



Prevent Duty Policy

Statement of intent

Playhouse Pre-School recognises our responsibility to safeguard children and promote their welfare. This includes our responsibility under the Prevent duty to have due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism.

The Prevent duty forms part of our wider safeguarding responsibilities. We recognise that safeguarding children from the risk of radicalisation should be approached in the same way as safeguarding children from other forms of harm.

Our approach is proportionate and appropriate to the age and developmental stage of the children attending Playhouse Pre-School, including babies and toddlers from 9 months of age.

The aim of Prevent is to stop people from becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism. Prevent focuses on early intervention and support for people who may be susceptible to radicalisation. It does not seek to criminalise people for holding lawful beliefs or opinions.

This policy should be read alongside our Safeguarding Children Policy, Promoting British Values Policy, Online Safety Policy and other relevant safeguarding procedures.

What is radicalisation?

Radicalisation is the process through which a person comes to support terrorism or forms of terrorist-related activity.

There is no single profile of a person who may be susceptible to radicalisation. A range of circumstances, experiences and influences may contribute to a person's susceptibility.

These may include influences from:

- family or peers;
- social networks;
- online content;
- extremist groups or individuals;
- feelings of isolation or exclusion;
- personal circumstances or experiences;
- other factors which may make an individual susceptible to influence.

The presence of any one of these factors does not mean that a person is being radicalised.

Staff must not make assumptions about a child or family based on their religion, ethnicity, nationality, culture, political views, background or any other protected or personal characteristic.

What is extremism?

For the purposes of the Prevent duty, the government's current Prevent guidance should be used when considering extremist activity and the risk of people being drawn into terrorism.

Staff should avoid relying on outdated or overly broad definitions of extremism.

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The focus of the Prevent duty is on preventing people from being drawn into terrorism and supporting early intervention where there is evidence that someone may be susceptible to radicalisation.

Playhouse Pre-School does not treat lawful political, religious or other beliefs as a safeguarding concern simply because they differ from those of staff or others.

Prevent and the Early Years Foundation Stage

Prevent forms part of our wider safeguarding responsibilities under the EYFS.

The current EYFS framework applies to children from birth to 5 and was updated on 1 September 2026. It requires providers to have appropriate safeguarding policies and procedures and to promote children's welfare.

For our youngest children, Prevent is primarily reflected through our everyday practice.

We support children to develop:

- secure and positive relationships;
- confidence and self-esteem;
- communication skills;
- the ability to express their feelings and needs;
- respect for others;
- an understanding of right and wrong;
- positive relationships with people who are different from themselves;
- the ability to share, take turns and cooperate;
- an understanding that other people may have different views, cultures, beliefs and experiences.

These experiences help children develop positive social and emotional foundations in an age-appropriate way.

Babies and toddlers are not expected to understand concepts such as terrorism, radicalisation or extremism.

Promoting British Values

Playhouse Pre-School promotes the fundamental British values of:

- democracy;
- the rule of law;
- individual liberty;
- mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs.

These values are promoted through everyday interactions, children's choices, positive relationships, clear boundaries, respectful behaviour and our inclusive approach.

Further information can be found in our Promoting British Values Policy.

Staff responsibilities

All staff have a responsibility to contribute to safeguarding children from the risk of radicalisation.

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Staff are expected to:

- understand the purpose of the Prevent duty;
- understand that Prevent is part of safeguarding;
- remain alert to concerns that may indicate a child or adult is at risk of being drawn into terrorism;
- report concerns promptly to the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL);
- follow the setting's safeguarding procedures;
- maintain an open-minded and non-discriminatory approach;
- avoid making assumptions about children or families;
- complete appropriate Prevent and safeguarding training;
- understand how to respond if they encounter extremist or terrorist-related content online;
- maintain professional curiosity where appropriate;
- seek advice from the DSL if they are unsure whether a concern should be reported.

Staff must not attempt to investigate or assess a suspected radicalisation concern themselves.

Designated Safeguarding Lead

The Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) has responsibility for coordinating the setting's response to safeguarding concerns relating to Prevent.

At Playhouse Pre-School, the DSL is:

Claire Bransby

Deputy DSLs:

Siouxsie Holloway

Zoe Munford

The DSL will ensure that:

- staff understand their Prevent responsibilities;
- appropriate Prevent training is provided;
- concerns are recorded appropriately;
- safeguarding concerns are assessed and acted upon;
- advice is obtained where necessary;
- referrals are made to the appropriate agency where required;
- the setting maintains appropriate links with local safeguarding and Prevent services.

The DSL will ensure that Prevent concerns are handled sensitively, proportionately and confidentially.

Identifying concerns

There is no single indicator that demonstrates that someone is being radicalised.

Staff should consider whether there has been a significant or concerning change in behaviour, circumstances or presentation and whether there are other factors that suggest the individual may be susceptible to being drawn into terrorism.

For children attending Playhouse Pre-School, staff should remain alert to concerns as part of their normal safeguarding practice.

Examples of concerns may include:

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- significant changes in behaviour or emotional presentation;
- concerning exposure to extremist or terrorist-related material;
- concerning influence from others;
- behaviour or communication that raises a safeguarding concern;
- evidence that an individual may be being targeted or exploited by others;
- other circumstances which cause a practitioner to believe that a child or family member may require safeguarding support.

A single unusual behaviour, comment, belief or family circumstance should not automatically be interpreted as evidence of radicalisation.

Staff should consider the whole context and seek advice from the DSL.

Online safety

The internet can expose children and families to a wide range of content, including harmful or extremist material.

Playhouse Pre-School recognises online safety as part of our wider safeguarding responsibilities.

Our approach includes:

- appropriate supervision of children's use of digital devices;
- age-appropriate online safety education;
- ensuring children only have access to suitable digital content within the setting;
- following our Online Safety Policy;
- reporting concerning online content or behaviour through appropriate safeguarding channels;
- supporting parents and carers with information about online safety where appropriate.

Staff should report any concerning extremist or terrorist-related online material encountered in the course of their work to the DSL and should not share, forward or reproduce such material unnecessarily.

Staff training

All staff will receive appropriate safeguarding and Prevent training.

Prevent training will enable staff to:

- understand the purpose of Prevent;
- understand radicalisation and susceptibility;
- recognise possible safeguarding concerns;
- understand referral procedures;
- understand how Prevent fits within wider safeguarding practice;
- understand the importance of challenging prejudice and discrimination appropriately;
- understand the importance of avoiding assumptions based on protected characteristics, religion, ethnicity or background.

Training will be refreshed in accordance with current safeguarding and Prevent guidance and whenever significant changes to guidance or local procedures occur.

The manager will maintain records of staff training.

Risk assessment

Playhouse Pre-School will consider the risk of children or adults being drawn into terrorism as part of our wider safeguarding risk assessment.

The setting will consider:

- the nature and size of the setting;
- the age of the children attending;
- the local context;
- online risks;
- staff training and awareness;
- safeguarding procedures;
- how concerns are identified and reported;
- how the setting promotes an inclusive and respectful environment;
- how concerns are referred for additional support.

Reporting concerns

If a member of staff has a concern that a child, parent/carer or another person may be susceptible to radicalisation or may be at risk of being drawn into terrorism, they must report the concern to the DSL as soon as possible.

The staff member should:

1. Record their concern factually and objectively.
2. Report the concern to the DSL.
3. Follow the setting's normal safeguarding procedures.
4. Not investigate the concern themselves.
5. Not confront or challenge the person about the concern.
6. Maintain confidentiality and only share information with those who need to know.

The DSL will consider the concern and seek advice or make a referral where appropriate.

Prevent concerns should be managed as safeguarding concerns and dealt with proportionately.

Referral to Prevent

Where the DSL considers that a person may be susceptible to being drawn into terrorism, advice or a referral to the local Prevent service may be appropriate.

The current Hertfordshire Prevent contact is:

Email: prevent@hertfordshire.gov.uk

Action Counters Terrorism Early Support Line: 0800 011 3764

If there is an immediate danger or an immediate threat to life, staff must call **999**.

Hertfordshire County Council provides current information about Prevent referrals and the Channel process.

The DSL will seek advice where necessary before making a referral.

Channel

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Channel is part of the Prevent programme and provides early, voluntary support to people who may be susceptible to being drawn into terrorism.

Following a Prevent referral, appropriate professionals may assess whether support would be beneficial.

Support is tailored to the individual and may involve different services depending on their circumstances.

Participation in Channel support is voluntary.

Where a child or family is referred, Playhouse Pre-School will cooperate appropriately with relevant agencies while continuing to follow safeguarding, confidentiality and information-sharing requirements.

Current Channel and Prevent procedures will be followed rather than relying on information contained in this policy where procedures or contact arrangements change.

Information sharing and confidentiality

Prevent concerns will be handled in accordance with our safeguarding and information-sharing procedures.

Information will only be shared where there is a lawful and appropriate reason to do so.

Staff must not promise a child, parent, carer or another person that information relating to a safeguarding concern will remain confidential.

The DSL will seek advice where there is uncertainty about whether information should be shared.

Equality, diversity and non-discrimination

Prevent activity must be carried out fairly and without discrimination.

Playhouse Pre-School recognises that concerns about radicalisation must never be based solely on:

- religion;
- faith;
- ethnicity;
- race;
- nationality;
- culture;
- language;
- political opinion;
- family background;
- disability;
- any other protected characteristic.

We promote an inclusive environment in which children and families are treated fairly and respectfully.

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Staff must distinguish between lawful beliefs, opinions and cultural or religious practices and behaviour that raises a genuine safeguarding concern.

Our Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Policy and Promoting British Values Policy provide further guidance.

This policy was agreed by the staff of Playhouse Pre-School Broadwater.

Adopted on 6th January 2016 and will be reviewed annually.

Reviewed on 29th September 2026 by Z. Munford