

Safeguarding Statement

At Godstowe Preparatory School we respect and value all children and are committed to providing a caring, friendly and safe environment for all our pupils so they can learn, in a relaxed and secure atmosphere. We believe every pupil should be able to participate in all school activities in an enjoyable and safe environment and be protected from harm. This is the responsibility of every adult employed by, or invited to address the school community at Godstowe Preparatory School. We recognise our responsibility to safeguard all who access school and promote the welfare of all our pupils by protecting them from physical, sexual and emotional abuse, neglect and bullying.

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1. Statement of Purpose

At Godstowe Preparatory School, we are determined to ensure that all necessary steps are taken to protect children, young people and adults from harm. From 1st July 2015, safeguarding in schools and academies acquired a new aspect namely "Prevent duty". Section 26 of the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act (2015) requires schools and academies to pay due regard to the need to prevent pupils and others they come into contact with from being drawn into terrorism. The guidance has been updated and revised several times since that date. Please see the most recent 2023 [Revised Prevent duty guidance: for England and Wales - GOV.UK](#).

We provide training for all staff to fulfil the statutory guidance. This policy also includes measures to meet the non-statutory guidance issued by the Department for Education (DFE). The following policy establishes Godstowe Preparatory School's position, role and responsibilities and clarifies what is expected from everybody employed and involved in the delivery of services (core curriculum and extended services).

The aim of the Prevent strategy is to reduce the threat to the UK from terrorism by stopping people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism through extremist behaviour. In the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act (2015) this is described as the need to “prevent people from being drawn into terrorism”. Overseen by the Home Office, the Prevent strategy has 3 specific strategic objectives:

- 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

Government office defines 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”. The Prevent strategy extends this definition further to include “calls for the death of members of the armed forces”.

2. Implementing Prevent Duty

To implement Prevent Duty Godstowe Preparatory School will ensure all staff, governors and volunteers have access to training to ensure all have an understanding and build capability to deal with the risks identified. This includes:

- An understanding of what radicalisation means and how a person might become susceptible to being drawn into supporting terrorism;
- Measures available to prevent those within the school community from becoming drawn into terrorism;
- How to challenge extremist ideology;
- How to obtain support from the DSL/senior leadership team, local Prevent/CHANNEL coordinators, the police, local authorities and multi-agency partnerships;
- How to share information to ensure a person at risk of radicalisation obtains appropriate support;
- How to refer suspected engagement in illegal terrorist activity to the police;
- How to record and maintain records and reporting to comply with the school's responsibilities.

3. The Role of the School Council

At Godstowe Preparatory School we recognise that Prevent Duty encompasses responsibilities for staff as well as pupils therefore the governing body has reviewed our code of conduct and staff handbook to reflect our responsibilities. In line with Godstowe

Preparatory School's safeguarding arrangements, all Prevent Duty concerns will be immediately reported to the Chair of Council (T. Leaver) and the named Safeguarding Governor (M. Omonijo) by the Headmistress. Together with the Headmistress they will monitor ongoing liaison with the police and multi-agency partners.

4. The role of the Headmistress

- It is the Headmistress's role to implement the school's Prevent Policy with the support of the Senior Leadership Team and Governing Body;
- It is the Headmistress's role to ensure there is a collective responsibility for safeguarding and that all staff and volunteers are aware of the Prevent policy and related policies, protocols and procedures;
- The Headmistress will ensure staff members with named responsibility for safeguarding have a clear understanding of the school's Prevent policy and receive training in order to support staff and volunteers;
- The Headmistress will promote Prevent Duty when overseeing the development of the curriculum and all other aspects of school life;
- The Headmistress will refer any concerns under Prevent duty to the named Single Point of Contact/ CHANNEL coordinator within the Police force;
- The Headmistress will inform the Chair of Governors (TL) and the named Safeguarding Governor (MO) of all Prevent Duty concerns/referrals.

5. The role of all staff: teaching and non-teaching

- All staff will be made aware of and have access to the school's Prevent Policy, protocols and procedures;
- All staff will attend regular Prevent training which will include guidance and any revisions to the implementation of Prevent duties;
- All staff will strive to safeguard pupils in all aspects of the Prevent agenda;
- All staff will challenge the use of discriminatory and derogatory language;
- As with all aspects of safeguarding, teachers will support teaching assistants, support staff and volunteers working in their classrooms or on educational visits;
- All staff have a responsibility to monitor and, where necessary, guide the practice of volunteers, visitors or contractors working in school. Any concerns will be reported to the Headmistress and/or DSL.

6. Policies, protocols and procedures

Godstowe Preparatory School has a range of supporting policies, protocols and procedures to accompany this document developed in accordance with national government (DFE & DH) and local authority guidelines. Policies can be accessed on the school website or by requesting a paper copy. (Please note school reserves the right to charge for such requests). All policies and protocols have been ratified by the school's Council and are regularly reviewed. These documents include our arrangements for the following areas:

- Safeguarding and Child Protection procedures; (See Safeguarding Policy, Anti Bullying Policy, Internet Acceptable Use Policy)
- Safe recruitment and selection processes including Disclosure & Barring Service-DBS; vetting checks (formerly CRB), enhanced check for regulated activity (barred list check), Disqualification by Association checks and Overseas vetting checks; (See Recruitment Policy)
- Delivery of safeguarding content (including Prevent Duty) as part of the curriculum;
- Volunteers, visitors and contractors working in school. (See Visiting Speakers Policy, Volunteers and Casual Workers Policy)

7. Curriculum delivery

A wide range of safeguarding topics related to Prevent Duty is delivered through the school's core and enhanced curriculum. This includes Personal Social Health Education (PSHE) and pastoral support/intervention. Schemes of work have been developed to promote British values as this is identified as an essential part of countering the risk of radicalisation. Details of curriculum content are regularly shared with parents/guardians who are actively encouraged to support their child's learning. Where appropriate multi-agency partners support this delivery, e.g. Prevent Coordinators, Police.

8. Visitors to school and volunteers/ contractors working in school

All visitors, supply staff, volunteers, extended service providers and contractors are provided with information on the school's safeguarding procedures to ensure they are aware of and follow our procedures. All such visitors will have a nominated point of contact in school to which any concerns should be reported. It is the responsibility of the nominated point of contact in school to implement the school's reporting procedures and ensure the Headmistress/DSL/DDSL are informed of any concerns. This includes any concerns regarding the practice of such visitors. All volunteers working in schools will receive basic awareness Prevent training as part of the induction process.

9. Implementing procedures

Where there are concerns relating to Prevent Duty, Godstowe Preparatory School requires all teaching and non-teaching staff to follow our procedures. Similar to our Safeguarding procedures, staff are expected to be vigilant and demonstrate a collective responsibility to ensure concerns are shared.

Where concerns are suspected they must be shared and details recorded in a confidential record. Access to such records is strictly controlled. The record will include:

- The subject of concern's known details to include where possible name, date of birth, address and contact numbers;
- Whether or not the person making the report is expressing their own concerns or those of someone else;

- The nature of the concern, including dates, times, specific factors and any other relevant information;
- Make a clear distinction between what is fact, opinion or hearsay;
- Details of anyone who has witnessed the concern;
- Accounts from others, including colleagues and, where appropriate, parents/guardians. Please note school may not seek an account from a parent/guardian should it be thought that such action may place the pupil at risk of harm.

10. Referral

Sharing a concern will not automatically trigger the referral process. When the designated person/s does feel it appropriate to make a referral, this will be made to the CHANNEL Police Practitioner/Single Point of Contact within the police and the local authority Social Care - Child Protection Unit.

The CHANNEL Police Practitioner/Single Point of Contact will conduct a preliminary assessment of engagement, intention and capability in carrying out an act of terrorism. On completion the preliminary assessment will be submitted to a multi-agency panel for consideration. The panel consists of representatives from health, education (schools colleges & universities), social care, voluntary sector, Home Office Immigration, youth offending/ prison, Director of Children & Adult Services, chair LSCB and LA safeguarding children and adults managers. It is the responsibility of this panel to determine provision of support packages and intervention.

In some cases, schools may need to protect a pupil immediately- in these situations emergency action will be taken. The Police are the only agency with statutory powers for the immediate protection of children.

We stress it is not the school's responsibility to investigate, however, any concerns will be raised and if deemed appropriate information will be referred, as detailed above, immediately.

11. Review of progress

This policy has been ratified by the school's Council, which has a rolling programme for reviewing all school policies and monitoring their impact. In line with legislative requirements, they will review arrangements and this policy on an annual basis.

12. Publication of the Prevent Policy

In order to meet statutory requirements school will:

- Publish school's policy on the school website
- Place an electronic copy of the policy in the staff area of the school's computer system
- Ensure paper copies are made available on request
- Raise Prevent Duty awareness through the school newsletter, assemblies, staff meetings and other communications

- Ensure support is offered to parents/ guardians where English is a second language to help them understand the content of the school's policy

We believe every pupil should be able to participate in all school activities in an enjoyable and safe environment and be protected from harm. This is the responsibility of every adult employed by, or invited to deliver services at Godstowe Preparatory School. This policy has been developed using the following documentation:

Keeping Children Safe in Education, DFE (2024) [Keeping children safe in education - GOV.UK](#)

Working Together to Safeguard Children, DFE (2023) [Working together to safeguard children - GOV.UK](#)