



St David's
Coleg Catholig Dewi Sant
Catholic Sixth Form College

PREVENT POLICY

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Version	Date	Description	Amended/Reviewed by
1.0	January 2025	<i>A framework to protect students and staff from radicalisation and extremism, ensuring their safety and well-being through prevention and response to safeguarding concerns.</i>	Assistant Principal
2.0	February 2026	<i>Updated to reflect Prevent Duty Guidance (2023) and Keeping Learners Safe; strengthened recording, referral and external partnership arrangements; added online safety measures and clarified cross-policy alignment.</i>	Assistant Principal

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Contents

PREVENT POLICY	2
Contents.....	2
1. Scope.....	3
2. Aims.....	3
3. Introduction	4
3.1 Definition of Radicalisation	4
4. Equality and Diversity	5
5. CONTEST – The National Strategy.....	5
5.1 Prevent Policy Objectives.....	5
5.2 Channel Programme (Wales)	6
6. College Prevent Policy.....	6
6.1 Online Safety and Digital Risk	6
6.2 Prayer and Faith Activities	7
6.3 Speaker and Venue Protocols	7
7. Risks and Vulnerabilities	7
8. Monitoring and Recording Concerns	8
8.1 Learner Reporting	8
9. Referral and External Partnership.....	9
10. Training Staff.....	9
11. Review and Governance	10

1. Scope

The Prevent Policy forms part of the College's broader Safeguarding and Child Protection framework, which promotes and safeguards the well-being of children and vulnerable adults. This policy applies to governors, teaching staff, support staff, students, volunteers and visiting speakers.

It is informed by:

- Section 26 of the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015
- Prevent Duty Guidance for England and Wales (Home Office, 2023; in force 31 December 2023)
- CONTEST 2023
- Keeping Learners Safe (Welsh Government)

This policy must be read alongside:

- Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy
- Prayer and Liturgy Policy
- External Speakers and Events Policy
- Learner Dignity Policy
- Prevent Risk Assessment

All staff are expected to uphold professional standards and to act in accordance with the College's Catholic ethos and statutory safeguarding duties. Any concerns regarding staff conduct, including the expression or promotion of extremist views, will be addressed through safeguarding and HR procedures in line with College policy.

2. Aims

The Prevent Policy aims to ensure that all staff understand their Prevent duty and are confident in identifying and responding appropriately to individuals at risk of radicalisation or extremism. It provides a structured system to document and monitor potential Prevent concerns and establishes clear internal processes for reporting and escalation.

The College seeks to develop a robust, proportionate and risk-based approach to Prevent. Educational programmes are delivered to help students critically analyse extremist narratives and develop resilience. Prevent education is embedded within the pastoral curriculum at Level 2 and Level 3.

The policy also supports the elimination of permissive environments, physical or online, that may enable extremism, and informs actions within the College Prevent Risk Assessment.

3. Introduction

The threat from terrorism and extremism within the United Kingdom remains serious and evolving. Extremist ideologies seek to exploit susceptible individuals, including young people. These threats may arise from religious extremism, right-wing extremism or other emerging ideologies.

This policy provides a clear framework for staff in responding to safeguarding concerns relating to radicalisation. Prevent is delivered as part of the College's pastoral and safeguarding responsibilities.

As a Catholic college within the Archdiocese of Cardiff-Menevia, safeguarding is rooted in our belief in the dignity of every person, created in the image and likeness of God. Prevent work is therefore understood as an extension of our mission to protect the vulnerable and promote the common good.

3.1 Definition of Radicalisation

Radicalisation is defined as the process by which people come to support terrorism and extremist ideologies associated with terrorist groups.

The Prevent Duty Guidance (2023) states:

“Staff should know what measures are available to prevent radicalisation into terrorism and how to recognise the extremist ideologies that drive people to become terrorists or support terrorism. Staff should have awareness of the signs of radicalisation and should understand how to escalate and refer concerns to Prevent.”

4. Equality and Diversity

This policy ensures that no individual is treated less favourably based on race, colour, national or ethnic origin, disability, gender, sexual orientation, gender reassignment, marriage or civil partnership, pregnancy or maternity, age, religion, belief or political opinion.

In line with Catholic Social Teaching, the College affirms the inherent dignity of every person. Prevent is implemented proportionately and without discrimination, consistent with the Equality Act 2010 and the College's Catholic ethos.

5. CONTEST – The National Strategy

Prevent forms one strand of the UK Counter-Terrorism Strategy (CONTEST 2023). Its aim is to stop people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism. Prevent focuses on early intervention and safeguarding.

The four strands of CONTEST are:

- Prevent – stopping people becoming radicalised
- Protect – strengthening protection against terrorist attack
- Prepare – mitigating the impact of attacks
- Pursue – stopping terrorist activity

5.1 Prevent Policy Objectives

The Prevent Strategy objectives are to:

- Respond to the ideological challenge of terrorism.
- Prevent individuals from being drawn into terrorism and provide appropriate support.
- Collaborate with police and Prevent teams to address risks of radicalisation.

5.2 Channel Programme (Wales)

In Wales, Channel is part of the Welsh Extremism and Counter Terrorism Unit (WECTU), offering multi-agency interventions to safeguard individuals at risk of radicalisation.

Channel is a multi-agency approach which provides support to individuals who are at risk of being drawn into terrorist related activity. Channel seeks to:

- Establish an effective multi-agency referral and intervention process to identify susceptible individuals;
- Safeguard individuals who might be susceptible to being radicalised, so that they are not at risk of being drawn into terrorist related activity;
- Provide early intervention to protect and divert people away from the risks they face and reduce vulnerability.

6. College Prevent Policy

The College promotes Catholic, Welsh and British values through pastoral formation, spiritual reflection and curriculum delivery that fosters dignity, tolerance and critical thinking.

Prevent education is delivered through the pastoral programme and reinforced through safeguarding communications and curriculum activity.

Staff should remain vigilant to signs that may indicate vulnerability to radicalisation, including changes in behaviour, expression of extremist views, access to extremist content online, intolerance of diversity or suspicious behaviour by visiting speakers.

6.1 Online Safety and Digital Risk

The College recognises that radicalisation frequently occurs through online platforms, social media and digital content. As part of its safeguarding responsibilities, the College maintains appropriate IT filtering and monitoring systems to reduce the risk of learners accessing extremist material.

Online risks are reviewed as part of the College Prevent Risk Assessment and are addressed through digital safeguarding measures, the Acceptable Use Policy and pastoral education that promotes critical thinking and responsible online behaviour.

6.2 Prayer and Faith Activities

As a Catholic college, prayer and liturgy are central to College life and are governed by the Prayer and Liturgy Policy. The College welcomes learners of all faiths and none and provides appropriate spaces for prayer and reflection.

All prayer and faith-related activities must comply with safeguarding, equality and statutory duties. Participation in prayer is voluntary. The College retains responsibility for ensuring that its facilities are used appropriately and not misused by any individual or group.

Any safeguarding or Prevent concerns arising in relation to faith-related activity will be recorded and addressed through established safeguarding procedures and reflected within the College Prevent Risk Assessment where appropriate.

6.3 Speaker and Venue Protocols

All external speakers and events must comply with the External Speakers and Events Policy. Appropriate approval, risk assessment and notification procedures must be followed to ensure that College facilities are not used to promote extremist ideology.

7. Risks and Vulnerabilities

Extremism spans various ideologies and there is no typical profile of an extremist. Factors influencing vulnerability may include identity crisis, personal crisis, social isolation, exposure to harmful online content or community tensions.

Risk indicators may include contact with extremist recruiters, support for violent ideologies, accessing extremist literature or significant behavioural change. These risks are monitored through the College Prevent Risk Assessment and addressed proportionately.

8. Monitoring and Recording Concerns

All concerns relating to radicalisation or extremism must be treated as safeguarding concerns.

- Staff must record concerns on *MyConcern* at the earliest opportunity. In urgent situations, concerns must be reported immediately to a member of the Safeguarding Team, followed by a written record on *MyConcern*.
- The College maintains a Prevent register to monitor concerns and identify emerging patterns. This register is overseen by the Safeguarding and Wellbeing Manager, who acts as the First Point of Contact (FPOC) for Prevent matters.
- The Safeguarding and Wellbeing Manager, in their capacity as FPOC, reports to the Assistant Principal, who is the Designated Safeguarding Person (DSP) as part of the College's safeguarding governance structure.
- The Assistant Principal (DSP) holds senior leadership accountability for Prevent and ensures that appropriate action, resource allocation and strategic response are implemented where required. The Assistant Principal (DSP) receives regular updates on Prevent cases, themes and risk indicators to ensure effective executive oversight and compliance with statutory guidance.
- The Principal retains overall accountability for ensuring the College meets its statutory Prevent duties and receives assurance through established safeguarding reporting structures.

8.1 Learner Reporting

- Learners are encouraged to report concerns about extremist behaviour, harmful online content or any safeguarding issue through established safeguarding channels. This may include speaking to a tutor, member of pastoral staff, chaplaincy, or directly to the Safeguarding Team.
- The College ensures that safeguarding reporting routes are clearly signposted and accessible. Safeguarding posters displayed across the College site include QR codes directing learners to reporting information and support. In addition, a safeguarding

reporting link is available via the College website landing page to enable learners to raise concerns easily and confidentially.

- The College promotes a culture in which learners feel safe to raise concerns without fear of stigma or reprisal, recognising that early reporting is a key component of effective safeguarding and Prevent practice.

9. Referral and External Partnership

- The FPOC will review all Prevent-related concerns and determine appropriate action. This may include internal pastoral intervention, consultation with the local Prevent officer, or referral to Channel.
- Where concerns indicate elevated risk, complexity or potential reputational or statutory implications, the FPOC will consult with the Assistant Principal and DSP prior to external referral.
- All Channel referrals and significant Prevent concerns will be discussed with the DSP and Assistant Principal to ensure appropriate safeguarding oversight and proportionality.
- Channel referrals in Wales are made using the All Wales Prevent Partners Referral Form and in liaison with the Welsh Extremism and Counter Terrorism Unit (WECTU).
- The College works closely with its local Prevent officer and external safeguarding partners to ensure that concerns are addressed appropriately and proportionately.
- In cases of immediate danger, staff must contact the police.

10. Training Staff

All staff are required to complete mandatory Prevent training annually as part of the College's safeguarding training programme. Prevent awareness is included in staff induction and reinforced through regular safeguarding briefings and communications.

Governors receive appropriate Prevent training to enable them to fulfil their oversight responsibilities.

11. Review and Governance

This Prevent Policy will be reviewed annually alongside the Safeguarding Policy or earlier if required by changes to national guidance.

Oversight is provided by the Safeguarding Group, including a Link Governor. Safeguarding, including Prevent, remains a standing item at Governing Body meetings.

The College Prevent Risk Assessment is reviewed at least annually and updated in response to local intelligence, emerging national risks or changes in guidance.