

Community Pre-school Prevent and British Law Policy and Procedure

The safeguarding of children is a fundamental priority for all educational settings in the United Kingdom, including community pre-schools. Ensuring the well-being, safety, and holistic development of children is embedded in British law, which mandates robust policies and procedures to protect against harm, neglect, and radicalisation. In recent years, the Prevent Duty has become an integral aspect of safeguarding. This document outlines the policy and procedural framework that community pre-schools must follow to remain compliant with British law and to foster a secure, nurturing environment for all children.

What is the Prevent Duty?

The Prevent Duty is part of the UK Government's overall counter-terrorism strategy (CONTEST). Introduced under the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015, the Prevent Duty places a statutory obligation on schools and childcare providers to have "due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism." For pre-schools, this means recognising vulnerabilities in children or families and taking proactive action to safeguard them.

The Aim of Prevent

- Safeguard children from being exposed to extremist ideologies or radicalisation.
- Promote British values such as democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, mutual respect, and tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs.
- Support children's spiritual, moral, social, and cultural development.
- Encourage open dialogue and critical thinking, even in the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS).

British Law and Safeguarding in Pre-schools

Key Legislation

- Children Act 1989 and 2004: Establishes the welfare of the child as paramount and outlines duties for child protection.
- Education Act 2002: Requires all schools to safeguard and promote the welfare of all pupils.
- Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015: Introduces the Prevent Duty as a statutory requirement.
- Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) Statutory Framework: Sets the standards for learning, development, and care for children from birth to five years old.
- Working Together to Safeguard Children (2018): Provides statutory guidance for inter-agency working to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.

Policy Statement

Community pre-schools are committed to providing a safe and supportive environment for all children. The setting recognises its duty to protect children from the risk of radicalisation and to promote British values through its curriculum, staff training, and wider community engagement.

Roles and Responsibilities

Management and Governance

- Ensure the pre-school is compliant with all statutory safeguarding and Prevent requirements.
- Appoint a Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) responsible for Prevent Duty implementation.
- Ensure all staff, including volunteers, are trained in safeguarding and Prevent strategies appropriate to their role.
- Review and update policies and procedures annually or in response to local/national changes.

Staff and Practitioners

- Remain vigilant to signs that a child or their family may be at risk of radicalisation or exposure to extremist ideas.
- Model and promote British values across all aspects of pre-school life.
- Record and report any concerns following the pre-school's safeguarding procedures.
- Work in partnership with parents, carers, and other agencies to ensure effective safeguarding.

Procedures

Risk Assessment

- Conduct regular assessments to identify risks related to extremism and radicalisation within the community and setting.
- Evaluate the likelihood of children or families being exposed to harmful influences.
- Implement strategies to mitigate identified risks, including curriculum planning and parental engagement.

Staff Training and Awareness

- Provide all staff with training on the Prevent Duty, recognising signs of radicalisation, and understanding the importance of British values.
- Ensure new staff and volunteers receive induction training covering safeguarding and Prevent policies.
- Maintain records of training dates and attendance for all staff members.

Recording and Reporting Concerns

- Maintain clear procedures for recording concerns about children or adults at risk of radicalisation.
- Report concerns promptly to the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL).
- The DSL must assess the concern and, if warranted, refer to the local authority's Channel Panel or Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH).
- All records of concerns and actions taken must be securely stored, accessible only to authorised individuals.

Promoting British Values

- Incorporate activities related to democracy, rule of law, individual liberty, and mutual respect into the curriculum.
- Celebrate diversity and encourage respectful discussions about differences.
- Address discriminatory behaviour swiftly and sensitively.
- Engage parents and carers through newsletters, workshops, and information sessions about British values and the Prevent Duty.

Partnership and External Agencies

Community pre-schools must work collaboratively with external agencies, including the police, local authorities, and specialist safeguarding organisations, to share information and seek support regarding concerns about radicalisation or extremism. Regular participation in local safeguarding forums and networks is essential for staying informed about emerging risks and best practices.

Confidentiality and Information Sharing

- Information about children, families, or staff should only be shared on a need-to-know basis to protect individuals' privacy and safety.
- Follow the principles of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and Data Protection Act 2018.
- Where there is a risk of harm or a safeguarding concern, information can be shared with appropriate agencies without parental consent if necessary.

Responding to Allegations or Incidents

- Take immediate action to ensure the safety of children and staff if an allegation or incident related to extremism arises.
- Follow the setting's safeguarding and whistleblowing procedures.
- Work with local authorities, Channel Panels, and law enforcement as required.
- Offer support to children, families, and staff affected by the incident.

Curriculum and Environment

- Design an inclusive curriculum that highlights shared values and encourages positive social behaviour.
- Provide age-appropriate resources about respecting differences and recognising unsafe situations.
- Model respectful communication, active listening, and empathy throughout the setting.
- Promote resilience and critical thinking to empower children to challenge harmful narratives.

Review and Evaluation

- Policies and procedures must be reviewed annually and after any serious incident or change in legislation.
- Seek feedback from staff, parents, and children (where age appropriate) to improve safeguarding practice.
- Keep up to date with guidance from Ofsted, the Department for Education, and local safeguarding partners.

Engaging the Community

- Foster open relationships with parents and carers, encouraging them to share any concerns or questions about safeguarding and the Prevent Duty.
- Develop links with local religious, cultural, and community groups to promote dialogue and mutual understanding.
- Provide families with information about safeguarding, British values, and the risks of radicalisation in accessible formats and multiple languages where possible.

Community pre-schools have a legal and moral obligation to protect children from harm, including the threat of radicalisation and extremism. By adhering to British law and the Prevent Duty, maintaining clear policies and procedures, and working in partnership with families and external agencies, early years providers can create a safe, inclusive, and nurturing environment where all children are free to learn, grow, and thrive.

Contact Numbers

- **General Inquiries:** Contact the team at 101, extension 6770 or the national police Prevent advice line at 0800 011 3764.
- **Referrals:** Referrals to the Prevent team can be made through the National Referral Form on the Leicestershire Police website or by contacting the team at 101, extension 6770 or 0116 248 6770.
- **Emergency Situations:** In an emergency, always call 999.