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The
Westgate School

Prevent Policy Statement

2026–2027

Policy owner	Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)
Designated Safeguarding Lead	Mr Steven Nosworthy
Approved by	Governing Body / Trust Board
Effective from	September 2026
Review date	September 2027, or earlier following statutory/local change
Applies to	All staff, governors/trustees, volunteers, contractors and pupils

This statement forms part of the school's wider safeguarding and child protection arrangements.

1. Purpose and statutory context

The Westgate School is committed to safeguarding pupils from the risk of radicalisation into terrorism. The Prevent duty is part of the school's wider safeguarding responsibilities and is not a separate safeguarding system.

Under section 26 of the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015, the school must have due regard to the need to prevent people from becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism. In meeting this duty, the school has regard to the Home Office Prevent Duty Guidance for England and Wales (2023), which came into force on 31 December 2023, and to Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE) 2026.

This policy should be read alongside the school's Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy, Behaviour and Engagement Policy, Online Safety/Acceptable Use arrangements, staff Code of Conduct, curriculum policies and relevant local safeguarding procedures.

2. Key definitions

For the purposes of this policy:

- Prevent: the part of the Government's counter-terrorism strategy concerned with stopping people from becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism.
- Radicalisation: the process of a person legitimising support for, or use of, terrorist violence.
- Extremism: vocal or active opposition to fundamental British values, including democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs.
- Terrorism: as defined by the Terrorism Act 2000, broadly involving the use or threat of serious violence, serious property damage or serious interference with an electronic system, designed to influence government or intimidate the public, for a political, religious, racial or ideological cause.
- Susceptibility: within Prevent, the possibility that a person may be influenced or harmed by terrorist or extremist ideologies that support or radicalise people into terrorism. Susceptibility may be linked to vulnerability, but the terms are not interchangeable.

3. Our safeguarding approach

Children may be susceptible to radicalisation into terrorism. There is no single profile, checklist or pathway that identifies a child who may be at risk. Staff must therefore use professional curiosity and judgement, consider the child's circumstances and behaviour in context, and respond proportionately.

The school will not treat legitimate political, religious or social views, or the respectful discussion of controversial issues, as evidence of radicalisation. Prevent activity will be delivered in a way that supports equality, freedom of speech, respectful debate and the best interests of the child.

Possible concerns may include significant changes in behaviour or peer groups; increasing fixation on terrorist or extremist material; legitimising or advocating terrorist violence; concerning online activity; attempts to recruit or influence others; or other contextual factors suggesting exposure to radicalising influences. No single indicator should be considered in isolation.

4. Leadership, governance and risk assessment

The governing body/trust board and senior leadership team are responsible for ensuring that the Prevent duty is implemented as part of the school's safeguarding arrangements. The DSL has lead operational responsibility for Prevent within the school.

The school will maintain a proportionate Prevent risk assessment that reflects the age and needs of pupils, local and national threat information, community context, online risks, curriculum and premises use. The assessment will be reviewed at least annually and whenever significant new information or incidents indicate that risks have changed.

The risk assessment and resulting action plan will consider the three themes in the Prevent Duty Guidance: leadership and partnership; capabilities; and reducing permissive environments.

5. Staff knowledge, training and professional development

All staff will receive safeguarding and child protection training at induction and regular updates thereafter. Prevent awareness will be embedded within this programme so that staff understand the school's duty, can recognise and respond to concerns, know the role of the DSL, and know how concerns are recorded and escalated.

The DSL, deputies and relevant senior leaders will maintain an up-to-date understanding of the Prevent Duty Guidance, local referral arrangements and Channel. Role-appropriate training may include Home Office Prevent awareness, Prevent referrals and Channel awareness learning.

Training will emphasise that there is no single profile of a person susceptible to radicalisation and that staff should avoid stereotyping based on race, religion, ethnicity, nationality, political opinion or other protected characteristics.

6. Curriculum, fundamental British values and resilience

The school will build pupils' resilience to radicalisation through a broad and balanced curriculum, safeguarding education, PSHE/RSHE, citizenship and wider personal development. Pupils will be supported to develop critical thinking, media literacy and the ability to recognise manipulation, misinformation, conspiracy narratives, hatred and extremist propaganda.

The school promotes fundamental British values: democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs. Pupils will have safe, age-appropriate opportunities to discuss sensitive and controversial issues. Staff will facilitate discussion in a balanced way and challenge discriminatory, hateful or terrorism-supporting narratives.

7. Online safety, filtering and monitoring

Online radicalisation is a significant safeguarding risk. The school will take reasonable steps to limit pupils' exposure to terrorist and extremist material through school systems and networks while avoiding unreasonable restrictions on teaching and learning.

In line with KCSIE 2026, the school will have appropriate filtering and monitoring systems. A review of their effectiveness will be carried out at least once every academic year by the senior leader responsible for filtering and monitoring, supported by the DSL and IT support. The review will include checks that filtering works appropriately on internet-connected devices in relevant locations, and records of checks will be retained.

The school will identify and assign roles and responsibilities for filtering and monitoring, block harmful and inappropriate content without unreasonably affecting teaching and learning, and maintain monitoring strategies

that meet safeguarding needs. The school's Prevent risk assessment will inform what is considered appropriate. Online safety arrangements will also consider emerging technologies, including generative artificial intelligence.

8. Visitors, external speakers and use of premises

The school will take proportionate steps to ensure that visiting speakers, external organisations and activities using school premises do not create a permissive environment for terrorism-supporting or extremist activity. Appropriate checks, risk assessments, supervision and conditions of use will be applied according to the nature of the activity and identified risk.

The school will not host or facilitate activity that unlawfully promotes terrorism, encourages support for a proscribed organisation, or presents an unmanaged safeguarding risk.

9. Working in partnership

Prevent depends on effective partnership. The school will work with parents and carers, Slough Borough Council, Slough Children First, the Slough Safeguarding Partnership, Thames Valley Police, local Prevent professionals and other relevant agencies.

Information will be shared when it is necessary, proportionate and lawful to safeguard a child or manage the risk of radicalisation. Data protection law does not prevent the sharing of information for safeguarding purposes where there is a lawful basis to do so.

10. Responding to a concern

Any member of staff who is concerned that a pupil may be susceptible to radicalisation into terrorism must act promptly and follow the school's normal safeguarding procedures. Concerns should be recorded on the school's safeguarding system and reported to the DSL or a deputy without delay.

The DSL or deputy will consider the concern in context, seek advice where appropriate, consider other safeguarding needs and decide on a proportionate response. This may include support within school, engagement with parents/carers where appropriate, consultation with local Prevent professionals, referral to children's social care or other services, and/or a Prevent referral.

Staff do not need to prove that radicalisation is taking place before sharing a safeguarding concern. Where there is an immediate risk of harm, suspected terrorist activity or an emergency, the police should be contacted immediately via 999.

11. Prevent referrals and Channel

The DSL and deputies will be familiar with current local procedures for making a Prevent referral. A referral may be appropriate where there is concern that a person may be on a pathway that could lead to terrorism. Decisions will be based on professional judgement and available evidence, not on protected characteristics or stereotypes.

Prevent referrals are assessed by police and may be passed to Channel. Channel is a voluntary, confidential, multi-agency programme providing early support to people identified as susceptible to being drawn into terrorism. The school may be asked to contribute information or attend a Channel panel. Consent is required before Channel support is delivered.

If further relevant information becomes available while a referral is being assessed, the DSL will ensure that it is shared with the appropriate agency. Where a pupil receiving Channel support transfers to another education

setting, the DSL will consider what safeguarding information should be shared in advance to support continuity of protection.

12. Local contacts and escalation

- Designated Safeguarding Lead: Mr Steven Nosworthy – concerns should normally be reported through the school's established safeguarding reporting system.
- Slough Children First: 01753 875362 (for child safeguarding concerns); out of hours: 01344 351999.
- Slough Prevent Coordinator: 07540 147340 (as published by Slough Borough Council).
- Thames Valley Police: 101 for non-emergency police matters; 999 where there is immediate danger or an emergency.
- National Counter Terrorism Hotline: 0800 789 321.

Contact details and local referral routes can change. The DSL will verify local Prevent and safeguarding contact information as part of the annual policy review and before making a referral where necessary.

13. Record keeping, confidentiality and information sharing

Prevent concerns, decisions, referrals, advice received and actions taken will be recorded in line with the school's safeguarding record-keeping arrangements. Records will be factual, timely, secure and accessible only to those who need the information for safeguarding purposes.

Information will be shared on a need-to-know basis, with due regard to confidentiality, the Data Protection Act 2018, UK GDPR and the Data (Use and Access) Act 2025. The child's safety and welfare will remain the central consideration.

14. Equality, inclusion and avoiding discrimination

The school will implement Prevent in an inclusive and non-discriminatory way. Concerns will not be raised solely because of a pupil's religion, ethnicity, nationality, culture, political views, disability, sex, sexual orientation, gender reassignment or other protected characteristic.

Staff will remain alert to prejudice-based harm, racism, faith-based prejudice and other discrimination, including where these experiences may affect a child's welfare, wellbeing or susceptibility to harmful narratives. The school will challenge discriminatory behaviour and ensure safeguarding responses are child-centred and proportionate.

15. Monitoring and review

The DSL will monitor the implementation of this policy, staff training, Prevent referrals and relevant safeguarding trends. The governing body/trust board will receive appropriate assurance that the Prevent duty is being met, including oversight of the Prevent risk assessment and filtering and monitoring arrangements.

This policy will be reviewed annually and sooner where there are changes to legislation, statutory guidance, local procedures, the school's risk profile or learning from a safeguarding incident.

16. Key legislation and statutory guidance

- Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015, sections 26 and 29.
- Terrorism Act 2000.
- Prevent Duty Guidance: England and Wales (2023), Home Office; in force from 31 December 2023.
- Keeping Children Safe in Education 2026, Department for Education; in force from 1 September 2026.

- Working Together to Safeguard Children 2026, Department for Education.
- Channel Duty Guidance: Protecting people susceptible to radicalisation, Home Office.
- Department for Education filtering and monitoring standards for schools and colleges.
- Equality Act 2010; Human Rights Act 1998.
- Data Protection Act 2018, UK GDPR and Data (Use and Access) Act 2025.

17. Policy statement

The Westgate School recognises that safeguarding pupils from radicalisation into terrorism is a shared responsibility. We will maintain a vigilant, proportionate and child-centred approach; equip staff to identify and act on concerns; work effectively with safeguarding partners; promote critical thinking and fundamental British values; and ensure that online and offline environments do not provide a permissive space for terrorist or extremist influence.