about information they see online
- understand the dangers of misinformation, disinformation and conspiracy theories
- recognise when online content may be harmful
- respect differing viewpoints appropriately

Our school provides opportunities for pupils to discuss sensitive issues in a safe and age-appropriate environment where respectful debate is encouraged.

As a Catholic school, our curriculum promotes dignity, compassion, respect, inclusion and understanding of others.

We are committed to preparing pupils for life in modern Britain and helping them become safe, respectful and responsible members of society.

9. Safe Discussion

Our school is committed to creating a safe environment where pupils feel able to discuss sensitive or controversial issues appropriately.

We recognise that open discussion helps pupils develop critical thinking skills and resilience to harmful influences.

Through age-appropriate discussions, pupils may explore topics such as:

- current affairs
- online safety
- misinformation and disinformation
- conspiracy theories
- prejudice and discrimination
- extremism
- harmful online content



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- respect for different beliefs and viewpoints

Staff will:

- create a safe and respectful environment for discussion
- encourage pupils to ask questions
- challenge harmful language, stereotypes and discriminatory views
- promote respectful disagreement
- support pupils to think critically about information they hear or see
- ensure discussions remain age appropriate

Staff will carefully manage discussions to ensure pupils are protected from inappropriate content or harmful influences.

Our school promotes respectful dialogue, inclusion and understanding while ensuring that extremist views are challenged appropriately.

As a Catholic school, we encourage compassion, dignity and respect for all members of our community.

10. Referral Procedures

Radicalisation is a safeguarding concern and should be managed in line with the school's wider safeguarding procedures.

All staff are expected to remain vigilant and must not assume that radicalisation concerns could not happen within our school community.

If any member of staff has concerns that a pupil may be vulnerable to radicalisation or extremism, they must:

1. Record the concern promptly using the school's safeguarding reporting system/procedures
2. Report the concern immediately to the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) / Prevent Lead
3. Provide any relevant information or evidence that supports the concern

The Designated Safeguarding Lead/Prevent Lead will:

- review all available information
- assess the level of risk
- speak with relevant staff members where appropriate
- consider whether wider safeguarding concerns are present
- seek advice from relevant external agencies where appropriate

Where necessary, the DSL may make referrals to:

- Channel Programme
- Children's Social Care



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- Police
- Herefordshire Safeguarding Children Partnership

The school will follow current local safeguarding partnership procedures when managing Prevent concerns.

Parents/carers will usually be informed of concerns unless doing so would place a child at increased risk.

All concerns, actions and outcomes will be recorded securely in line with safeguarding procedures.

If there is an immediate risk of harm or danger, the police will be contacted immediately.

10. Channel Programme

Channel Programme is a voluntary, confidential multi-agency programme that provides early intervention and support to individuals who may be vulnerable to radicalisation.

The purpose of Channel is to identify individuals at risk of being drawn into terrorism and provide appropriate support before concerns escalate.

The programme may involve support from a range of agencies, including:

- education
- Children's Social Care
- health services
- Police
- mental health services
- other relevant professionals

The Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)/Prevent Lead understands when it may be appropriate to make a referral to the Channel Programme and will follow local procedures.

The school may be asked to contribute information to support any assessment process and may attend multi-agency meetings where appropriate.

The school will continue to support pupils and families appropriately throughout any referral process.

11. Staff Training

All staff receive:

- safeguarding training
- Prevent training
- online safety training
- regular safeguarding updates

Training ensures staff can:

- identify concerns



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- understand referral pathways
- challenge extremist narratives
- recognise online risks

The Prevent Lead receives enhanced training.

12. Concerns about Staff

Concerns may include behaviour such as:

- promoting extremist views
- sharing inappropriate extremist material
- encouraging discriminatory attitudes
- expressing views that undermine fundamental British values
- attempting to influence pupils inappropriately
- promoting hatred, violence or intolerance

These behaviours do not automatically indicate radicalisation but must be taken seriously and investigated appropriately.

Any concerns about staff behaviour should be reported immediately to the Headteacher.

Where concerns relate to the Headteacher, concerns should be reported to the Chair of Governors.

The school will:

- follow safeguarding procedures
- seek HR advice where appropriate
- follow disciplinary procedures where necessary
- make referrals to the Local Authority Designated Officer where appropriate
- involve external agencies if required

The school will ensure that all concerns are managed fairly, proportionately and without discrimination in line with the Equality Act 2010.

All concerns and actions taken will be recorded appropriately.

13. External Visitors and Lettings

All external visitors, speakers and organisations will be appropriately risk assessed before being permitted to work with pupils.

The school will ensure that:

- visitors are suitable and appropriately supervised
- content delivered to pupils is age appropriate



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- messages align with the school's values and ethos
- activities support the curriculum and wider safeguarding aims
- materials used are appropriate and safe
- no extremist, discriminatory or harmful narratives are promoted

Where appropriate, the school may:

- request references
- review presentation materials in advance
- complete safeguarding checks
- review online/social media presence

The school reserves the right to refuse access to any visitor, organisation or speaker where concerns are identified.

The school will also risk assess the use of school premises by external organisations and community groups outside school hours.

Use of school facilities may be refused where activities are inconsistent with the school's safeguarding responsibilities, values or legal duties under the Department for Education Prevent Duty.

14. Governing Body

Governors will:

- ensure appropriate safeguarding policies are in place and reviewed regularly
- ensure the school complies with *Keeping Children Safe in Education* requirements
- ensure appropriate filtering and monitoring systems are in place
- monitor the effectiveness of the school's Prevent procedures
- challenge school leaders appropriately regarding safeguarding practice
- ensure safer recruitment procedures are followed
- ensure staff receive appropriate safeguarding and Prevent training
- support the school's ethos of inclusion, tolerance and respect

The safeguarding governor will receive appropriate safeguarding training to enable them to effectively monitor safeguarding practice.

The Governing Body will regularly review safeguarding information, policy updates and audit findings to ensure procedures remain effective and responsive to emerging risks.

15. Safer Recruitment

The school follows safer recruitment procedures in line with:

- *Keeping Children Safe in Education*



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- relevant safeguarding legislation
- the school's Safer Recruitment Policy

The school will ensure that:

- appropriate DBS checks are completed
- references are obtained and reviewed
- identity checks are completed
- right to work checks are completed where required
- safeguarding questions are included during recruitment processes
- staff understand safeguarding expectations
- the Single Central Record is maintained accurately

The school recognises that individuals may seek employment or volunteering opportunities in schools to gain access to children or influence school communities.

The school will remain vigilant to this risk and will ensure that recruitment processes are robust and consistent.

All staff and volunteers are expected to uphold the school's safeguarding responsibilities and promote the school's values of inclusion, respect and tolerance.

16. Monitoring and Review

The school regularly reviews the effectiveness of its Prevent procedures through:

- annual safeguarding audits
- regular policy reviews
- governor monitoring visits
- safeguarding reports to governors
- staff training reviews
- review of safeguarding incidents and outcomes
- review of filtering and monitoring arrangements
- updates to national and local safeguarding guidance

The Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)/Prevent Lead will review any concerns, incidents or referrals to ensure that procedures remain effective and appropriate.

The Governing Body will monitor the implementation of this policy and challenge school leaders where necessary.

This policy will be reviewed annually or sooner if:

- national guidance changes



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- local safeguarding procedures change
- significant incidents occur
- emerging risks are identified

All updates will reflect current guidance from the Department for Education, *Keeping Children Safe in Education* and Herefordshire Safeguarding Children Partnership.