



St Helens College



University Centre
St Helens

Prevent Strategy

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Section 1: Introduction

1.1 The College takes all reasonable steps to promote and safeguard the welfare of all individuals engaged in any College activity. There are robust safeguarding arrangements in place which are regularly reviewed to keep all students safe. St Helens College is committed to the promotion of an inclusive college community which does not allow any individual or group of individuals to be marginalised, stigmatised, or excluded from College life.

1.2 All educational establishments have a responsibility to promote values of openness and respect and to facilitate free debate which is characteristic of being a British citizen. It is in this context that the college has developed this strategy.

1.3 The St Helens College Prevent Strategy will be updated annually in line with emerging government information, advice, and guidance.

Section 2: Government Policy

2.1 Section 21 of the Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015 places a duty on certain bodies to have “due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism”.

2.2 The Government’s Prevent Strategy was published in 2011 and forms part of an overall Counter Terrorism Strategy known as CONTEST. The Contest Strategy has four elements which are listed below:

- Pursue
- Protect
- Prepare
- Prevent

2.3 Prevent is a key part of the Contest Strategy which aims to stop people from becoming involved in terrorist related activity or supporting terrorism. Early intervention is at the heart of Prevent in diverting people away from being drawn into terrorist activity. Prevent interventions happening before any criminal activity takes place and is focused on recognising, supporting, and protecting individuals who might be susceptible to radicalisation.

2.4 The 2011 Prevent Strategy objectives are as follows.

- Respond to the ideological challenge of terrorism and the threat we face from those that promote it
- Prevent people from being drawn into terrorism and ensure that they are given appropriate support
- Work with sectors and institutions where there are risks of radicalisation that we need to address

2.5 The Government's Prevent Strategy was explicitly changed in 2011 to deal with all forms of terrorism and target not only violent extremism but also non-violent extremism which can create an atmosphere conducive to terrorism and can popularise the views which terrorists exploit.

2.6 The United Kingdom currently faces a range of terrorist threats. All terrorist groups who pose a threat to the UK seek to radicalise and recruit people to their cause. A system of threat levels has been created which represents the likelihood of an attack in the near future. The current Government threat level from international terrorism in the UK is 'severe' which means that a terrorist attack is a strong possibility.

2.7 As part of the Government's Prevent Strategy all Colleges have a statutory duty to promote British values throughout the organisation.

Section 3: Definitions

3.1 For the purposes of this strategy the following definitions have been adopted. Radicalisation is defined as the process by which people come to support terrorism and extremism and, in some cases, then participate in terrorist groups. 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.

British Values:

- Democracy
- The rule law
- Individual liberty
- Mutual respect
- Tolerance of different faiths and beliefs

3.2 In the education inspection framework OFSTED Inspectors will make their judgement on Safeguarding under the Effectiveness of Leadership and Management based on whether "learners are suitably protected from the risks associated with radicalisation and extremism".

Section 4: Key Documents & Contacts

4.1 This strategy should be read in conjunction with the following documents and guidance:

4.2 St Helens College Polices & Procedures

- Safeguarding Policy (children and adults)
- Equality and Diversity Policy
- E-safety Policy & Procedure
- Student Code of Conduct
- Staff Code of Conduct
- College Mission Vision & Values
- Health and Safety Policy
- Acceptable Use IT Policy
- Visiting Speakers Policy
- Hire of College Premises/Facilities Policy
- Third Party Providers Policy

4.3 External Documentation

- Prevent duty guidance for England and Wales: HM Government
- Challenge It, Stop It, Report It (May 2014)
- Keeping Children Safe in Education (Updated 2023)
- Safeguarding Children, young people and vulnerable Adults Policy Ofsted (February 2015)
- HM Government Prevent Strategy (2011)
- The Role of Further Education Colleges in Preventing Violent Extremism
- Ofsted Inspection Handbooks (Schools and Education and Skills) from September 2015

Section 5: Aims and Objectives

5.1 The aim of this Prevent Strategy is to ensure that the College is able to monitor, manage and deal effectively with the threat posed by any individual or group of individuals engaging in violent extremism in the name of ideology or belief; specifically:

- To develop staff and student awareness of Prevent
- To ensure that students, staff, and members of the Corporation are aware of their roles and responsibilities in preventing violent extremism and radicalisation
- To promote and reinforce shared values, to create space for free and open debate, and support the learner voice
- To document and recognise current practice across the college which effectively manages the risk of students being exposed to extremism and becoming radicalised

Section 6: St Helens College Responsibilities

6.1 To ensure that the College effectively manages risks and is able to deal appropriately with issues around radicalisation and extremism the college will:

- Identify and assess any risks and take any action as appropriate
- Nominate a governor responsible for overseeing Prevent
- Have a clear referral process external to the College – CHANNEL will be part of our referral process
- Understand and manage potential risks within the College and from external influences including the display of extremist materials, the hiring of College premises and the use of external speakers
- Respond rapidly and appropriately to events in local, national, or international news that may impact on the College community
- Ensure measures are in place to minimise the potential for acts of extremism within the College
- Ensure plans are in place to respond appropriately to a threat or incident within the College
- Adopt effective ICT security and responsible user policies and promote these to all staff and students

Section 7: Teaching, Learning & Supporting Students

7.1 The College is committed to providing a curriculum which promotes knowledge, skills and understanding in order to build the resilience of all students, by undermining extremist ideology and supporting the learner voice. This will be achieved through:

- Promoting British values within teaching and learning
- Embedding equality, diversity and inclusion across the curriculum and promoting community cohesion
- Enabling students to distinguish right from wrong and to respect the civil and criminal law of England
- Encouraging students to accept responsibility for their behaviour, show initiative, and to understand how they can contribute positively to the lives of those living and working in the locality of the College and to society more widely
- Enabling students to acquire an appreciation for and respect for their own and other cultures
- Encouraging respect for other people, and respect for democracy and support for participation in the democratic processes, including respect for the basis on which the law is made and applied in England.
- Promoting wider skill development such as social and emotional wellbeing
- Developing a curriculum which recognises local needs, challenges extremism, and promotes universal rights
- Teaching and learning strategies which explore controversial issues in a way which promotes equality, diversity, and inclusion
- Use of external organisations to support learning and promote respect

7.2 To ensure that the College community remains safe the following support will be in place for students:

- Effective support services which provide clear information, advice, and guidance on preventing students from being drawn into extremism and radicalisation
- Literature written in clear and simple language which promotes equality, diversity and inclusion and undermines extremist ideology
- A quiet room that does not contain any religious materials or resources to be used for prayer or quiet contemplation
- Support for students and staff and guidance on how to access support through community partners
- Ensure that the learner voice is heard, and concerns of the student population are acted upon
- Clear channels of communication to listen to the voice of the local community and understand local tensions
- Support for at risk students through safeguarding and mentoring processes
- A focus on closing the achievement gaps for all students

Section 8: Staff Responsibilities

8.1 The designated Safeguarding Lead for the College holds overall responsibility for ensuring that the Prevent Strategy is implemented across the college and any concerns are shared with the relevant organisations in order to minimise the risk of students becoming involved with terrorism.

8.2 The Safeguarding Lead will ensure that staff and students are aware of the Prevent agenda and appropriate training is in place.

8.3 All staff at the College have a responsibility to:

- To provide an ethos which upholds the college's mission, vision and values and promotes respect, equality and diversity, inclusion, and British Values
- Report any concerns around extremism or radicalisation via the safeguarding reporting channels (see section 9)
- Report and remove any literature displayed around the college that could cause offense or promote extremist views
- Support the development of staff and student understanding of the issues around extremism and radicalisation and participate in training when requested
- Participate in engagement with local communities, schools, and external organisations as appropriate

8.4 Any staff not fulfilling their responsibilities are likely to be subject to disciplinary action following an appropriate investigation

Section 9: Referrals

9.1 Where there is an identified/potential risk that a student may be involved in supporting or following extremism, further investigation by the police will be requested, prior to other assessments and interventions. The designated Lead for Safeguarding is responsible for contacting the external Prevent Coordinator for further advice and guidance.

9.2 Any member of staff who identifies such concerns will report these to a member of the college Safeguarding Team or the Designated Lead for Safeguarding (DSL). This is done via the Safeguarding Referral Form CPOMs on the Safeguarding section of the intranet and all relevant information will be documented.

9.3 Incidents in relation to extremism are expected to be very rare but emergency procedures will be adopted when there is information that a violent act is imminent, or where weapons or other materials may be in the possession of a student or a community member. In this situation, a 999 call will be made, and the college's Senior Management team informed as soon as practicably possible.

9.4 Where a child or vulnerable adult is thought to be in need or at risk of significant harm or where investigations need to be carried out a referral to the Social Services will be made in line with the college Safeguarding procedures following advice from the appropriate external Prevent Coordinator.

Section 10: Training

Staff

- All College staff are required to undertake an appropriate training programme in Prevent and this will be renewed as part of the yearly Safeguarding refresher training programmes which all staff are required to complete
- All staff at all levels will be provided with appropriate training regarding changes to the Prevent agenda as part of the annual College staff development programme
- All new members of College staff will receive Prevent training as part of their induction programme
- A Prevent section providing information, advice and guidance for staff will be regularly updated on the Staff Intranet site and relevant documentation will be sent to all staff via e-mail
- The Department for Education's Keeping Children Safe in Education 2023 document is available to all staff in the Safeguarding section of the Intranet together with Government advice and guidance on the Prevent Strategy.

Students

- The Student Council and Student Ambassadors will receive annual Prevent training as part of the college training and development programme
- All students studying at the College will receive Prevent awareness training as part of the College's Student Induction
- Identified groups of students who are most at risk will receive targeted Prevent training on an annual basis as part of the college tutorial programme

Safeguarding Officers

- All Safeguarding Officers will receive Prevent training

Corporation Members

- An annual briefing will be provided as part of the annual safeguarding report
- The corporation has a specific member with responsibility for Safeguarding & Prevent
- All corporation members will receive Prevent training outlining their responsibilities with regards to the statutory duty upon the college

Section 11: Use of Premises

11.1 St Helens College is committed to working with the local community and with a range of external organisations. In order to manage risk and prevent any extremist activity being undertaken on the college premises a risk assessment will be carried out prior to a letting being agreed. The College will request advance notice of the content of the event including an outline of the topics to be discussed. Events will be reviewed to identify whether future requests for the use of the facilities will be considered.

11.2 The College will not engage with any external organisation or develop a partnership with any agency that does not share St Helens College's commitment to equality, diversity, and inclusion.

11.3 The College will ensure that the Facilities Team use the college CCTV systems to monitor any suspicious activity and will report and suspicions via the safeguarding reporting channels to the police or regional Prevent Coordinator.

Section 12: Access & Monitoring of IT Systems

12.1 In order to safeguard students and prevent individuals from accessing extremist materials while using college networks the college will ensure:

- There is the ability to log and retain records of all electronic communication (web browsing, email exchanges etc.) by users on the college network
- Appropriate staff are able to monitor any aspects of its telephone, mobile phones and computing facilities that are made available to staff, students, and visitors
- Only college approved software will be supported by the college and allowed to be used
- All unauthorised software that breaches college policy or presents a risk to staff or student safety will be removed and appropriate action taken
- All unusual or suspicious events, and any breaches of security are reported to via the safeguarding reporting channels for further investigation
- The college will have appropriate Firewall and internet security to prevent students, staff and visitors accessing inappropriate material online

Section 13: Third Party Providers

13.1 St Helens College works with the local community, a range of external organisations and other training agencies. In order to manage risk and prevent any College students being subject to any extremist activity the college a risk assessment will be carried out prior to entering into any contracts.

13.2 The College will not engage with any external organisation or develop a partnership with any agency that does not share St Helens College's commitment to equality, diversity, and inclusion.

13.3 The College will make available to any partner organisations online training materials on the Prevent Duty and will expect that all staff of partner organisations complete the training programme. Failure of the partner organisation complying with this will result in the contract being terminated.