



1.11 Prevent Duty and Channel Awareness Policy

Policy Statement

St. Cuthbert's Pre-School Play Group is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.

From 1st July 2015 all schools, registered Early Years Childcare Providers and Registered Later Years Childcare Providers (referred to in this document as 'Childcare Providers') are subject to a duty under section 26 of the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015, in the exercise of their functions, to have "Due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism". This duty is known as The Prevent Duty.

What is Radicalism?

Radicalism refers to the process by which a person comes to support terrorism and forms of extremism. Protecting children from the risk of radicalisation is seen as part of St. Cuthbert's Pre-School's wider safeguarding duties, and is similar in nature to protecting children from other forms of harm and abuse. During the process of radicalisation, it is possible to intervene to prevent vulnerable people being radicalised. There is no single way of identifying an individual who is likely to be susceptible to an extremist ideology. It can happen in many different ways and settings.

Specific background factors may contribute to vulnerability which are often combined with specific influences such as family, friends or online, and with specific needs for which an extremist or terrorist group may appear to provide an answer. The internet and the use of social media in particular has become a major factor in the radicalisation of young people.

What is Extremism?

Extremism is 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. We also include in our definition of extremism calls for the death of members of our armed forces, whether in this country or overseas.

Constant Practice and Procedure

At St. Cuthbert's Pre-School Play Group it is essential that all staff are able to identify children who may be vulnerable to radicalisation, and know what to do when they are identified. Protecting children from the risk of radicalisation should be seen as part of the schools' and childcare providers' wider safeguarding duties, and is similar in nature to protecting children from other harms (e.g. drugs, gangs, neglect, sexual exploitation), whether these come from within their family or are the product of outside influences. We can also build pupils' resilience to radicalisation by promoting fundamental British Values and enabling them to challenge extremist views. All staff are instructed to challenge extremist and radical views.

We endeavour to support our children through the EYFS by providing playful learning opportunities to help them to develop positive diverse and communal identities, as well as their well-being, their empathy and emotional literacy, while continuing to take action to eradicate inequalities, bullying, discrimination, exclusion, aggression and violence; all of which fosters and secures, children's pro-social behaviours and responsible citizenship and real sense of belonging.

Risk Assessment

All the staff who work directly with the children are expected to assess the risk of children being drawn into terrorism, including support for extremist ideas that are part of terrorist ideology. This means being able to demonstrate both a general understanding of the risks affecting children and young people in the area and a specific understanding of how to identify individual children who may be at risk of radicalisation and what to do to support them.

As with managing other safeguarding risks, staff should be alert to changes in children's behaviour which could indicate that they may be in need of help or protection. Staff should use their professional judgement in identifying children who might be at risk of radicalisation and act proportionately which may include making a referral to the Channel program.



Procedure for reporting concerns

If a member of staff in our setting has a concern about a particular pupil they should follow the setting's normal safeguarding procedures, including discussing with the setting's Designated Safeguarding Lead (**Zonia Sykes**), who will, where deemed necessary, with children's social care. You can also contact your local police force or dial 101 (the non-emergency number). They can talk to you in confidence about your concerns and help you gain access to support and advice. Also, they can advise if this would be a case for Channel.

Channel

Channel is a programme which focuses on providing support at an early stage to people who are identified as being vulnerable to being drawn into terrorism. It provides a mechanism for settings to make referrals if they are concerned that an individual might be vulnerable to radicalisation. An individual's engagement with the programme is entirely voluntary at all stages. Section 36 of the CTSA 2015 places a duty on local authorities to ensure Channel panels are in place. The panel must be chaired by the local authority and include the police for the relevant local authority area. Following a referral, the panel will assess the extent to which identified individuals are vulnerable to being drawn into terrorism, and, where considered appropriate and necessary consent is obtained, arrange for support to be provided for those individuals.

Channel is available at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/channel-guidance>

Concerns can also be raised by email to counter.extremism@education.gsi.gov.uk

This policy was adopted by	St. Cuthbert's Pre-School Play Group
On	31 st May 2018
Date to be reviewed	31 st May 2020



Signed on behalf of the provider	
Name of signatory	Mrs Rachel Sidwell - Mrs Selina Edwards
Role of signatory (e.g. chair, director or owner)	Manager - Chair