

1.7 Prevent Duty Policy

Extremism – the Prevent Duty

Working Together to Safeguard Children defines extremism. It states *“Extremism goes beyond terrorism and includes people who target the vulnerable – including the young – by seeking to sow division between communities based on race, faith, or denomination; justify discrimination towards women and girls; persuade others that minorities are inferior; or argue against the primacy of democracy and the rule of law in our society. Extremism is defined in the Counter Extremism Strategy 2015 as the vocal or active opposition to our fundamental values, including the rule of law, individual liberty and the mutual respect and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs. We also regard calls for the death of members of our armed forces as extremist”*.

Under the Counterterrorism and Security Act 2015 we have a duty to safeguard at risk or vulnerable children under the Counterterrorism and Security Act 2015 to have “due regard” to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism and refer any concerns of extremism to the police (If you are in a Prevent priority areas the local authority will have a Prevent lead who can also provide support).

Children can be exposed to different views and receive information from various sources. Some of these views may be considered radical or extreme. Radicalisation is the way a person comes to support or be involved in extremism and terrorism. It is a gradual process so young people who are affected may not realise what’s happening.

Radicalisation is a form of harm. The process may involve:

- Being groomed online or in person
- Exploitation, including sexual exploitation.
- Psychological manipulation
- Exposure to violent material and inappropriate information
- The risk of physical harm or death through extremist acts.

Alongside this we will be alert to any early signs in children and families who may be at risk of radicalisation, on which we will act, and document all concerns when reporting further.

The NSPCC states that signs of radicalisation may be:

- isolating themselves from family and friends
- talking as if from a scripted speech
- unwillingness or inability to discuss their views.
- a sudden disrespectful attitude towards others
- increased levels of anger
- increased secretiveness, especially around internet use.

We will tackle radicalisation by:

- Training all staff to understand what is meant by the Prevent Duty and radicalisation.
- Ensuring staff understand how to recognise early indicators of potential radicalisation and terrorism threats and act on them appropriately in line with national and local procedures.
- Make any referrals relating to extremism to the police (or the Government helpline) in a timely way, sharing relevant information as appropriate.
- Ensure our Pre-School is an inclusive environment, tackle inequalities and negative points of view and teach children about tolerance through British Values
- Using the Government Document Prevent Duty Guidance for England and Wales.

British Values

We actively promote inclusion, equality of opportunity, the valuing of diversity and British values.

Under the Equality Act 2010, which underpins standards of behaviour and incorporates both British and universal values, we have a legal obligation not to discriminate against directly or indirectly, harass or victimise

those with protected characteristics. We make reasonable adjustments to procedures, criteria, and practices to ensure that those with protected characteristics are not at a substantial disadvantage.

Social and emotional development is shaped by early experiences and relationships and incorporates elements of equality and British and universal values. The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) supports children's earliest skills so that they can become social citizens in an age-appropriate way, that is, so that they are able to listen and attend to instructions; know the difference between right and wrong; recognise similarities and differences between themselves and others; make and maintain friendships; develop empathy and consideration of other people; take turns in play and conversation; avoid risk and take notice of rules and boundaries; learn not to hurt/upset other people with words and actions; understand the consequences of hurtful/discriminatory behaviour.

Procedures

British Values

The fundamental British values of *democracy, rule of law, individual liberty, mutual respect, and tolerance for those with different faiths and beliefs* are already implicitly embedded in the EYFS and are further clarified below:

- *Democracy*, or making decisions together (through the prime area of Personal, Social and Emotional Development)
 - As part of the focus on self-confidence and self-awareness, practitioners encourage children to see their role in the bigger picture, encouraging them to know that their views count, to value each other's views and values, and talk about their feelings, for example, recognising when they do or do not need help.
 - Practitioners support the decisions that children make and provide activities that involve turn-taking, sharing and collaboration. Children are given opportunities to develop enquiring minds in an atmosphere where questions are valued.
- *Rule of law*, or understanding that rules matter (through the prime area of Personal, Social and Emotional Development)
 - Practitioners ensure that children understand their own and others' behaviour and its consequence.
 - Practitioners create rules and the codes of behaviour, for example the golden rules to keep them safe in the room.
- *Individual liberty, or freedom for all* (through the prime areas of Personal, Social and Emotional Development, and Understanding the World)
 - Children should develop a positive sense of themselves. Staff provide opportunities for children to develop their self-knowledge, self-esteem and increase their confidence in their own abilities, for example through allowing children to take risks on an obstacle course, mixing colours, talking about their experiences, and learning.
 - Practitioners encourage a range of experiences that allow children to explore the language of feelings and responsibility, reflect on their differences and understand we are free to have different opinions, for example discussing in a small group what they feel about transferring into Reception Class.
- *Mutual respect and tolerance*, or treating others as you want to be treated (through the prime areas of Personal, Social and Emotional Development, and Understanding the World)
 - Practitioners create an ethos of inclusivity and tolerance where views, faiths, cultures, and races are valued, and children are engaged with the wider community.
 - Children should acquire tolerance, appreciation, and respect for their own and other cultures; know about similarities and differences between themselves and others, and among families, faiths, communities, cultures, and traditions.
 - Practitioners encourage and explain the importance of tolerant behaviours, such as sharing and respecting other's opinions.
 - Practitioners promote diverse attitudes and challenge stereotypes, for example, sharing stories that reflect and value the diversity of children's experiences and providing resources and activities that challenge gender, cultural or racial stereotyping.

In our setting it is not acceptable to:

- actively promote intolerance of other faiths, cultures, and races
- fail to challenge gender stereotypes and routinely segregate girls and boys.
- isolate children from their wider community
- fail to challenge behaviours (whether of staff, children, or parents) that are not in line with the fundamental British values of democracy, rule of law, individual liberty, mutual respect, and tolerance for those with different faiths and beliefs.

Perins Pre-school will share these values and ensure that the staff understand them and apply them into practice. Failure to do so may result in our Early Years Educator Funding being withdrawn.

If any staff member has any concerns regarding a child's actions or behaviour, then the staff member will record the concern on the cause for concern form and inform the Designated Safeguarding or the Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead.

The DSL will call the Department for Education on 020 7340 7264 or email extermism@education.gsi.gov for advice and guidance. The local Police station or 101 can also be called for advice and guidance.

Legal framework

Counterterrorism and Security Act 2015

Further guidance

- Prevent Duty Guidance: For England and Wales (HMG 2015)
- Channel Duty Guidance: Protecting Vulnerable People from being drawn into terrorism (HMG 2015)
- Guide to the Equality Act and Good Practice (2015)
- Safeguarding Children (2013)

This policy was adopted on

10th April 2026

Date to be reviewed

10th April 2027

Signed on behalf of the provider

Michelle Osman

Role of signatory (e.g. chair, director or owner)

Pre-School Manager