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## Prevent Policy

### Introduction

The Prevent strategy is a government initiative aimed at stopping people from becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism. This college is committed to providing a safe environment for our students and staff, fostering mutual respect and understanding among all members of our community.

In 2011 the Government published its Prevent Strategy designed to; (1) respond to the ideological challenge of terrorism and those that promote it; (2) prevent people from being drawn into terrorism and ensure that they are given appropriate support and (3) work with sectors and institutions where there are risks of radicalisation or extremism\* that need to be addressed.

The Counter –Terrorism and Security Act (2015) contains a duty on specified authorities, including education authorities to take steps to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism. This is known as the Prevent duty. Guidance on the ‘Prevent Duty’ of Wilkes Academy was first published in 2015 and was last updated in April 2021. The Prevent Duty requires Wilkes Academy to establish mechanisms for understanding the risks of radicalisation\*, to ensure that staff understand these risks and how to deal with them, to communicate the importance of the Duty and to ensure that staff implement the duty effectively. The Duty also requires Wilkes Academy to promote ‘fundamental British Values’ to students – defined as democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance for those of different beliefs and faiths.

The United Kingdom currently faces a range of terrorist threats. There are currently 5 threat levels: Critical (an attack is expected imminent); ‘Severe (an attack is high likely); Substantial (an attack is a strong possibility); Moderate (n attack is possible, but not likely); Low (an attack is highly unlikely). The international threat level in the UK is currently categorised as ‘substantial”, which was set on 9 February 2022.

## Definitions

**Terrorism** in the UK it is defined as a violent action that endangers a person's life, involves serious violence against a person, causes serious damage to property, creates a serious risk to the public's health and safety or Interferes with or seriously disrupts an electronic system.

**Extremism** is defined as the vocal or active opposition to fundamental British values, including democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, mutual respect for others and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs. Not all extremist groups will commit terrorist or violent acts but some groups pose particular threats, both on-line and off-line.

**Radicalisation** is the process by which a person comes to support terrorism and extremist ideologies associated with terrorist groups.

Originally developed to counter the risks of Islamic extremism, latest data from the Home Office (2021) evidences an increasing concern about the rise of right-wing extremism. Of referral to the government's Channel Programme; 46% were related to extreme right-wing radicalisation; 30% came under a mixed, unclear or unstable ideology, 22% were linked to Islamist radicalisation and 2% were related to other radicalisation concerns (16)

## Policy Objectives

- To safeguard and support those students and staff who might be vulnerable to radicalisation.
- To ensure that staff are trained to recognise signs of radicalisation and know how to respond appropriately.
- To promote fundamental British values and create an inclusive environment that challenges extremist views.

## Leadership and Responsibilities

- Principals: Responsible for overall implementation, training, and liaison with external agencies.
- Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL): Leads on Prevent concerns, maintains records, and coordinates with relevant authorities.
- All Staff: Must be aware of the policy, complete required training, and report concerns to the DSL.

## Training

All staff have a responsibility to: uphold Wilkes Academy values and promote respect, equality, diversity and inclusion, understand factors that may make people vulnerable to extremism, use opportunities to educate and challenge extremist ideas, report concerns about the risks of radicalisation, report any literature that could cause offense or promote extremist views and provide support to students at risk of harm from extremist activity. All staff are also expected to participate in Prevent training.

- All staff will receive Prevent awareness training as part of their induction and annual updates.
- Training will cover recognising signs of radicalisation, understanding the referral process, and promoting British values.

## Risk Assessment

- The college will conduct a risk assessment to identify potential risks related to radicalisation and extremism.
- This includes assessing the local context, student demographics, and any specific vulnerabilities within the college community.

## Curriculum

- The curriculum will promote knowledge, skills, and understanding to build resilience in students.
- Students will be taught about British values, tolerance, and the dangers of extremism.

## Safeguarding Procedures

- Any concerns related to radicalisation or extremism must be reported to the DSL immediately.
- The DSL will assess the situation, gather information, and determine the appropriate course of action.
- If necessary, referrals will be made to the local Channel panel or other relevant authorities.

## External speakers & events

The Wilkes Academy has adopted a policy for the management of events held on Wilkes Academy premises. This proscribes external speakers who may wish to encourage terrorism or invite support for terrorist organisations (both criminal offences). The Wilkes Academy will seek to balance its legal duties for ensuring freedom of speech with its responsibilities for protecting student and staff welfare. When deciding whether or not to host a particular speaker, staff should consider carefully whether the views being expressed, or likely to be expressed, constitute extremist views that risk drawing people into terrorism or are shared by terrorist groups. The Wilkes Academy will establish a system for assessing/rating the risks associated with planned events, to determine whether an event should proceed, be cancelled or action taken to mitigate any risk. An event will not be allowed to proceed unless the Wilkes Academy is entirely convinced that any risks can be fully mitigated without cancellation of the event. Staff involved in the physical security of the estate will be made aware of their Prevent duties.

## DEALING WITH RISK TO INDIVIDUAL STUDENTS

Radicalised students can act as a focal point for further radicalisation through personal contact with fellow students or with other persons outside the Wilkes Academy. The Wilkes Academy will assess the risk of students or staff being drawn into extremist activity and act where there is evidence of actual engagement in extremism. Staff have a duty to report any concerns about terrorism or extremism involving other staff, volunteers' students, external speakers, contractors on site or other visitors. This duty also extends to reporting any inappropriate material such as leaflets and notices that may have been distributed around the campuses, without authorisation.

Where a member of staff has such a Prevent concern, this must be reported to the Designated Safeguarding Lead or Deputy. The DSL will assess the risk and where appropriate will contact the Local Authority or the police for further advice and guidance. Where a student is thought to be at risk of significant harm a referral to Social Services will be made in line with the Wilkes Academy safeguarding procedures.

Where there is information that a violent act is imminent, or where weapons or other materials may be in the possession of a student or a community member, a 999 call will be made and the Wilkes Academy's Senior Management team informed as soon as practicably possible. As part of the referral process the DSL will also contact Channel. Where a child or vulnerable adult is thought to be at risk of significant harm a referral to Social Services will be made in line with the Wilkes Academy safeguarding procedures, following advice from the appropriate Prevent Coordinator.

#### Online Safety

- The college will ensure that internet filters are in place to block access to extremist materials. We use securely software for this purpose.
- Students will receive education on safe internet use, including the dangers of extremist content.

#### Working with External Agencies

The Wilkes Academy has developed well-established partnerships with external safeguarding authorities, including Wiltshire Police. Regular feedback is received from the regional Prevent coordinator and The Head of Safeguarding attends the Regional Prevent Forum to ensure that local information is received and acted upon.

The Wilkes Academy also works with the local authority, to share information about vulnerable individuals. It will also provide advice and support to families who raise concerns and ensure that they are signposted to relevant support agencies. Where employers are involved in the delivery of courses, the Wilkes Academy will ensure that the employer is aware of the Prevent duty and not inadvertently linked to extremist organisations.

- The college will work closely with local authorities, the police, and other agencies to support the Prevent strategy.
- Information will be shared in accordance with safeguarding protocols to protect students and staff.

#### Communication and Engagement

- The college will engage with parents, carers, and the wider community to provide information on Prevent and promote a collaborative approach to safeguarding.
- Regular updates will be provided through newsletters, meetings, and the college website.

#### Monitoring and Review

- The policy will be reviewed annually by the designated safeguarding lead to ensure it remains effective and up-to-date.
- Feedback will be sought from staff, students, and parents to inform any necessary changes.

#### Conclusion

This policy reflects the college's commitment to protecting our community from the risks of radicalisation and extremism. By working together, we aim to create a safe, inclusive, and supportive environment for all.

## Appendix: Signs of Radicalisation

Staff should be aware of the following signs that may indicate a student is being radicalised:

Extremism comes from a range of backgrounds and experiences and there is no such thing as a 'typical extremist'. There are, however, a number of indicators, which suggest with differing levels of probability that a young person or their family may be vulnerable to or involved with extremism. These indicators will be used to identify possible risk, without suggesting that persons exhibiting these characteristics are necessarily at automatic or actual risk.

### Personal vulnerability

- Identity crisis – persons uncomfortable with their place in the society around them.
- Personal crisis - searching for answers to questions about identity, faith and belonging.
- Personal circumstances - experience of disadvantage, discrimination or social exclusion.
- Unmet aspirations - low self-esteem; perceptions of injustice; rejection of civic life.
- Criminality - experiences of imprisonment; involvement with criminal groups.

### Access to extremist influences

- Association with those known to be involved in extremism.
- Possession or distribution of extremist material.
- Access to extremist websites, especially those with a social networking element.
- Travel to international locations known to be associated with extremism.
- First-hand experience of racial or religious hate crime.

### Opinions and behaviours

- Extreme concerns regarding another section of society.
- Verbal or written support for extremist causes or intolerance of moderate views.
- Justifying the use of violence to solve societal issues.
- Joining an extremist organisation.
- Expressed desire/intent to take part in, or support extremist activity.
- Fraudulent identity/use of documents to support this.
- Significant changes to appearance, behaviour or health.

## Appendix: Contact Information

- Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL): Dean Parsons [dean@wilkesacademy.co.uk]
- Local Channel Panel: available via DSL
- Police (non-emergency): 101

This Prevent policy outlines our approach to ensuring the safety and well-being of our college community. Staff members are expected to adhere to this policy and contribute to creating a supportive and secure environment.