St Bernadette's Catholic Primary School

Prevent Policy

Introduction

The Mission for St Bernadette's Catholic Primary School is

'…to ensure a loving and faithful learning community in which our children can become the person God created them to be. A community where we celebrate the dignity, worth and uniqueness of every individual. Where we grow and learn together with joy, in the love of Jesus. In this love, we strive to be courageous stewards of creation.'

Our Mission is rooted in scripture

I have come so that they may have life and have it to the full

John 10:10

1. Mission Statement

As a Catholic school, we are committed to promoting Gospel values of dignity, respect, justice, compassion and inclusion. We recognise that safeguarding children from radicalisation and extremism is an important aspect of protecting their welfare and promoting their spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.

2. Statement of Intent

St Bernadette's Catholic Primary School is fully committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all pupils. We recognise that protecting children from the risk of radicalisation is part of our wider safeguarding responsibilities. As a Catholic school, we believe every person is made in the image and likeness of God and possesses inherent dignity and worth.

We seek to create a community founded on faith, hope and love, where every child feels safe, respected and valued. Through Christ-centred education we prepare our pupils to become responsible citizens who contribute positively to society and promote peace, justice and the common good.

We will actively work to:

- Prevent children and young people from being drawn into terrorism or extremist ideologies.
- Promote a culture of respect, tolerance and mutual understanding.
- Encourage critical thinking and resilience to extremist influences.
- Promote the values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs.
- Provide a safe environment in which children can learn and discuss issues appropriately.
- Identify pupils who may be vulnerable to radicalisation and provide appropriate support.

3. Legal Framework

This policy has been developed in accordance with:
Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015
Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE) 2025
Prevent Duty Guidance: England and Wales (2023), updated March 2024
Working Together to Safeguard Children (2023)
Education Act 2002
Education and Inspections Act 2006
And encompasses guidance and requirements of the Catholic Education Service.

This policy should be read alongside:

- Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy
- Online Safety Policy
- Behaviour Policy
- Anti-Bullying Policy
- Single Equality Policy
- Whistleblowing Policy

4. Definitions

Radicalisation

Radicalisation refers to the process by which a person comes to support terrorism or forms of extremism that may lead to terrorism.

Extremism

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

- Negate or destroy fundamental rights and freedoms;
- Undermine democracy, the rule of law and mutual respect;

- Encourage division between communities.

Terrorism
Terrorism is defined in law as action or threats designed to influence government or intimidate the public for political, religious, racial or ideological purposes.

Prevent
Prevent is part of the UK Government's counter-terrorism strategy and aims to stop people from becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism.

Channel
Channel is a voluntary, confidential multi-agency programme which supports individuals identified as being vulnerable to being drawn into terrorism.

5. Roles and Responsibilities

Governing Body
The Governing Body will:
- Ensure the school fulfils its Prevent Duty responsibilities.
- Ensure safeguarding policies and procedures are effective.
- Monitor implementation of this policy.
- Ensure staff receive appropriate safeguarding and Prevent training.
- Ensure appropriate filtering and monitoring systems are in place.

Headteacher
The Headteacher will:
- Promote a culture of safeguarding throughout the school.
- Ensure this policy is implemented effectively.
- Support staff in identifying safeguarding concerns.
- Ensure sufficient resources are available for Prevent work.

Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)
The DSL is the designated Prevent Lead.
The DSL will:
- Act as the first point of contact for Prevent concerns.
- Maintain knowledge of local Prevent and Channel procedures.
- Make referrals where appropriate.
- Attend relevant safeguarding and Prevent training.
- Work with external agencies where necessary.
- Keep accurate and confidential records.

All Staff
All staff have a responsibility to:

- Be alert to signs of radicalisation.
- Promote British Values and Gospel values.
- Report concerns immediately to the DSL.
- Undertake safeguarding and Prevent training.
- Model respectful behaviour and positive relationships.

6. Recognising Vulnerability to Radicalisation

There is no single indicator that a child may be vulnerable to radicalisation. Staff should exercise professional curiosity and be alert to concerns such as:

- Sudden changes in behaviour or attitude.
- Increasing isolation from peers.
- Use of extremist language.
- Intolerance towards others.
- Fixation on extremist ideology.
- Accessing extremist online material.
- Repeated expression of extremist views.
- Association with individuals known to promote extremist beliefs.

These indicators do not automatically mean a child is being radicalised but may warrant further safeguarding consideration.

7. Teaching and Learning

The school is committed to providing a broad and balanced curriculum that promotes:

- Critical thinking skills.
- Respect for diversity.
- Respectful debate and discussion.
- Online safety awareness.
- Emotional resilience and wellbeing.

Opportunities to promote these values are embedded through:

- Religious Education
- Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education (PSHE) referred to as HRSE at St Bernadette's.
- Collective Worship
- Catholic Social Teaching
- Assemblies and enrichment activities
- 8. St Bernadette's Gospel Value & Fundamental British Values

Our school actively promotes the dignity of the person. Our Gospel Values of **Love, Faith, Respect, Kindness, Stewardship, Courage, Joy, humility, Service** and **Justice** are central to our life at St Bernadettes. Pupils also learn and talk about the fundamental British Values of Democracy, The Rule of Law, Individual Liberty, Mutual Respect and Tolerance of Different

Faiths and Beliefs which is entirely consistent with the teachings of the Catholic Church and the school's mission.

9. Online Safety

The school recognises that radicalisation may take place online.
To reduce risk we:

- Operate robust filtering and monitoring systems.
- Educate pupils about safe internet use.
- Teach pupils how to identify misinformation and harmful content.
- Monitor emerging online risks.
- Follow procedures outlined in the Online Safety Policy.

Any concerns relating to online radicalisation will be treated as safeguarding concerns and reported to the DSL.

10. Visiting Speakers and External Agencies

The school will undertake reasonable checks on visiting speakers and organisations.

St Bernadette's Catholic Primary School welcomes visitors and external speakers who can enrich the educational experiences of pupils and contribute positively to the life of the school. All external speakers and organisations will be carefully considered prior to invitation to ensure that their contribution supports the educational aims, Catholic ethos and mission of the school and promotes the welfare, safety and wellbeing of pupils.

Before an invitation is confirmed:

- Appropriate checks and risk assessments will be undertaken.
- Safeguarding checks will be completed where required and recorded in accordance with school procedures.
- The content of any presentation, workshop or activity will be reviewed to ensure it is suitable, age-appropriate and consistent with the school's educational aims and Catholic nature.
- Approval will be obtained from a member of the Senior Leadership Team.

External speakers must:

- Respect and support the Catholic ethos, mission and values of the school.
- Be respectful towards Catholic teaching and beliefs.
- Not present material that is prejudicial or detrimental to the Catholic character of the school.
- Comply with all safeguarding, visitor management and health and safety procedures.
- Present information in a factual, balanced and age-appropriate manner.
- Not engage pupils in partisan political activity.
- Comply with the Department for Education guidance on political impartiality in schools.

- Not promote extremist ideologies, radicalisation, hatred, intolerance, discrimination or unlawful activity.

Visitors will normally be supervised whilst on site in accordance with safeguarding requirements and the school's visitor procedures.

The school will not knowingly permit any speaker, organisation or activity that undermines:

- The Catholic mission and ethos of the school.
- The dignity of the human person.
- Fundamental British Values.
- Equality, mutual respect and tolerance.
- The safety, wellbeing and safeguarding of pupils.

The school reserves the right to cancel, amend or terminate any visit where concerns arise regarding safeguarding, suitability of content, political impartiality, compatibility with Catholic teaching or compliance with school policies.

11. Referral Procedures

Any concerns regarding a pupil's vulnerability to radicalisation must be reported immediately to the DSL.

The DSL will:

- Assess the concern.
- Gather relevant information.
- Record all actions taken.
- Consider consultation with the Local Authority Prevent Team where appropriate.
- Make a Prevent or Channel referral if necessary.
- In cases of immediate risk, contact Children's Social Care and/or the Police.
- All concerns will be treated as safeguarding concerns and dealt with in accordance with the school's Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy.

12. Staff Training

The school will ensure that:

- All staff receive safeguarding and Prevent training as part of induction.
- Prevent awareness is refreshed regularly.
- The DSL receives advanced safeguarding and Prevent training.
- Governors receive appropriate safeguarding training, including Prevent awareness.
- Training records will be maintained by the school.

13. Prevent Risk Assessment

The school will undertake and annually review a Prevent Risk Assessment which considers:

- Local risks and community context.
- Risks associated with online activity.
- Curriculum provision.

- Staff training needs.
- Building security.
- External visitors and speakers.

Actions identified through the assessment process will be incorporated into the school's safeguarding action plan.

14. Equality and Inclusion

The school recognises that children may be vulnerable to extremist narratives because of discrimination, exclusion, isolation or unmet needs.

We will:
Promote equality of opportunity.
Foster positive relationships.
Challenge prejudice and discrimination.
Ensure all pupils feel valued, safe and included.

Nothing within this policy should be interpreted as promoting discrimination against any community, faith group or protected characteristic.

15. Monitoring and Review

The Governing Body will monitor the effectiveness of this policy through:
Safeguarding reports.
Staff training records.
Governor monitoring activities.
Regular policy review.

This policy will be reviewed annually or sooner in response to legislative, regulatory or local safeguarding changes.