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## Prevent Policy



### 1. Policy Statement

Coulston Sixth Form College fully recognises its responsibility and duty for protecting children and vulnerable adults and for promoting the welfare of young people and vulnerable adults. This includes the duty to safeguard students from the risk of being drawn into terrorism.

Coulston College is aware of the safeguarding and Prevent duty, as outlined in the *Prevent Duty Guidance: for further education institutions in England and Wales*:

“Section 26(1) of the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 (“the Act”) imposes a duty on “specified authorities”, when exercising their functions, to have due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism. There is an important role for further education institutions, including sixth form colleges and independent training providers, in helping prevent people being drawn into terrorism, which includes not just violent extremism but also non-violent extremism, which can create an atmosphere conducive to terrorism and can popularise views which terrorists exploit. It is a condition of funding that all further education and independent training providers must comply with relevant legislation and any statutory responsibilities associated with the delivery of education and safeguarding of learners.”

*Source: Prevent Duty Guidance: for further education institutions in England and Wales (need date)*

“The Prevent strategy, published by the Government in 2011, is part of our overall counter-terrorism strategy, CONTEST. The aim of the *Prevent* strategy is to reduce the threat to the UK from terrorism by stopping people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism. In the Act this has simply been expressed as the need to “prevent people from being drawn into terrorism”. The 2011 *Prevent* strategy has three specific strategic objectives:

- respond to the ideological challenge of terrorism and the threat we face from those who promote it;
- prevent people from being drawn into terrorism and ensure that they are given appropriate advice and support; and
- work with sectors and institutions where there are risks of radicalisation that we need to address.”

*Source: Revised Prevent Duty Guidance: for England and Wales Originally issued on 12th March 2015 and revised on 16th July 2015.*

Any member of staff or student at Coulston College who have any concerns regarding the issues identified within this guidance policy should report those concerns immediately and no later than the end of the working day to the designated Safeguarding Officer.

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## **2. Aims**

The aims of the policy are:

To promote an environment that is safe, where staff and students treat each other with mutual respect and develop good relationships built on trust.

To raise the awareness of all staff of the need to safeguard young people and vulnerable adults and of their rights and responsibilities in preventing radicalisation.

To provide a systematic means of supporting young people and vulnerable adults known or thought to be at risk of harm.

To develop a structured College procedure which will be followed by all members of the College staff.

To support the development of effective working relationships with other agencies, particularly the Police, Channel and Children's Services.

To ensure that all relevant policies and procedures within the College are linked to, and comply with, the Coulsdon Sixth Form College Prevent and Safeguarding Policy and Procedures.

To support the development of young people and vulnerable adults in ways that will foster security, confidence and independence and to promote this through the curriculum, tutorial system, Student Union and the student support systems.

## **3. Scope**

The current threat from Terrorism and Extremism in the United Kingdom is real and severe and can involve the exploitation of vulnerable people, including children and young people. This policy is designed to provide a clear framework to structure and inform our response to safeguarding concerns for those young people who may be vulnerable to the messages of extremism. In addition, it provides details of the local inter agency process and expectations in identifying appropriate interventions based on the threshold of need and intervention model and the Channel process (see below).

## **4. Definitions**

For the purposes of the Prevent Policy, the following definitions apply:

Radicalisation is defined as the process by which people come to support terrorism and extremism and, in some cases, to then participate in terrorist groups.

Extremism is "Vocal or active opposition to fundamental British values... We also include in our definition of extremism calls for the death of members of our armed forces".

*source: Governments Prevent Strategy*

Fundamental British values are defined as: Democracy, including democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs

*Source: Promoting fundamental British values as part of SMSC in schools. November 2014*

Channel is a multi-agency approach to protect people at risk from radicalisation. Channel is about safeguarding children and adults from being drawn into committing terrorist-related activity. It is about early intervention to protect and divert people away from the risk they face before illegality occurs. Channel uses existing collaboration between local authorities, statutory partners (such as the education and health sectors, social services, children's and youth services and offender management services), the police and the local community to identify individuals at risk, assess the nature and extent of the risk and to develop appropriate support plans for the individual concerned.

## **5. Legislation**

### **National Guidance and Strategies**

PREVENT is a key part of the Government's strategy to stop people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism. Early intervention is at the heart of PREVENT in diverting people away from being drawn into terrorist activity. PREVENT happens before any criminal activity takes place. It is about recognising, supporting and protecting people who might be susceptible to radicalisation.

The PREVENT strategy objectives are:

- Ideology: respond to the ideological challenge of terrorism and the threat we face from those who promote it.
- Individuals: prevent people from being drawn into terrorism and ensure that they are given appropriate advice and support
- Institutions: work with sectors and institutions where there are risks of radicalisation which we need to address.

## **6. Policy Approval History**

**Approved by:** The Corporation on 14 March 2016. Reviewed by SLT in Jan 2017 and re-approved. No changes made.

**Amendments Authorised by:** N/A

## **7. Policy Content**

### **7.1 Equality, Diversity and Community Cohesion**

The college aims to guide our students to understand others, to promote common values and to value diversity, to promote awareness of human rights and of the responsibility to uphold and defend them, and to develop the skills of participation and responsible action. We take extremely seriously our key role in preparing all our young people for life in modern Britain.

We aim to encourage working towards a society in with a common vision and sense of belonging by all. Communities; a society in which the diversity of people's backgrounds and circumstances is appreciated and valued; a society in which similar life opportunities are available to all; and a society in which strong and positive relationships exist and continue to be developed in the workplace, in schools and in the wider community.

### **7.2 Vulnerability and Risk Indicators**

The following lists are not exhaustive and all or none may be present in individual cases of concern. Nor does it mean that vulnerable young people experiencing these factors are automatically at risk of exploitation for the purposes of extremism. The accepted view is that a complex relationship between the various aspects of an individual's identity determines their vulnerability to extremism. There is no such thing as a 'typical extremist' and those involved in extremism come from a range of backgrounds and experiences. The following indicators may help to identify factors that suggest a young person or their family may be vulnerable or involved with extremism:

#### **Vulnerability**

- Identity crisis: Distance from cultural/religious heritage and uncomfortable with their place in the society around them. Personal crisis: Family tensions; sense of isolation; adolescence; low self-esteem; disassociating from existing friendship group and becoming involved with a new and different group of friends; searching for answers to questions about identity, faith and belonging.
- Personal circumstances: Migration; local community tensions; events affecting country or region of origin; alienation from UK values; having a sense of grievance that is triggered by personal experience of racism or discrimination or aspects of Government policy.
- Unmet aspirations: Perceptions of injustice; feeling of failure; rejection of civic life. Criminality: Experiences of imprisonment; poor resettlement/reintegration, previous involvement with criminal groups.

#### **Access to extremist influences**

- Reason to believe that the young person associates with those known to be involved in extremism
- Possession or distribution of extremist literature/other media material likely to incite racial/religious hatred or acts of violence
- Use of closed network groups via electronic media for the purpose of extremist activity

## **Experiences, behaviours and influences**

- Experience of peer, social, family or faith group rejection
- International events in areas of conflict and civil unrest had a personal impact on the young person resulting in a noticeable change in behaviour
- Verbal or written support of terrorist attacks
- First-hand experience of racial or religious hate crime
- Extended periods of travel to international locations known to be associated with extremism
- Evidence of fraudulent identity/use of documents to support this
- Experience of disadvantage, discrimination or social exclusion
- History of criminal activity
- Pending a decision on their immigration/national status

### **More critical risk factors include:**

- Being in contact with extremist recruiters
- Articulating support for extremist causes or leaders
- Accessing extremist websites, especially those with a social networking element
- Possessing extremist literature
- Justifying the use of violence to solve societal issues
- Joining extremist organisations
- Significant changes to appearance/behaviour

## **7.3 Guest Speakers and Venue Letting**

The College will consider whether the views to be expressed by a visiting speaker are likely to influence students towards radicalisation and reserves the right to withdraw the invitation to speak to students if this is the case.

This also applies to any external person/ group or organisation wishing to hire or use the College as a venue. Any lets are subject to a vetting process.

## **8. Referral and Intervention Process**

Any identified concerns as the result of observed behaviour or reports of conversations to suggest that the young person supports terrorism and/or extremism, must be reported to the named designated safeguarding professional immediately and no later than the end of the working day.

Where a young person is thought to be in need/or at risk of significant harm, and/or where investigations need to be carried out (even though parental consent may be withheld), a referral to Children's Social Care should be made in line with the college Child Protection Policy. However, it should be recognised that concerns of this nature, in relation to violent extremism, are most likely to require a police investigation (as part of the Channel process).

As part of the (potential) referral process, the designated professional will contact the designated staff at the Croydon LA and Police. These currently are:

Carl Parker (LA)  
Harvey Teague (Metropolitan Police)

Some concerns which are identified may have a security dimension to them. For this reason, it is important that liaison with the police forms an early part of all investigations.

The Local Police will carry out an initial assessment and, if appropriate, set up a multiagency meeting to agree actions for supporting the individual. If it is deemed that there are no concerns around radicalisation, appropriate and targeted support will be considered for the young person. Depending on the level of concern as well as the level of evidence not all referrals will meet the threshold for safeguarding.

### **Process for Croydon Local Authority:**

In January 2016, Croydon LA informed schools and colleges in the borough that "the Executive of the Children's Safeguarding Board has agreed that all such concerns should be passed to the MASH in line with other safeguarding concerns, using the MASH referral form." (Letter to Head teachers, January 2016).

The process is shown in Appendix 1.

## **9. Staff Training on Prevent Procedures at Coulsdon Sixth Form College**

Coulsdon Sixth Form College will ensure that

- The Designated Safeguarding Lead will receive appropriate training
- All new members of staff and governors will be made aware of the Coulsdon Sixth Form College Prevent Policy and procedures during their induction into the College.
- All staff and governors will receive initial training on the College's Prevent Policy and procedures
- There are appropriate updates/ training sessions on all aspects of Prevent.

Initial and ongoing training will ensure that all staff

- Know who to contact if they have a Prevent related concern
- Know where to go for advice in relation to Prevent issues or when they are uncertain about whether to refer a concern about a child or vulnerable adult
- Know the College procedure for Prevent referrals
- Are aware of the requirement to keep detailed, accurate, secure written records of any referrals or concerns
- Understand their responsibilities in being alert to the signs of abuse or potential radicalisation
- Are aware of appropriate approaches to confidentiality and disclosure of information.

**Equality analysis:**

Questions for all Policies	Enter Y / N
Is it likely that the Policy Revision could have a negative impact:-	
Due to ethnic group?	Y*
Due to gender?	N
Due to disability?	N
Due to sexual orientation?	N
Due to their religious beliefs (or none)?	Y*
Due to pregnancy	N
On people due to them being transgender or transsexual?	N
Additional questions for Policies relating to Staff	
Is it likely that the Policy Revision could have a negative impact:-	
On people due to their age?	N
On people due to their marital or civil partnership status?	N
On people with dependants/caring responsibilities?	N

\*In dealing with incidents and individuals in relation to this policy it is important that actions are carried out sensitively and work in conjunction with other College Policies such as the Equality and Diversity Policy.

# The Prevent process for Children and Young People in Croydon

Referral Pathway where there are concerns that a child is being radicalised or is within a family where a risk of radicalisation is identified

