Ashbridge
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL & NURSERIES

PREVENT POLICY

Approved by: SLT

Approved date: March 2025

To be reviewed by: SLT

Review date: March 2026

Scope: Ashbridge Independent School, Ashbridge Nursery Hutton, Ashbridge-on-Ribble Nursery, Ashbridge Nursery at Maxy Farm, The Fledglings Nursery

MARCH 2025

Introduction

Ashbridge is committed to safeguarding all children against extremism and aims to protect and educate children by promoting fundamental British values, being vigilant to the possible signs of radicalisation and extremist issues and equipping children with the tools to be resilient to information they may be exposed to online, from peers or other influences. This policy should be used in conjunction with the Prevent Risk Assessment and Safeguarding and Child Protection policy.

Legislation and Responsibilities

This policy has been written in conjunction with the following legislation and guidance:

Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015
Understanding the Prevent Duty – Guidance for Lancashire Schools
Independent Schools Standards
Early Years Foundation Stage Framework
The Prevent Duty
The Prevent Duty Advice for Schools and Childcare Providers
Working together to Safeguard children

The following people have responsibilities regarding Prevent at Ashbridge:

Karen Mehta, DSL, Headteacher

- Prevent Safeguarding Lead
- Prevent Curriculum Lead

Charlotte Bingham Brindle, DSL, Director of Compliance

- Checking of visitors
- Record keeping relating to Prevent Duty compliance

Sarah Carr, Company Director:

- Overall responsibility for monitoring safeguarding including Prevent

Team members can approach any DSP or DSL for support or concerns regarding Prevent and DSLs will share concerns with Karen Mehta as the Prevent Safeguarding Lead.

Definitions and Scope

Extremism and radicalisation is a safeguarding issue and is treated as such. The Counter Extremism Strategy 2015 defines extremism as “the vocal or active opposition to our fundamental values, including the rule of law, individual liberty and the mutual respect and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs… Calls for the death of members of our armed forces are also regarded as extremist.” The Prevent Duty Guidance for England and Wales 2015 defines radicalisation as “the process by which a person comes to support terrorism and extremist ideologies associated with terrorist groups.”

We recognise that extremism can take many forms including, but not limited to:

- Anti-Islamic
- Anti-Sematic
- Environmental
- Islamist
- Loyalist or Republican
- Neo-Nazi or white supremacy
- Radical nationalism
- Other extreme right-wing views
- Other extreme left-wing views

Radicalisation

With the current threat level of terrorism and the rise of radicalisation and extremism we are incredibly vigilant of the risk of radicalisation across all our settings and from all communities.

For the vast majority of our children, the risk of radicalisation relates to their families becoming radicalised, rather than the child themselves. However although the risk of any of our children becoming radicalised is low, there is a possibility and we should be vigilant to it. For families and children, some indictors of radicalisation that we may observe include, but are not exclusive to:

Vulnerability – including distance from religious or cultural heritage, community tensions, experiencing racism, imprisonment, involvement in criminal groups.

Access to extremism or extremist influences – including suggestions of associating with extremists, evidence to suggest use of the internet, literature, groups or meetings to access, distribute or promote extremist material, or suggestions of involvement in extremist camps or training.

Experiences, behaviours and influences – including encountering peer, social, family or faith group rejection, political, religious or international events, significant shift in behaviour or outward appearance, a new social, political or religious influence, vocal support of terrorist attacks, conflict with family over religious issues, or any involvement as either perpetrator or victim to racial to religious hate crime.

Travel – including a pattern of regular or extended travel in the UK or internationally with evidence that it is linked with extremism or to locations known to be high-risk for extremism or employing any methods to disguise or hide true identity

Social factors – including social isolation, learning difficulties, mental health issues, flawed understanding of religion or politics, history of crime, being a foreign national or refugee, insecure family unit or war/sectarian trauma

Staff awareness and training

We make staff aware of their duties surrounding The Prevent Duty by:

- Ensuring all new employees undertake online Prevent training
- Giving all members of staff training relating to Prevent at least annually
- Providing a prompt card including information regarding radicalisation and extremism and what to do if they have concerns
- Designated Safeguarding Leads access additional training where appropriate such as WRAP and Prevent conferences.

Raising concerns surrounding radicalisation

The process for raising concerns regarding radicalisation of a child or their family is the same as any other safeguarding concern. If a member of staff is concerned that a child or family may be being radicalised they must refer to a DSL immediately.

- In the case of a child or family member making a disclosure or saying something concerning the member of staff must listen and write down everything that has been said to them.
- Any possible evidence such as notes, notified on arrival and observation forms, mobile phones or other electronic devices containing evidence should also be given to the DSL wherever possible.
- The DSL will consider the concern and decide on the most appropriate level of support. The 'Referral Pathways' document (appendix 1) details some of the option available. These may include:
    - Contacting the family if appropriate to discuss interventions that can be put into place
    - Contacting the Police, Prevent and Channel AND Prevent Multi-Agency (PMAP) team
    - Seeking consent for a CAF to be actioned
- If it is at any time thought that illegal activity has been carried out, that there is imminent risk of harm to the child, family or others, or if there are concerns regarding travel to areas of conflict, the Police must be contacted immediately by calling 999.
- Whilst it is encouraged to involve the family in discussions around radicalisation, if it is not deemed appropriate or safe to do so, referrals will take place without the consent of the family.

Protecting children

We protect children from radicalisation in a number of ways. Strong internet filtering and monitoring systems are in place and these are monitored and tested regularly. We work closely with parents across school and all our nurseries and are able to discuss concerns with them freely. Where possible we employ members of staff who can speak the native language of any children or families with English as a second language to allow children and families to express any concerns in their native language.

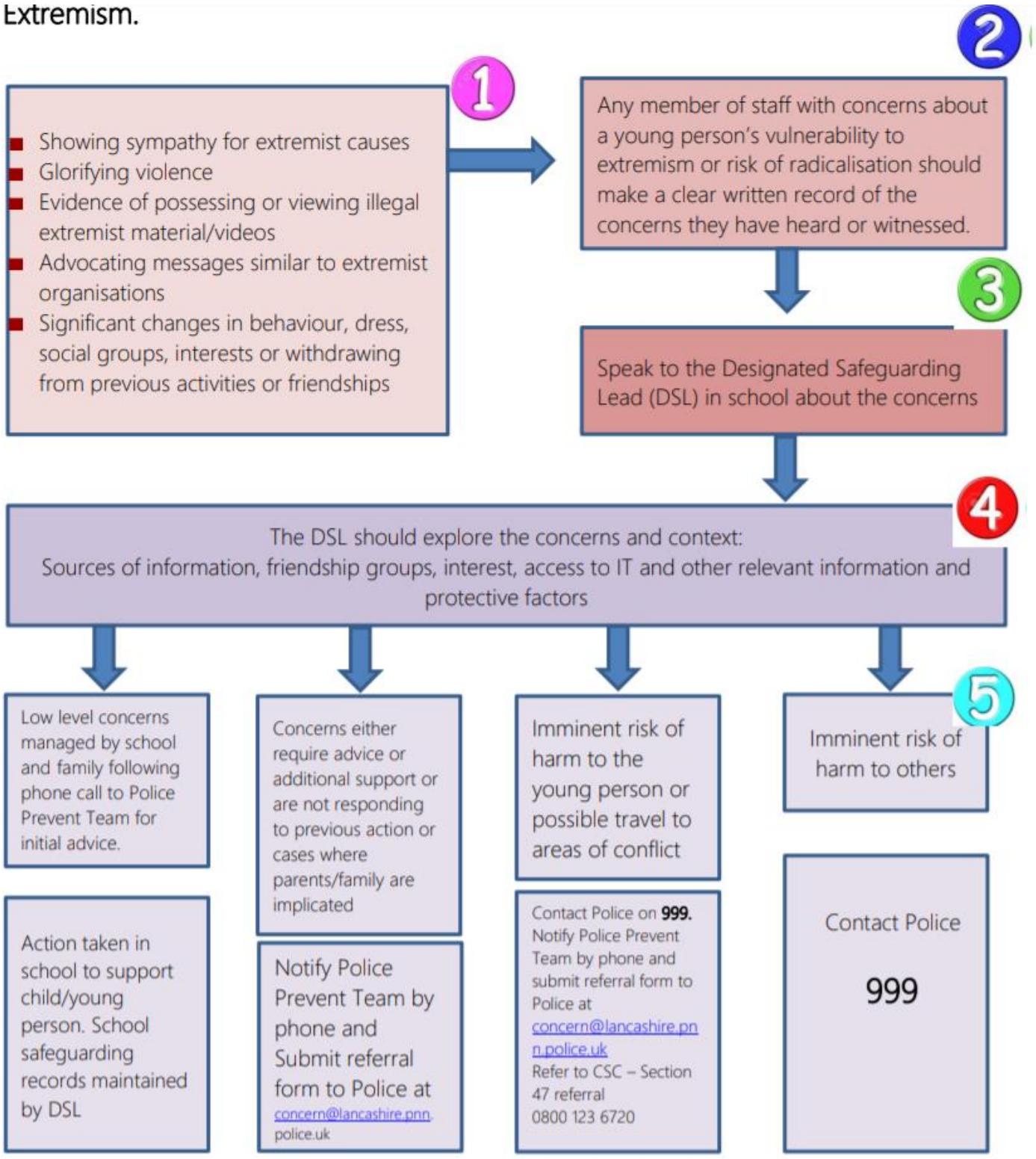
The curriculum offered in both school and nursery promotes the fundamental British Values. These values are incorporated into the Value of the Month in school and through the PSED aspects of the EYFS. PDP lessons in school cover topics such as racism, terrorism, stereotypes, risk taking behaviour, online safety and tolerance. The curriculum offered in both school and nursery introduces children to differences and similarities between cultures, religions and people in general. Children in school learn about propaganda and how to question online content as well as how to report inappropriate content. We celebrate a number of cultural festivals throughout the year in both school and nursery and arrange trips for both infants and juniors to local places of worship. Through programmes such as Newsround opportunities for discussion arise and all the children in school have a 'Who to Talk to if I am Worried 'sheet in their journals. Pupil voice is loud and through the School Council and School Leadership Team. Children in nursery share their thoughts and feelings at circle time and we aim to foster strong bonds between children and their key person so they feel safe and secure sharing their thoughts and worries with a trusted adult at nursery.

Record Keeping

Any concerns regarding radicalisation or extremism are kept as part of the child protection documentation and we follow the same recording procedures as other safeguarding concerns. Concerns relating to extremism and radicalisation are passed to the DSL at the next setting when a child leaves Ashbridge.

External Contacts

Extremism concerns - counter.extremism@education.gov.uk
National Anti-Terrorist Hotline – 0800739281
Lancashire Prevent Team – 01772 413398

APPENDIX 1 – REFERRAL PATHWAYS

Extremism.