

St Leonard's C of E (A) Primary School



Preventing extremism and radicalisation safeguarding policy

Date written: **February 2026**

Date for review: **February 2027**

Reviewed by: **Kirsty Cullen**

Chair of Governors: **Rev Debra Dyson / Jo Scott**

Safeguarding Governor: Jo Scott

Name of Designated Safeguarding Lead: Kirsty Cullen

Policy will be reviewed by the governing body by: (this date should be no more than 12 months after approval and should be synchronised with the Safeguarding Policy for the school, which should also refer to this document) Policy Adoption, Monitoring and Review

This policy was considered and adopted by the Governing body in line with their overall duty to safeguard and promote the welfare of children as set out in the DfE guidance 'Keeping Children Safe in Education'. Parents will be issued with a hard copy of this policy on request. This policy will also be made available to parents via the school website. The Governing Body will actively evaluate the effectiveness of this policy by monitoring the staff group's understanding and application of the procedures within this policy as per our duty to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.

Introduction

St Leonard's Primary School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all children. Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility, and all staff, governors, and volunteers have a duty to protect children from harm, including risk of **extremism and radicalisation**.

Under **Section 26 of the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 (CTSA 2015)**, the school must have *due regard* to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism. The legislation remains current and up to date with all amendments in force as of November 2025.
<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2015/6/contents/2025-08-01>

This policy should be read alongside:

- **Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE) 2025**, which is statutory from September 2025 <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/keeping-children-safe-in-education--2>
- **Prevent Duty Guidance (2023) – statutory from 31 December 2023**
<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/prevent-duty-guidance>
- **Channel Duty Guidance (October 2025)**, issued under ss.36–38 CTSA 2015
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/channel-and-prevent-multi-agency-panel-pmap-guidance/channel-duty-guidance-protecting-people-susceptible-to-radicalisation-accessible>
- **Working Together to Safeguard Children (2023)**
- The school's full **Safeguarding Policy** and **Behaviour Policy**

Legislative and Statutory framework

This policy reflects the following:

Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 (CTSA 2015)

- Section 26 sets out the **Prevent Duty** for specified authorities including schools.
- Sections 36–41 set out the statutory **Channel** framework for supporting people vulnerable to being drawn into terrorism.

Prevent Duty Guidance (England & Wales) 2023

The latest statutory guidance:

- replaced the 2015 guidance
- came into force on **31 December 2023**
- emphasises tackling ideological causes of terrorism, improving quality of referrals, updating terminology, and ensuring proportionate risk management.

Channel Duty Guidance (2025)

Updated guidance for multi-agency Channel panels:

- sets requirements for assessment, consent, support planning, information sharing and reviewing cases.

Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE) 2025

Key updates relevant to Prevent include:

- expanded online safety risks (misinformation, disinformation, conspiracy theories)
- focus on risks arising from AI-generated content
- strengthened filtering and monitoring requirements

CONTEST (2023 Refresh)

National risk assessment emphasises:

- broader types of threat, including “blended ideologies”
- growth in online radicalisation
- incel-related extremist narratives

Definitions

- **Extremism**
- Vocal or active opposition to fundamental British values, including democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, and mutual respect/tolerance of different faiths and beliefs. Includes calls for the death of UK armed forces personnel. (Prevent statutory definition)
- **Radicalisation**
- The process by which a person comes to support terrorism or extremist ideologies.
- **Terrorism**
- Use or threat of action designed to influence the government or intimidate the public for political, religious, racial or ideological cause.

School Ethos and Commitment

St Leonard’s Primary School rejects all forms of extremism. We foster a safe environment where children can learn about and discuss controversial issues securely and respectfully. Prevent is fundamentally a **safeguarding duty**, not a surveillance process.

We will:

- promote **British values** throughout our curriculum

- challenge extremist views in line with school behaviour expectations
- ensure staff are confident and trained to identify vulnerability and risk

Risk Factors and Indicators

As outlined in Prevent Duty and Channel guidance, indicators may include:

- increased secrecy around online activity
 - exposure to extremist content or conspiracy narratives
 - dehumanising or extremist language
 - sudden changes in behaviour or identity
 - personal vulnerabilities (trauma, bullying, isolation)
- [\[safeguard-me.co.uk\]](https://safeguard-me.co.uk)

Online radicalisation is a key concern, with algorithms, encrypted platforms, and AI-generated propaganda increasing risks.

Curriculum and Teaching Approaches

The school will build resilience to radicalisation through:

- PSHE and citizenship education
- critical thinking and media literacy
- discussions on online safety, discrimination, and equality
- explicit teaching about misinformation, disinformation and conspiracy theories (KCSIE 2025)
- safe spaces for debate

We actively promote democratic participation, mutual respect, and tolerance.

Online Safety and Filtering/Monitoring

In line with KCSIE 2025, we recognise new digital threats, including:

- AI-generated extremist content
- manipulated media
- algorithmic content reinforcement

We use effective filtering and monitoring systems and review them regularly using the DfE's technology self-assessment toolkit.

Use of External Speakers and Agencies

All external speakers are vetted to ensure:

- content aligns with British values

- no extremist or discriminatory messaging
- contributions complement the curriculum

Referral and Reporting Concerns

Internal process

Any Prevent concern must be reported to the DSL as a safeguarding concern.

Escalation to Prevent / Channel

The DSL may contact:

- Local Authority Prevent Co-ordinator
- Police Prevent Team
- Channel Panel (under CTSA 2015 ss.36–38)

Referrals must follow the Prevent referral process and local authority pathways.

Prevent focuses on **early intervention**, is voluntary, and does not criminalise individuals.

Staff Training

All staff receive induction and regular training that includes:

- recognising vulnerability to radicalisation
- understanding Prevent and Channel processes
- understanding online risks including AI and misinformation (KCSIE 2025)

All frontline staff must complete Home Office Prevent Duty training as recommended by the updated Prevent guidance.

Recruitment and Staff Conduct

We follow safer recruitment procedures and maintain a Single Central Record to prevent individuals with extremist views from gaining access to the school workforce.

Staff conduct concerns are addressed under school HR procedures and may be referred to LADO or the TRA where appropriate.

Governance

Governors are responsible for:

- ensuring compliance with Prevent Duty
- receiving safeguarding training including Prevent
- monitoring implementation of this policy

CONTEST and Prevent updates will inform annual policy review.

Information Sharing

Information sharing follows:

- Channel Duty Guidance (2025) requirements
- Data protection legislation
- Safeguarding principles of proportionality and necessity

Review of This Policy

This policy will be reviewed annually or sooner if:

- statutory guidance changes
- local risk profiles shift
- new threats or trends emerge