St James Infant & Pre-School

Preventing Extremism and Radicalisation Policy 2026-27

Statutory
Annual review

Date policy adopted	June 2017					
Review date	June 2018	April '20	April '21	April '22	November '23	July '26
Reviewer's name	SOS	SOS	GG	SOS	SOS	SOS
Next review due by	April 2020	April '21	April '22	April '23	April '24	July '27

1.

PURPOSE AND STATUS

St James Infant & Pre-School is committed to providing a safe, inclusive environment in which every child feels that they belong. Protecting children from radicalisation into terrorism is part of the school's wider safeguarding responsibilities. Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility and all action under this policy will be child-centred, proportionate and in the child's best interests.

This policy sets out how the school meets the Prevent duty under section 26 of the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015: to have due regard to the need to prevent people from becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism. It applies to the school and preschool, all staff, governors, volunteers, visitors, contractors and organisations using the premises.

This policy is effective from 1 September 2026. Until 31 August 2026, Keeping Children Safe in Education 2025 remains in force.

2. RELATED POLICIES AND GUIDANCE

- InMAT Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy and the school's safeguarding procedures
- Behaviour and Relationships Policy; Equality information and objectives; Anti-bullying arrangements
- Online Safety and Acceptable Use Policy; filtering and monitoring arrangements
- Visitors, volunteers, lettings and use-of-premises procedures
- Keeping Children Safe in Education 2026 (in force from 1 September 2026)
- Prevent duty guidance: England and Wales (2023), especially paragraphs 141–210 for education and childcare
- Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023, as amended
- Channel duty guidance: protecting people susceptible to radicalisation (2023)
- The Prevent duty: safeguarding learners vulnerable to radicalisation (DfE)
- Early years foundation stage statutory framework and current filtering and monitoring standards for schools

3. DEFINITIONS

Extremism

Vocal or active opposition to our fundamental British values, including democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs.

Radicalisation

The process of a person legitimising support for, or use of, terrorist violence.

Terrorism

An action that endangers or causes serious violence to a person or people, causes serious damage to property, or seriously interferes with or disrupts an electronic system. The use or threat must be designed to influence the government or intimidate the public and be made to advance a political, religious, racial or ideological cause.

Susceptibility

A person's circumstances, needs or influences may make them more open to radicalising ideas. It is not a fixed characteristic and must not be inferred from protected characteristics, faith, culture, political opinion, SEND or family background.

Prevent

One of the four strands of the UK counter-terrorism strategy. Its aim is to stop people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism and to support disengagement and rehabilitation where relevant.

Channel

A voluntary and confidential early-support programme. Police assess Prevent referrals and may pass a case to a local multi-agency Channel panel. Consent is required before Channel support is delivered.

4. OUR PRINCIPLES

- Prevent concerns are safeguarding concerns. The response will be calm, curious, evidence-informed and proportionate.
- There is no single profile or checklist that identifies radicalisation. Staff must consider behaviour in context and avoid stereotyping or discriminatory assumptions.
- A child may need help because of online contact, family or community influence, exploitation, unmet needs, isolation or exposure to harmful narratives. These factors do not, by themselves, demonstrate radicalisation.
- Legitimate debate, lawful political views, religious observance and the expression of identity are not extremism. The school will support freedom of thought while challenging prejudice, hatred, dehumanisation and the legitimisation of violence.
- The child's voice, developmental level, communication needs and SEND will inform assessment and support.

5. LEADERSHIP, GOVERNANCE AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The governing body and trust will:

- ensure that the Prevent duty is integrated into safeguarding governance and that this policy is implemented;
- receive assurance that a current, setting-specific Prevent risk assessment and proportionate action plan are maintained;
- ensure appropriate safeguarding, online safety, filtering and monitoring, staff training and safer recruitment arrangements; and
- scrutinise implementation at least annually, while maintaining confidentiality about individual cases.

The Headteacher and Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) will:

- lead implementation, maintain awareness of the local threat and referral pathway, and ensure concerns are acted upon promptly;
- maintain and review the Prevent risk assessment and action plan at least annually and after a significant incident, change in local risk, premises use or technology;
- ensure staff know how to identify, record and report concerns and complete suitable Prevent training;
- work with the trust, West Northamptonshire Council, Northamptonshire Police, children's social care and other partners as required;
- make or oversee referrals, share relevant information lawfully, attend Channel meetings where requested, and coordinate support for the child and family; and
- ensure relevant safeguarding information follows a child to a new setting in accordance with KCSIE and school transfer procedures.

All staff and volunteers will:

- complete required safeguarding and Prevent training, remain alert to concerns and know the school's reporting procedure;
- listen to children, record facts and the child's words accurately, and report concerns immediately to the DSL or a deputy;
- not investigate, promise confidentiality, confront a suspected radicaliser or contact family members where this may increase risk; and
- challenge discriminatory language safely and follow the Behaviour and Relationships and safeguarding procedures.

The named DSL, deputy DSLs and safeguarding governor are identified in the InMAT safeguarding policy, staff information and safeguarding displays.

6. RISK ASSESSMENT AND RISK REDUCTION

The school will use the national Prevent duty self-assessment approach and relevant local information to assess risks affecting its age range, community and provision. The assessment will consider:

- local and national threat information and any advice from the Northamptonshire Prevent Partnership;
- children's age, SEND, communication, online access and known contextual vulnerabilities;
- curriculum opportunities to build belonging, critical thinking, respect and resilience;
- staff confidence, induction, training and referral knowledge;
- IT use, online teaching, generative AI, filtering, monitoring and response to harmful content;
- visitors, external speakers, contractors, lettings, community users, resources and donations; and
- lessons from incidents, safeguarding themes and partnership feedback.

Actions will have a named owner, timescale, evidence of impact and review date. Risk will be managed proportionately; a low number of referrals does not by itself show that risk is low or that arrangements are effective.

7. RECOGNISING POSSIBLE CONCERNS

Staff should notice changes, patterns or disclosures and consider the whole safeguarding picture. In an infant and preschool context, concerns might include:

- repeated use of age-inappropriate extremist, hateful or dehumanising words, symbols, gestures, play or drawings;
- expressing approval of terrorist violence, fixation on violent extremist material, or saying that harm is justified against a group;
- attempts by another person to expose, groom, coerce or recruit the child, including through games, video platforms, messaging or social media;
- accessing, sharing or talking about online material that encourages terrorism or targeted hatred;
- a marked and concerning change in behaviour, relationships or worldview alongside other indicators of harm or influence; or
- a child or family member disclosing contact with people or groups of concern.

Any one indicator may have an ordinary or different safeguarding explanation. Staff must share the concern rather than decide whether radicalisation has occurred.

8. RESPONDING TO A CONCERN: NOTICE – CHECK – SHARE

Notice: listen, remain calm, take the child seriously and note what was seen or heard. Preserve relevant evidence such as a web address or screenshot only where safe and lawful; do not download, forward or repeatedly view illegal material.

Check: where appropriate, use open and non-leading questions to clarify immediate meaning, for example, “Tell me what you mean” or “Where did you hear that?” Do not conduct an investigation or alert anyone who may present a risk.

Share: report immediately to the DSL or a deputy and record the facts on MyConcern in line with the safeguarding policy. If the DSL is unavailable, staff must act through a deputy or senior leader and must not delay.

The DSL will consider the child’s immediate safety, wider safeguarding needs, early help or children’s social care thresholds, online-safety action, consultation with the local Prevent team, and whether a Prevent referral is appropriate. A Prevent referral may be made without consent where there is a lawful safeguarding basis; the child and parents should ordinarily be informed unless doing so could increase risk, prejudice an enquiry or place anyone at risk. Consent is required before Channel support is delivered.

9. LOCAL AND EMERGENCY REFERRAL ROUTES

Immediate danger or a suspected terrorist incident

Call 999. Do not use routine school or Prevent referral routes where there is an immediate risk to life, violence is being used or threatened, or a crime is in progress.

West Northamptonshire / Northamptonshire Prevent advice and referrals

- Email: prevent@northants.police.uk
- Telephone: 101, extension 341166
- Northamptonshire Police online: “Tell us about possible terrorist activity”
- ACT Early Support Line: 0800 011 3764, 9am–5pm every day

Urgent terrorism information that is not an immediate emergency

- Anti-Terrorist Hotline: 0800 789 321
- Online reporting: act.campaign.gov.uk

Where a child may be suffering or likely to suffer significant harm, the DSL will also follow the Northamptonshire Children’s Trust children’s social care referral pathway. A Prevent referral does not replace other safeguarding or police action.

10. CHANNEL AND SUPPORT

Police initially assess each Prevent referral. Where appropriate, the case may be considered by the local multi-agency Channel panel, which assesses susceptibility and risk, identifies support and reviews progress. School representatives may be asked to contribute relevant information or attend. Channel is not a criminal sanction, participation is voluntary, and consent is required before support begins. If Channel is not appropriate, the school will continue to consider other safeguarding, SEND, pastoral, early-help or community support.

11. CURRICULUM, BELONGING AND FUNDAMENTAL BRITISH VALUES

Prevention is embedded through the school’s curriculum, assemblies, relationships and values of Respect, Kindness, Inclusion and Teamwork. Age-appropriate teaching helps children to:

- feel safe, valued and that they belong; recognise trusted adults and ask for help;
- listen to others, disagree respectfully and understand that families, faiths and identities may differ;
- understand fairness, choices, rules, rights, responsibilities and democratic participation;
- recognise unkind, prejudiced or unsafe messages and know “Stop, Close, Tell” online;
- develop curiosity, language, emotional regulation and early critical-thinking skills; and
- understand that nobody should encourage hatred or violence.

Teaching will be developmentally appropriate, inclusive and politically impartial. Staff will not promote partisan political views and, where political issues are brought to children’s attention, will take reasonable steps to support a balanced presentation appropriate to their age.

12. ONLINE SAFETY, FILTERING AND MONITORING

Online radicalisation is treated as an online-safety and safeguarding risk. The school will use appropriate filtering and monitoring, device and network controls, acceptable-use agreements and staff supervision. The governing body, DSL and IT lead will review filtering and monitoring standards at least annually, record decisions and ensure that blocked or concerning searches and content are escalated appropriately. Filtering must not replace education, supervision or professional curiosity. Staff must report concerning online content and must not investigate it themselves.

13. VISITORS, SPEAKERS, RESOURCES AND USE OF PREMISES

The school will complete proportionate checks before approving visitors, external speakers, performers, organisations, resources, donations or lettings. Checks will consider identity, purpose, content, suitability, safeguarding, political impartiality and any link to terrorism or radicalising influence. Visitors will be supervised as required. The school will not provide a platform or premises for unlawful speech, encouragement of terrorism, fundraising for terrorism, support for a proscribed organisation, or content that creates an unacceptable safeguarding risk. Concerns will be referred to the Headteacher and DSL and, where necessary, the trust, local authority or police.

14. TRAINING AND SAFER WORKING

All staff will receive Prevent awareness training at induction and updates at intervals determined by the DSL and the school's risk assessment. The DSL and deputies will complete training appropriate to their role, including referral and Channel awareness. Governors will receive sufficient training to assure compliance. Training will cover local procedures, online risk, bias and stereotyping, age-appropriate indicators, information sharing and the distinction between lawful views and safeguarding concerns.

15. RECORDING, INFORMATION SHARING AND CONFIDENTIALITY

Records will be factual, timely, secure and kept in line with the safeguarding policy, retention schedule and data-protection law. Information will be shared on a need-to-know basis where it is necessary, proportionate and lawful to safeguard a child or prevent crime. Data protection law does not prevent justified safeguarding information sharing. Staff must not discuss concerns outside the safeguarding process. Parents and children will be given appropriate information unless this would create or increase risk.

16. EQUALITY AND COMPLAINTS

The school will implement this policy consistently with the Equality Act 2010 and the Public Sector Equality Duty. Decisions will not be based on race, religion or belief, nationality, language, disability, SEND, sex, family circumstances or political opinion. Reasonable adjustments and communication support will be provided. Concerns about the school's handling of a matter may be raised through the complaints procedure, without limiting the right to contact the trust, local authority, police or relevant safeguarding body.

17. MONITORING AND REVIEW

The Headteacher and DSL will monitor training, referrals, incidents, online-safety information, curriculum implementation and completion of the Prevent action plan. The governing body will receive appropriate assurance without identifying children. This policy and the associated risk assessment will be reviewed annually, after any significant incident, and sooner when national or local guidance or risk changes.

KEY NATIONAL AND LOCAL SOURCES

- GOV.UK – Prevent duty guidance: England and Wales (2023): gov.uk/government/publications/prevent-duty-guidance
- DfE – Keeping Children Safe in Education 2026: gov.uk/government/publications/keeping-children-safe-in-education--2
- DfE – Prevent duty: safeguarding learners vulnerable to radicalisation: gov.uk/government/publications/the-prevent-duty-safeguarding-learners-vulnerable-to-radicalisation
- Home Office – Channel duty guidance: gov.uk/government/publications/channel-and-prevent-multi-agency-panel-pmap-guidance
- DfE – Prevent duty self-assessment tool for schools: gov.uk/government/publications/prevent-duty-self-assessment-tool-for-schools
- West Northamptonshire Council – Preventing radicalisation and extremism: westnorthants.gov.uk/personal-safety-and-community-support/preventing-radicalisation-and-extremism
- Northamptonshire Police – Tell us about possible terrorist activity: northants.police.uk/tua/tell-us-about/ath/possible-terrorist-activity/

Policy owner: Headteacher / Designated Safeguarding Lead
Reviewed: July 2026
Next review: July 2027, or sooner if guidance or local arrangements change