Mulberry Academy Shoreditch

# Prevent Strategy

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| **Recommending Body:** | MAS LGB |
| **Approval Body:** | MAS LGB |
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| Version | Reviewed | Changes since last version |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | | Existing |
| 2 | March 2023 | No updates, part of annual review |
| 3 | March 2024 | No updates, part of annual review |
| 4 | March 2025 | Names of DSL lead and Deputy SLT updated |
| 5 | March 2026 | **Page 4**<br>• Updates to how the school will respond to concerns<br>• Update links to relevant government legislation to include the latest versions<br>• Updates to include the risks of misinformation, disinformation and AI<br><br>**Page 6**<br>• Updated names of Prevent Coordinators to include Joshua Mickelburgh as well as Dan Collis<br>• Updated names of Safeguarding Governor |

# Prevent Strategy Policy

Mulberry Academy Shoreditch is committed to providing a secure environment for students, where children feel safe and are kept safe. All adults in our school recognise that safeguarding is everyone's responsibility irrespective of the role they undertake or whether their role has direct contact or responsibility for children or not. In adhering to this policy and procedures staff and visitors will contribute to our school's delivery of the outcomes to all children, as set out in s10 (2) of the Children Act 2004.

This Preventing Extremism and Radicalisation Safeguarding Policy Statement is one element within our overall school arrangements to Safeguard and Promote the Welfare of all Children in line with our statutory duties set out at s175 of the Education Act 2002 (s157 of the Education Act 2002.)

Our school's Preventing Extremism and Radicalisation Safeguarding Policy Statement also draws on:

- Guidance in the "London Child Protection Procedures"
- DfE Guidance "Keeping Children Safe in Education, 2021"
- DCSF Resources "Learning Together to be Safe", "Prevent: Resources Guide", "Tackling Extremism in the UK"
- DfE's "Teaching Approaches that help Build Resilience to Extremism among Young People" and
- Peter Clarke's Report of July 2014.

When operating this policy, we use the following accepted Governmental definition of extremism which 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; and/or calls for the death of members of our armed forces, whether in this country or overseas'.

The full Government Prevent Strategy can be viewed at:
https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/97976/prevent-strategy-review.pdf

There is no place for extremist views of any kind in our school, whether from internal sources (students, staff or governors) or external sources (school community, external agencies or individuals). Our students see our school as a safe place where they can explore controversial issues safely and where our teachers encourage and facilitate this – we have a duty to ensure this happens.

As a school we recognise that extremism and exposure to extremist materials and influences can lead to poor outcomes for children and so should be addressed as a safeguarding concern as set out in this policy. We also recognise that if we fail to challenge extremist views, we are failing to protect our students.

Extremists of all persuasions aim to develop destructive relationships between different communities by promoting division, fear and mistrust of others based on ignorance or prejudice

and thereby limiting the life chances of young people. Education is a powerful weapon against this; equipping young people with the knowledge, skills and critical thinking, to challenge and debate in an informed way. We therefore will provide a broad and balanced curriculum, delivered by skilled professionals, so that our students are enriched, understand and become tolerant of difference and diversity and also to ensure that they thrive, feel valued and not marginalized.

We are also aware that young people can be exposed to extremist influences or prejudiced views from an early age which emanate from a variety of sources and media, including via the internet, and at times students may themselves reflect or display views that may be discriminatory, prejudiced or extremist, including using derogatory language.

Any prejudice, discrimination or extremist views, including derogatory language, displayed by students or staff will always be challenged and where appropriate dealt with in line with our Behaviour Policy for students (http://www.mulberryacademyshoreditch.org/school-policies/) and the Trust Code of Conduct for Staff (https://mulberryschoolstrust.org/trust-policies-and-financial-statements/).

The school's Prevent strategy is guided by the latest government guidance – Prevent duty guidance: England and Wales 2023

As part of wider safeguarding responsibilities school staff will be alert to:

- Disclosures by students of their exposure to the extremist actions, views or materials of others outside of school, such as in their homes or community groups, especially where students have not actively sought these out. Graffiti symbols, writing or art work promoting extremist messages or images
- Students accessing extremist material online, including through social networking sites
- Parental reports of changes in behaviour, friendship or actions and requests for assistance
- Partner schools, local authority services, and police reports of issues affecting students in other schools or settings
- Students voicing opinions drawn from extremist ideologies and narratives
- Use of extremist or 'hate' terms to exclude others or incite violence
- Intolerance of difference, whether secular or religious or, in line with our equalities policy, views based on, but not exclusive to, gender, disability, homophobia, race, colour or culture
- Attempts to impose extremist views or practices on others
- Anti-Western or Anti-British views
- The risk of pupils being radicalised through online conspiracies, disinformation and misinformation, as well as the use of AI to generate extremist material

Our school will closely follow any locally agreed procedure as set out by the Local Authority and/or our Safeguarding Children Board's agreed processes and criteria for safeguarding individuals vulnerable to extremism and radicalisation.

In the event of concerns about a person becoming radicalised, the school will seek advice from the Local Authority Prevent team, and where necessary complete the National Referral Form to make a Prevent Referral.

All staff should be familiar with the Prevent/Channel process. Staff will be given training by the LA Prevent Coordinator to support their understanding of local procedures and contextual updates.

**Teaching Approaches:**

We will all strive to eradicate the myths and assumptions that can lead to some young people becoming alienated and disempowered, especially where the narrow approaches children may experience elsewhere may make it harder for them to challenge or question these radical influences. At Mulberry Academy Shoreditch this will be achieved by good teaching, primarily via our PSHE programme and SMSC curriculum.

We will ensure that all of our teaching approaches help our students build resilience to extremism and give students a positive sense of identity through the development of critical thinking skill. We will ensure that all of our staff are equipped to recognize extremism and are skilled and confident enough to challenge it. We will be flexible enough to adapt our teaching approaches, as appropriate, so as to address specific issues so as to become even more relevant to the current issues of extremism and radicalisation.

Therefore, this approach will be embedded within the ethos of our school so that students know and understand what safe and acceptable behaviour is in the context of extremism and radicalisation.

This will work in conjunction with our schools' approach to the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development will further promote the rounded development of our students.

**Parental and Community Involvement:**

We will also work with local partners, families and communities in our efforts to ensure our school understands and embraces our local context and values in challenging extremist views and to assist in the broadening of our student's experiences and horizons.

**Use of External Agencies and Speakers:**

We encourage the use of external agencies or speakers to enrich the experiences of our students, however we will positively vet those external agencies, individuals or speakers who we engage to provide such learning opportunities or experiences for our students. To do this we will use our authority's guidance for Managing the Work of External Agencies. Such vetting is to ensure that we do not unwittingly use agencies that contradict each other with their messages or that are inconsistent with, or are in complete opposition to, the school's values and ethos. We must be aware that in some instances the work of external agencies may not directly be connected with the rest of the school curriculum so we need to ensure that this work is of benefit to all students. Our school will therefore assess the suitability and effectiveness of input from external agencies or individuals to ensure that:

- All messages communicated to students are consistent with the ethos of the school and do not marginalise any communities, groups or individuals

- All Activities are properly embedded in the curriculum and clearly mapped to schemes of work and matched to the needs of students

By delivering a broad and balanced curriculum, augmented by the use of external sources where appropriate, we will strive to ensure our students recognise risk and build resilience to manage any such risk themselves where appropriate to their age and ability but also to help students develop the critical thinking skills needed to engage in informed debate.

## Whistle Blowing

Where there are concerns of extremism or radicalisation Students and Staff will be encouraged to make use of our internal systems to Whistle Blow or raise any issue in confidence. Please refer to the Mulberry Schools Trust Whistle Blowing Policy which can be found at https://mulberryschoolstrust.org/trust-policies-and-financial-statements/

## Child Protection

Please refer to our Child Protection Policy for the full procedural framework on our Child Protection duties. Staff at our school will be alert to the fact that whilst Extremism and Radicalisation is broadly a safeguarding issue there may be some instances where a child or children may be at direct risk of harm or neglect. For example; this could be due to a child displaying risky behaviours in terms of the activities they are involved in or the groups they are associated with or staff may be aware of information about a child's family that may equally place a child at risk of harm. (These examples are for illustration and are not definitive or exhaustive) Therefore all adults working at our school (including visiting staff, volunteers' contractors, and students on placement) are required to report where they believe a child may be at risk of harm or neglect to the Designated Safeguarding Lead or Headteacher.

## Role of the Designated Safeguarding Lead

The Designated Safeguarding Lead is: Josh Mickelburgh
The Designated PREVENT co-ordinators are Dan Collis and Josh Mickelburgh
The Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead is: Kendra Healey
The nominated safeguarding governor is: Jemel McKenzie

The Designated Safeguarding Lead works in line with the responsibilities as set out in the DfE Statutory Guidance 'Keeping Children Safe in Education 2025'.

The Designated Safeguarding Lead is the focus person and local 'expert' for school staff, and others, who may have concerns about an individual child's safety or wellbeing and is the first point of contact for external agencies.

Where there is a concern regarding the

## Training

Whole school in-service training on Safeguarding and Child Protection will be organised annually for staff and governors and will comply with the prevailing arrangements agreed by the Local Authority and the Safeguarding Children Board and will, in part, include training on extremism and radicalisation and its safeguarding implications.

The Designated Safeguarding Lead will attend training courses as necessary and the appropriate inter-agency training organised by the Safeguarding Children Board at least every two years, again this will include training on extremism and radicalisation and its safeguarding implications.

## Recruitment

The arrangements for recruiting all staff, permanent and volunteers, to our school will follow LA guidance for safer recruitment best practice in education settings, including, but not limited to, ensuring that DBS checks are always made at the appropriate level, that references are always received and checked and that we complete and maintain a single central record of such vetting checks.

We will apply safer recruitment best practice principles and sound employment practice in general and in doing so will deny opportunities for inappropriate recruitment or advancement. We will be alert to the possibility that persons may seek to gain positions within our school so as to unduly influence our schools character and ethos. We are aware that such persons seek to limit the opportunities for our students thereby rendering them vulnerable to extremist views and radicalisation as a consequence. Therefore, by adhering to safer recruitment best practice techniques and by ensuring that there is an on-going culture of vigilance within our school and staff team we will minimise the opportunities for extremist views to prevail.

## Role of Governing Body

The Governing Body of our School will undertake appropriate training to ensure that they are clear about their role and the parameters of their responsibilities as Governors, including their statutory safeguarding duties.

The Governing Body of our school will support the ethos and values of our school and will support the school in tackling extremism and radicalisation.

Details of our Governing Body will be published on our school website to promote transparency. In line with the provisions set out in the DfE guidance 'Keeping Children Safe in Education, 2024' the governing body will challenge the school's senior management team on the delivery of this policy and monitor its effectiveness. Governors will review this policy regularly (every three years) and may amend and adopt it outside of this timeframe in accordance with any new legislation or guidance or in response to any quality assurance recommendations pertaining to the delivery of this policy and the overall safeguarding arrangements made.

## Policy Adoption, Monitoring and Review

This policy was considered and adopted by the Governing body in line with their overall duty to safeguard and promote the welfare of children as set out in the DfE guidance

'Keeping Children Safe in Education 2025'. Parents will be issued with a hard copy of this policy on request. This policy will also be made available to parents via the school website.

The Headteacher will actively evaluate the effectiveness of this policy by monitoring the staff group's understanding and application of the procedures within this policy as their overall duty to safeguard children.