

RUNSHAW COLLEGE

POLICY TITLE: Prevent Policy

APPROVED BY: Governing Board

AUTHOR: Jane Pearson

POLICY OWNER: Andrea Neild

POSITION: Assistant Principal
Student Experience and Support

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Strategic DSL/Policy Lead

Assistant Principal Student Experience and Support
(DSL) – Andrea Neild

Operational DSL

Head of Safeguarding and Wellbeing
(DSL) Jane Pearson

Operational Deputy DSL

Team Leader for Safeguarding and Wellbeing
(DDSL) Katie Ferguson

Deputy DSLs

There is a designated Duty DSL for each working day during term time, supported by a team equivalent to 5.4 FTE DSL-trained staff.

Governor with Safeguarding oversight

Gary Crowe

1. Introduction and Purpose

We are committed to safeguarding the welfare of our students, apprentices and staff and to meeting our duties under the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 and the UK Government's associated Prevent strategy.

This policy sets out how the College meets its statutory Prevent duty through safeguarding practice, risk assessment, partnership working, staff training, curriculum, online safety and clear reporting arrangements.

Runshaw College considers the welfare of children, young people and vulnerable adults of paramount importance and aims to safeguard and promote their welfare, safety and health by providing an open, caring, responsive and supportive learning environment which responds to needs immediately.

Children, young people and vulnerable adults are vulnerable to extremist ideology and radicalisation. Runshaw College has developed a culture of safety and respect for its students, staff, governors and visitors. As part of this ethos the College has considered the Prevent Duty and the importance of collaborative working between college staff, local authorities, police, other educational institutions, policy makers and health providers to identify, detect and safeguard vulnerable people throughout the organisation.

Staff must recognise, respond and record concerns promptly. Staff must not investigate concerns themselves, attempt to determine ideology or delay safeguarding action while seeking certainty.

2. Scope

The Prevent duty should be seen as part of the College's wider safeguarding obligations and is implemented through a proportionate, risk-based approach.

Safeguarding is everybody's responsibility and, as such, this Prevent policy applies to:

- All staff, governors, visitors, volunteers and subcontractors working with the college.
- All students, including full- time, part-time, apprentices, learners who study online and those on work placement

Designated safeguarding leads, the Prevent lead, senior leaders and governors should be familiar with the Prevent duty guidance: England and Wales (2023), including the education requirements and the themes of leadership and partnership, capabilities and reducing permissive environments.

This policy covers everyone's responsibilities for reporting and recording incidents, and college procedures that will be followed.

3. Statutory Obligations

Section 26(1) of the Counterterrorism and Security Act 2015 (the CTSA) imposes a duty on 'specified authorities', when exercising their functions, to have due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism.

Further education has an important role in preventing people from becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism. The College will apply the duty proportionately, with regard to local risk, freedom of speech, academic freedom, data protection law and the Equality Act 2010. Prevent activity will focus on terrorism and terrorism-linked ideology rather than lawful debate, protest or views that are not reasonably linked to terrorism.

The overall objectives of Prevent are to:

- tackle the ideological causes of terrorism
- intervene early to support people susceptible to radicalisation
- enable people who have already engaged in terrorism to disengage and rehabilitate

The Terrorism (Protection of Premises) Act 2025 received Royal Assent on 3 April 2025. The College will monitor implementation guidance, assess whether its premises and events fall within scope and prepare proportionate public-protection procedures when duties come into force. This complements, but does not replace, the Prevent duty.

3.a) To meet our statutory obligations and duties Runshaw College will:

- Promote and reinforce shared values; create space for free and open debate; listen to and support the student voice.
- Break down segregation among different student communities including supporting inter-faith and inter-cultural dialogue and understanding, and to engage all students in playing a full and active role in wider engagement in society.
- Ensure student safety and develop a zero-tolerance approach towards bullying, harassment and discrimination.
- Provide support to students who may be at risk and access to appropriate sources of advice and guidance.
- Ensure that students and staff are aware of their roles and responsibilities in preventing radicalisation and reducing risks linked to terrorism or terrorist ideology.
- Ensure staff are trained to understand and recognise Prevent vulnerabilities and early signs and indicators that someone is being radicalised.
- Recognise current practice which supports and contributes to the Prevent agenda.
- Work proactively to identify areas for improvement.

There is an annual review of this policy and safeguarding arrangements, and this is presented to the governing body. It may amend and adopt it outside of this timeframe in accordance with any new legislation or guidance or in response to any quality assurance recommendations pertaining to the delivery of this policy and the overall safeguarding arrangements made.

Governors receive assurance through annual policy approval, review of the Prevent risk assessment and action plan, safeguarding reports, training compliance information, relevant referral themes where appropriate, partnership updates and assurance on filtering and monitoring arrangements.

The Prevent risk assessment and action plan are reviewed at least annually and sooner where there are changes in local risk, national threat level, statutory guidance, College operations or safeguarding intelligence.

4. Specific Duties

The Prevent duty guidance groups compliance expectations under three themes: leadership and partnership, capabilities and reducing permissive environments. The College will also maintain monitoring and assurance arrangements.

The College will meet these duties through the following proportionate arrangements: under leadership and partnership, senior leaders and governors will maintain clear oversight of Prevent through named strategic and operational leads, an annually reviewed risk assessment and action plan, regular reporting to the Safeguarding Steering Group and Governing Board and active engagement with local authority, police, Department for Education and safeguarding partners.

Under capabilities, the College will ensure staff, leaders and governors understand local and national risks, receive role-appropriate training, know how to identify and report concerns, follow

clear referral pathways and record and share information lawfully and proportionately. Under reducing permissive environments, the College will maintain effective arrangements for external speakers and events, use of premises, online safety, filtering and monitoring, curriculum opportunities, learner support and a safe culture which protects lawful debate while preventing access to terrorist or radicalising content or activity.

Leadership and partnership

Senior leaders and governors will maintain strategic oversight of Prevent through named strategic and operational leads, an annually reviewed Prevent risk assessment and action plan, regular reporting to the Safeguarding Steering Group and Governing Board and active engagement with local authority, police, Department for Education and safeguarding partners. The Prevent risk assessment and action plan are co-owned by the Vice Principal Finance and Facilities and the Assistant Principal Student Experience and Support. The action plan is monitored by the Safeguarding Steering Group, which meets six times a year.

The Safeguarding Team will maintain regular contact with the North West Prevent Regional Coordinator from the Department for Education and other relevant partners so that the College remains informed about local and national risks, training opportunities, good practice, legislation and statutory guidance. The College will work with appropriate local agencies, including Local Authority Safeguarding Partners and police, to ensure that children, young people and vulnerable adults are safeguarded through College procedures.

Capabilities

The College will ensure that staff, leaders and governors understand local and national risks, receive role-appropriate Prevent training, know how to identify and report concerns, follow clear referral pathways and record and share information lawfully and proportionately. Prevent is included in induction for new staff and differentiated safeguarding training forms part of the College professional development programme, managed by HR and monitored through the Safeguarding Steering Group and governor assurance arrangements.

Reducing permissive environments

The College will maintain effective arrangements for external speakers and events, use of premises, freedom of expression, online safety, filtering and monitoring, curriculum opportunities and learner support. These arrangements will protect lawful debate and academic freedom while ensuring that the College environment, systems and resources are not used to promote terrorism, terrorist ideology, radicalisation or access to terrorist or radicalising content.

Runshaw College has Guidelines for Guest Speakers, a Freedom of Expression Policy, an Acceptable Use of IT Policy and an Internet Access and Online Safety Policy. Due diligence will be undertaken for guest speakers and events, including consideration of speaker legitimacy, proposed materials and supervision arrangements. Internet access, filtering and monitoring arrangements will be used to help prevent access to illegal, inappropriate, terrorist or radicalising content. Daily IT usage for learners, including Microsoft Teams, is monitored via Lightspeed. Alerts are monitored by the Safeguarding Team for students and the Director of HR for staff.

Any issue arising from internet traffic, filtering alerts or monitoring concerns will be addressed promptly with the learner or staff member and proportionate safeguarding, conduct, HR or security action will be taken as appropriate.

Fastvue and Lightspeed efficacy testing is completed monthly, with outcomes reported through half-termly safeguarding reports to the Safeguarding Steering Group.

All staff are expected to remain vigilant to potential online and offline harms. Learners are taught about safeguarding, online safety, misinformation, disinformation, conspiracy theories, harmful content and radicalisation risks through teaching and learning opportunities, the Progress Mentor curriculum and wider student support activity.

5. Definitions

Prevent

Prevent is 1 of the 4 elements of CONTEST, the government's counter-terrorism strategy. It aims to stop people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism. The Prevent Strategy, published by the government in 2011, defined extremism as *"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.... (and) calls for the death of a member of our armed forces."* Where the term extremism is used within this policy and procedures, it should be recognised in the context of this definition.

Terrorism

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."

Radicalisation

Radicalisation is the process of a person legitimising support for, or use of, terrorist violence. There is no single profile or pathway. Susceptibility may be linked to vulnerability but vulnerability is not always present.

Extremism

Extremism is the promotion or advancement of an ideology based on violence, hatred or intolerance that aims to:

1. Negate or destroy the fundamental rights and freedoms of others or
2. Undermine, overturn or replace the UK's system of liberal parliamentary democracy and democratic rights or
3. Intentionally create a permissive environment for others to achieve the aims in 1 or 2.

6. What to do if you are concerned about a student or an apprentice

If you are concerned: recognise the concern, respond calmly, report it promptly, record factual information and do not investigate.

You may notice a change in a person's behaviour, language, online activity or disclosures that causes concern about possible radicalisation. Regardless of your role, you must report these concerns to the Safeguarding Team using the green safeguarding reporting button on the staff portal. Record factual information and share it promptly. Staff must not investigate, attempt to determine ideology or delay other safeguarding action.

If there is immediate risk or an emergency, call 999 first. Then notify the Safeguarding Team or Duty Manager using the urgent reporting route on the staff portal.

Safeguarding contact details:

Email: safeguarding@runshaw.ac.uk

Tel: 01772 644377

Room: M301

Where there is a concern about a member of staff, report this through the Low-Level Concern process on the staff portal or directly to the HR Director

It is the responsibility of all staff to act upon any concern no matter how small or trivial it may seem.

7. Those with specific responsibilities

- The Governor Board of Runshaw College have a responsibility to ensure the college meets its Prevent Duty in line with statutory guidance.
- The Safeguarding Governor is Gary Crowe.
- A senior member of the college's leadership team is designated to take lead responsibility for Prevent (Designated Safeguarding Lead).
- The Strategic Designated Safeguarding Lead is the Assistant Principal Student Experience and Support, Andrea Neild. The Vice Principal for Finance and Facilities, Janet Ivill, has strategic responsibility for campus safety and security features.
- The Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) with operational responsibility for Prevent and Safeguarding issues is the Head of Student Safeguarding & Wellbeing, Jane Pearson, who is responsible for day-to-day coordination and liaison with other agencies.

8. Other Related Policies and Codes of Conduct

- Acceptable Use of IT Policy
- Apprenticeship Health & Safety Policy
- Data Protection Policy
- Dealing with Allegations of Abuse made against Staff, Volunteers and Governors Policy
- Freedom of Expression Policy
- Special Admissions Policy
- Guidelines for Guest Speakers
- Guidelines on Professional Practice
- Health and Safety Policy
- Internet Access & Online Safety Policy
- Low Level Concerns Policy
- Recruitment and Selection Policy
- Safer Recruitment and Engagement-Policy
- Social Media Policy
- Safeguarding Policy
- Staff Charter
- Student Harassment and Bullying Policy
- Trips & Residential Policy
- Student Volunteering Policy

Appendix 1:

<u>Key Prevent Contacts :</u>	Contact Details
Lancashire Police Prevent and Channel Advice Line <u>Prevent and Channel Referral email</u>	<u>01772 413398</u> <u>concern@lancashire.police.uk</u>
Prevent Education Officer Leanne Romney 3 rd Floor Old Town Hall King William Street Blackburn BB1 7DY	Email: leanne.romney@blackburn.gov.uk Alternative Email: prevent.team@blackburn.gov.uk Phone: 01254 585270 Website: Partnership Offer – Lancashire Prevent Partnership
Prevent Coordinator Mayjabeen Hussain	01254 585260 / 01254 585903
Lancashire Police HQ, Hutton This is the public protection team of the Counter Terrorism Branch (CTB)	01282 472320
Urgent out of hours -	Police emergency – 999 Anti-Terrorism Hotline - 0800 789 321 Police non- emergency - 101
Public website – ACT early – Actions Counter Terrorism	www actearly.uk