Painsley Catholic College

Prevent

Policy

INTERNAL POLICY

Approved by:	Board of Directors	**Date:**	September 2026
Last reviewed on:	September 2026		
Next review due by:	September 2027		

Policy Adoption, Monitoring and Review

This policy was considered and adopted by the Board of Directors in line with the overall duty to safeguard and promote the welfare of children as set out in the DfE guidance 'Keeping Children Safe in Education 2026'. Parents will be issued with a hard copy of this policy on request. This policy will also be made available to parents via the school website.

The Local Governing Body will actively evaluate the effectiveness of this policy, including by monitoring the staff group's understanding and application of the procedures within this policy as part of the duty to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.

Introduction

Catholic Social Teachings should be part of what underpins the whole experience in a Catholic school. In this policy, we particularly focus on the Catholic Social Teachings of 'Human Dignity' and 'Rights and Responsibilities'.

Painsley Catholic College is committed to providing a secure environment for students, where children feel safe and are kept safe. All staff and volunteers working at Painsley Catholic College recognise that safeguarding is everyone's responsibility irrespective of the role they undertake or whether their role has direct contact or responsibility for children or not.

Under the Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015 the school also has a statutory duty to have due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into extremism.

This policy is one element within our overall school arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children in line with our statutory duties set out in section 175 of the Education Act 2002 and should be read in conjunction with the school's safeguarding policy.

The PREVENT Duty

The Prevent duty requires **all** schools to "have due regard to the need to prevent people being drawn into terrorism", under the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015. The duty covers all types of extremism, whether political, religious or ideological.

As part of our schools duty we will do everything in our powers to protect pupils from the risk of radicalisation, as part of our wider safeguarding duties and duty to promote the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils.

To do this, we will:

- Promote the fundamental British values in our curriculum – This will be done through the Citizenship/PSHE and RSHE curriculum
- Make sure our school is a safe space for pupils to discuss sensitive topics, including terrorism and extremism – We ensure Painsley has the structure in place for students to be open and have access to adults to talk to. We also create the environment during sessions taught that open and honest conversations can be sought with opportunity for students to discuss these further.
- Ensure we have robust safeguarding procedures to identify children at risk – At Painsley we have thorough safeguarding procedures in place and staff are trained on PREVENT.
- Engage with our LA's risk assessment to determine the potential risk of individuals being drawn into terrorism in our local area – Painsley have our own risk assessment and seek guidance from the local authority.
- Make sure we have measures in place to protect pupils from harmful online content, including setting up appropriate filtering and monitoring systems – Painsley have Netsweeper (IT filtering) and SENSO (monitoring) in place to ensure safeguarding of radicalisation and extremism.
- Make sure staff receive training to help them identify pupils at risk, challenge extremist ideas, and know how to act if they have a concern – All staff complete a certificated online training through .gov and internal refresher information annually.

Ethos and Practice – countering extremism

What is Extremism, Radicalisation and Terrorism?

"**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. Included in the definition of extremism are calls for the death of members of the armed forces, whether in this country or overseas. Terrorist groups very often draw on extremist ideas developed by extremist organisations.

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

"**Terrorism**" is an action that endangers or causes serious violence to a person/people; causes serious damage to property; or seriously interferes or disrupts an electronic system. The use or threat must be designed to influence the government or to intimidate the public and is made for the purpose of advancing a political, religious or ideological cause.

There is no place for extremist views of any kind in our college, whether from internal sources – students, staff or directors, or external sources – school community, external agencies or individuals. Our students see our school as a safe place where they can legitimately be supported to explore controversial issues safely in a learning context and where our teachers encourage and facilitate this – we have a duty to ensure this happens in order to secure common values and ethos of diversity, inclusion and democracy and the central tenants of British values.

Risk Assessment

- We should be aware of the increased risk of online radicalisation, as terrorist organisations such as ISIL seek to radicalise young people through the use of social media and the internet.

- There is no single way of identifying an individual who is likely to be susceptible to a terrorist ideology. As with managing other safeguarding risks, we should be alert to changes in children's behaviour which could indicate that they may be in need of help or protection. Children at risk of radicalisation may display different signs or seek to hide their views. (See Appendix 3 for indicators)

- School staff should use their professional judgment in identifying children who might be at risk of radicalisation and act proportionately.

- Even very young children may be vulnerable to radicalisation by others, whether in the family or outside, and display concerning behaviour. The Prevent duty does not require teachers or childcare providers to carry out unnecessary intrusion into family life but as with any other safeguarding risk, they must take action when they observe behaviour of concern.

- Procedures are in place for protecting children at risk of radicalisation. These procedures are set out in existing safeguarding policies. (See Appendix 1)

Working in partnership

The Prevent duty builds on existing local partnership arrangements.

- Local Safeguarding Children Boards (LSCBs) are responsible for co-ordinating what is done by local agencies for the purposes of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in their local area. We follow the direction of the Staffordshire Safeguarding Children's Board (Staffsscb)

- Effective engagement with parents / the family is also important as they are in a key position to spot signs of radicalisation. We would look to assist and advise families who raise concerns and be able to point them to the right support mechanisms. Indicators in Appendix 3 will be sent to parents.

As a school, we recognise that extremism and exposure to extremist materials and influences can lead to risks for children and so should be addressed as a safeguarding concern as set out in this policy. We also recognise that if we fail to challenge extremist views we are failing to protect our students.

Extremists of all persuasions aim to develop destructive relationships between different communities by promoting division, fear and mistrust of others based on ignorance or prejudice and these limit the life chances of young people. Education is a powerful weapon against this; equipping young people with the knowledge, skills and critical thinking, to challenge and debate in an informed and balanced way.

Therefore we will provide a broad and balanced curriculum, delivered by skilled professionals, so that our students are enriched, with understanding and become tolerant of difference and diversity to ensure that they thrive, feel valued and are not marginalised. Furthermore, at Painsley Catholic College, we are aware that young people can be exposed to extremist influences or prejudiced views from an early age which emanate from a variety of sources, including via the internet, and consequently students may be at risk of reflecting or display views that may be ill-informed, discriminatory, prejudiced or extremist, including using derogatory language.

Any such behaviour displayed by students or staff will always be challenged and where appropriate dealt with in line with our values and expectations policy for students and the Staff Code of Conduct Policy.

Where misconduct by a teacher is proven the matter will be referred to the National School for Teaching and Leadership for their consideration as to whether a Prohibition Order is warranted.

As part of wider safeguarding responsibilities school, staff will be alert to:

- Disclosures by students of their exposure to the extremist actions, views or materials of others outside of college, such as in their homes or community groups. • Graffiti symbols, writing or art work promoting extremist messages or images
- Students accessing extremist material online, including through social networking sites
- Parental reports of changes in behaviour, friendship or actions and requests for assistance
- Partner colleges, local authority services, and police reports of issues affecting students in other colleges or settings
- Students voicing opinions drawn from extremist ideologies and narratives
- Use of extremist or 'hate' terms to exclude others or incite violence
- Intolerance of difference, whether secular or religious or, in line with our equalities policy, views based on, but not exclusive to, gender, disability, homophobia, race, colour or culture
- Attempts to impose extremist views or practices on others
- Anti-Western or Anti-British views

Our school will closely follow any locally agreed procedure as set out by the Local Authority and/or Staffordshire Safeguarding Children Partnership, including agreed processes and criteria for safeguarding individuals vulnerable to extremism and radicalisation.

Teaching Approaches - Building Resilience

We will all strive to eradicate the myths and assumptions that can lead to some young people becoming alienated and disempowered, especially where the narrow approaches some children may experience elsewhere may make it harder for them to challenge or question these radical influences. In our school, this will be achieved by good teaching, including via PSHE, Citizenship and British Values lessons.

We will ensure that all of our teaching approaches help students to build resilience to extremism and give students a positive sense of identity through the development of critical thinking skills. We will ensure that all of our staff are equipped to recognise extremism and are skilled and confident enough to challenge it.

Our goal is to build mutual respect and understanding and to promote the use of dialogue not violence as a form of conflict resolution. We will achieve this by using a curriculum that includes:

- Citizenship/PSHE/RSHE programmes
- Open discussion and debate
- Work on anti-violence and a restorative approach addressed throughout the curriculum

We will also work with local partners, families and communities in our efforts to ensure our school community understands and embraces the local context and our values in challenging extremist views, to assist in the broadening of our student's experiences and horizons. We will help support students who may be vulnerable to adverse influences as part of our wider safeguarding responsibilities and where we believe a student is being directly affected by extremist materials or influences we will ensure that that student is safeguarded, supported and offered mentoring intervention. Additionally in such instances, our school will seek external support from the Local Authority and/or local partnership structures working to prevent extremism.

Through these measures we will promote the values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, mutual respect and tolerance for those with different faiths and beliefs. We will teach and encourage students to respect one another and to respect and tolerate difference, especially those of a different faith or no faith. It is indeed our most fundamental responsibility to keep our students safe and prepare them for life in modern multi-cultural Britain and globally.

Equality and Diversity

All developments are intended to ensure that no-one is treated in any way less favourably on the grounds of race, colour, national or ethnic or social origin, race, disability, gender, sexual orientation, gender reassignment, marriage & civil partnership, pregnancy & maternity, age, religion/ belief or political/ other personal beliefs.

IT policies

The statutory guidance makes clear the need for schools to ensure that children are safe from terrorist and extremist material when accessing the internet in schools.

- We ensure that suitable filtering is in place.

- Internet safety is integral to our IT curriculum and is also embedded in Citizenship curriculum/PSHE/RSHE.
- Online Safety Policy

Use of External Agencies and Speakers

Our school will assess the suitability and effectiveness of input from external agencies or individuals to ensure that:

- Any messages communicated to students are consistent with the ethos of the school and do not marginalise any communities, groups or individuals
- Any messages do not seek to glorify criminal activity or violent extremism or seek to radicalise students through extreme or narrow views of faith, religion or culture or other ideologies
- Activities are properly embedded in the curriculum and clearly mapped to schemes of work to avoid contradictory messages or duplication.
- Activities are well-managed, fully supervised and subject to robust safeguarding procedures.

Activities are matched to the needs of students

- Activities are carefully evaluated by colleges to ensure that they are effective

Therefore, by delivering a broad and balanced curriculum, augmented by the use of external sources where appropriate, we will strive to ensure our students recognise risk and build resilience to manage any such risk to themselves or their peers where appropriate to their age and ability but also to help students develop the critical thinking skills needed to engage in informed debate as part of a wider community.

Referring Concerns

Where there are concerns of extremism or radicalisation parents, students and staff will be encouraged to make use of our internal systems to raise any issue with senior management. Our lead person for Prevent is the Designated Safeguarding Lead who would normally be the first point of contact should there be concerns. If for any reason this creates a difficulty for the referrer, they can contact the Local Authority 'Prevent' co-ordinator, First Response Team, Education Safeguarding Advice Service or Ofsted, depending on the level of concern. Contact details for these agencies can be found at the end of this policy document.

Staff should refer to the School Whistle Blowing Policy under which they are entitled to employment protection for raising genuine concerns outside of the school environment.

Child Protection

Please refer to our Safeguarding Policy for the full procedural framework on our Child Protection duties.

Staff will be alert to the fact that whilst Extremism and Radicalisation are managed as a safeguarding issue there may be some instances where a child or children may be at direct risk of harm or neglect. For example, this could be due to a child displaying risky behaviours in terms of the activities they are involved in or the groups they are associated with or staff may become aware of information about a child's family that may indicate a child at risk of harm. (These examples are for illustration and are not definitive or exhaustive)

Therefore, all adults working at our school (including visiting staff, volunteers, contractors, and students on placement) are required to report instances where they believe a child may be at risk of harm or neglect to the Designated Safeguarding Lead or Principal who will make a referral to children's social care or the Staffordshire Prevent team when appropriate.

The Designated Safeguarding Lead works in line with the responsibilities as set out in the DfE Guidance 'Keeping Children Safe in Education' 2026.

The Designated Safeguarding Lead and PREVENT lead are the focus people and local 'expert' for school staff, and others, who may have concerns about an individual child's safety or well-being and is the first point of contact for external agencies. **Training**

All staff, including temporary Directors, governors, staff and volunteers will receive an induction in regard to our Safeguarding policy and procedures. This will include information and guidance about our duty to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism.

Whole school in-service training in regard to safeguarding and child protection will be organised for staff, directors, governors and volunteers at least every three years and will comply with the prevailing arrangements approved by Staffordshire Safeguarding Children Board and will, in part, include awareness raising on extremism and radicalisation and its safeguarding implications.

The Designated Safeguarding Lead will attend appropriate and relevant training courses in regard to safeguarding children, including the appropriate inter-agency training organised by the Safeguarding Children Board at least every two years. This will include accessing training on extremism and radicalisation and its safeguarding implications. The Designated Safeguarding Lead will ensure that all adults working in the school receive appropriate levels of training, guidance and support in regard to safeguarding children from extremism and radicalisation on recorded regular basis. All directors, governors and staff have taken a .gov online training course and received certification (See safeguarding training records and appraisal forms). All new staff who join will receive the same online training. All staff will also receive updates throughout the year on PREVENT. This will also be recognised on the staff appraisal form.

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Recruitment and staff conduct

The arrangements for recruiting all staff, permanent and volunteers, to our school will follow guidance for safer recruitment best practice in education settings, including, but not limited to, ensuring that DBS checks are always made at the appropriate level, that references are always received and checked and that we complete and maintain a single central record of such vetting checks. We will apply safer recruitment best practice principles and sound employment practice in general and in doing so will deny opportunities for inappropriate recruitment or advancement. At least one member of an appointment panel will be 'safer recruitment' trained within the past 5 years.

We will be alert to the possibility that persons may seek to gain positions within our school so as to unduly influence our school's character and ethos. We are aware that such persons seek to limit the opportunities for our students thereby rendering them vulnerable to extremist views and radicalisation as a consequence. Therefore, by adhering to safer recruitment best practice techniques and by ensuring that there is an ongoing culture of vigilance within our school and staff team we will minimise the opportunities for extremist views to prevail.

Referrals to the Staffordshire LADO service will be made when appropriate as per statutory guidance and our Safeguarding Policy.

Related Policies

- Safeguarding Policy
- Equality Policy
- Online Safety Policy

Contact details:

SFIFD (re concerns that an identified Staffordshire child or children are at risk or LADO referrals) 0300 111 8033

Emergency Duty Service (children's social care) 0345 604 2886

Staffordshire Police Prevent Team: 01785 232054

National Police Prevent Advice Line: 0800 011 3764 (for confidential advice)

Staffordshire Police (Non-Emergency): 101

Emergency: 999

Email: prevent@staffordshire.pnn.police.uk

Education Safeguarding Advice Service (Staffordshire) – 01785 895836

References:

Staffordshire Safeguarding Children Partnership procedures can be found on: https://www.staffsscp.org.uk/

Prevent Duty Guidance:
https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/protectingchildren-from-radicalisation-the-prevent-duty

Keeping Children Safe in Education 2026:

Keeping children safe in education - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

Appendix A – Referral Pathway

Prevent

What do I do if I have concerns about an individual in relation to extremism or radicalisation?

If you have concern about an individual in relation to extremism or radicalisation, you can refer to the School safeguarding team through MyConcern / Paper referral or you can refer to the Prevent Team directly. If referred to the school safeguarding team they will discuss the concern and if felt it was needed they would refer onto first response and the Prevent team. They will be able to offer appropriate advice and guidance and will refer into the Channel process, if required.

Prevent Team
Tel: 01785 232054
Email: prevent@staffordshire.pnn.police.uk

What is Channel?

Channel is a key element of the Prevent Strategy. It is a multi-agency approach to protect people at risk of radicalisation. Channel uses existing collaboration between local authorities, statutory partners, the police and the local community to identify individuals at risk of being drawn into terrorism, assess the nature and extent of that risk and develop the most appropriate support for the individuals concerned.

More information about Channel can be found at:
Channel Guidance

What happens once I have raised a concern about an individual with the Prevent Team?

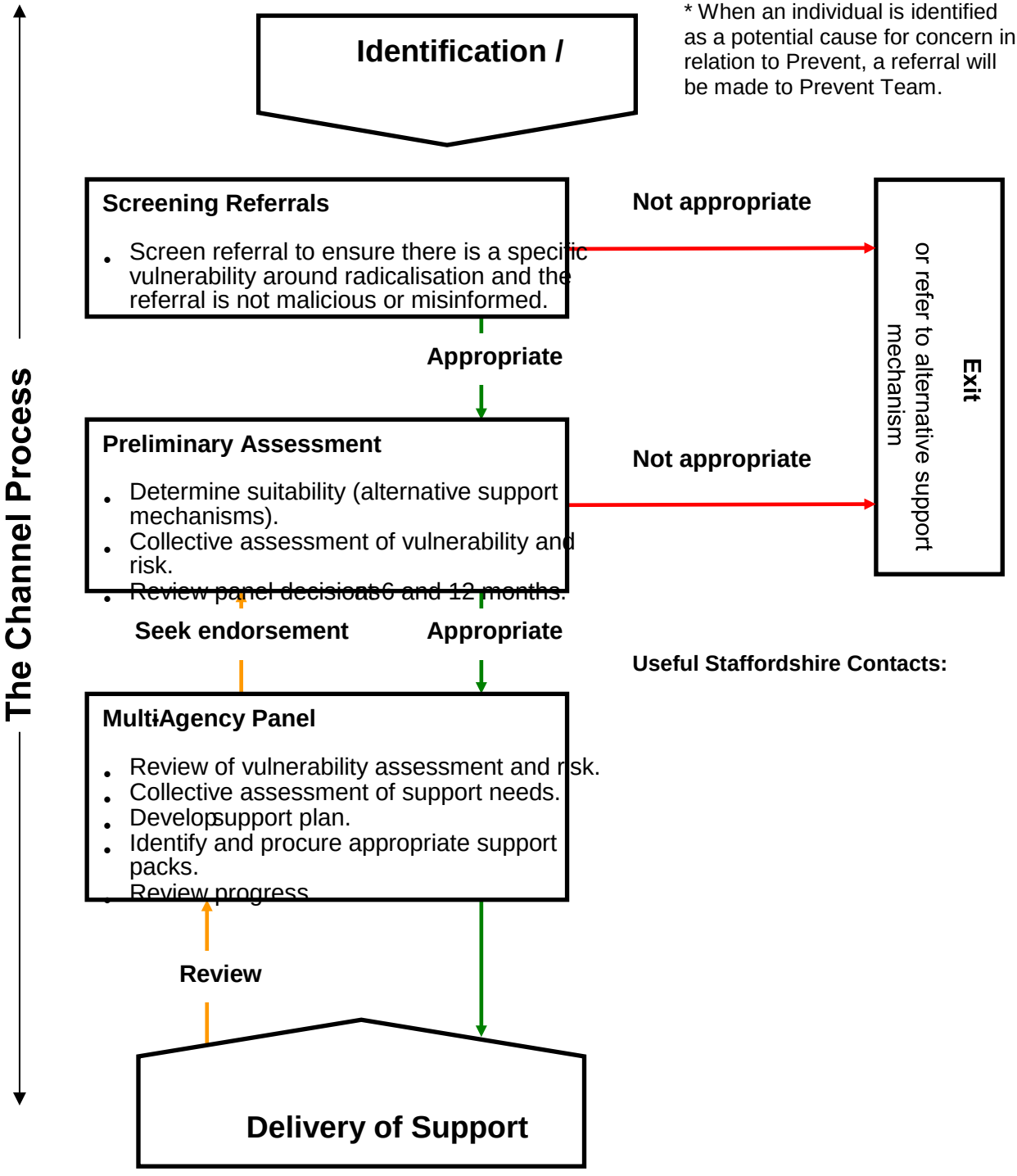
Prevent Team Officers would liaise with you to discuss your concerns. They would complete a vulnerability assessment for the individual (either by engaging directly with them or based on information given by the referrer, depending on the circumstances).

The information would then be used to make a decision as to whether the case needed to be discussed at the next Channel meeting, where the assessment is discussed and agencies are invited to contribute any shared knowledge about the individual from their own area of business. The vulnerability assessment scoring is also discussed and a decision made about how to ensure the most suitable outcomes for the individual are achieved. If the case is not accepted into the Channel process at this stage, it will be referred back to the Case Management process, where appropriate alternative support and engagement for the individual will be identified.

If an individual who has been referred to Channel is the subject of an existing statutory process (for example, child protection processes) the Prevent Team would endeavour to contribute to the statutory process along with the other key partners who were working together to achieve the best outcomes for the individual concerned.

The person making the referral will be kept informed and, in many cases, would be involved in decision-making going forward.

Channel Process

The diagram shows the different stages within the Channel process:

Source: 'Channel: Protecting vulnerable people from being drawn into terrorism - A guide for local partnerships'. HM Government, October 2012