

Prevent Policy

Risk Assessment and Action Plan

The policy is written with due regard to the following:

- *Prevent Duty Guidance: England and Wales (2023).*
- *Keeping Children Safe in Education (September 2026).*
- *The Department for Education guidance on safeguarding learners vulnerable to radicalisation.*
- *Current Dorset safeguarding and Prevent arrangements.*
- *Relevant school safeguarding, online safety, behaviour, visitors and staff code of conduct policies.*

The 2023 Prevent Duty Guidance came into force on 31 December 2023 and replaced the 2015 guidance. KCSIE 2026 is now in force from 1 September 2026. The school will keep this policy under review when statutory guidance or local arrangements change.

What is Prevent?

Prevent is part of the UK's counter-terrorism strategy. Its purpose is to stop people from becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism, including through early intervention where a person may be susceptible to radicalisation.

Within a school, Prevent is part of safeguarding. It is not the role of staff to diagnose radicalisation or determine whether a child has been radicalised. Staff should notice concerns, record them accurately and report them through the school's safeguarding procedures. As a first school educating children aged 4–9, Hillside takes a proportionate and age-appropriate approach. The direct risk of children independently engaging with sophisticated extremist ideology is likely to be low, but children may be exposed indirectly through online content, family or community influences, the views of others, grooming, exploitation or other vulnerabilities.

What is the Prevent duty?

Under section 26 of the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015, schools are subject to a duty to have due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism. Hillside fulfils this duty through its wider safeguarding arrangements.

The school's Prevent responsibilities include:

- assessing the proportionate level of risk of children being drawn into terrorism, including online;
- having effective procedures to identify and respond to children who may be susceptible to radicalisation;

- ensuring staff receive appropriate Prevent awareness and know how to report concerns;
- maintaining appropriate filtering, monitoring and online safety arrangements;
- building resilience through the curriculum and wider school culture;
- ensuring appropriate due diligence and supervision of external speakers and organisations; and
- working with Dorset safeguarding and Prevent partners when concerns arise.

These duties are:

1. Risk Assessment – see Risk Assessment at Appendix 2.

- Assess the general level of risk, taking account of the school's geographical area, local intelligence, intake, age range and the potential for pupils to be exposed to radicalising influences or to be drawn into terrorism.
- Put in place appropriate and proportionate arrangements to identify individual children who may be vulnerable to radicalisation or being drawn into terrorism.
- Review the risk assessment regularly and following any significant change in national, regional or local risk.
- Where specific risks are identified, put in place an appropriate action plan to reduce or manage those risks.

2. Policies and Procedures

Prevent is embedded within the school's existing safeguarding arrangements. Staff should not treat a Prevent concern as a separate process from safeguarding.

The Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy provides the main framework for reporting and responding to concerns.

Staff record concerns on MyConcern and inform the DSL or Deputy DSL in accordance with safeguarding procedures.

The DSL considers the concern alongside the child's wider circumstances, vulnerabilities, contextual factors and protective factors.

Where appropriate, the DSL will seek advice or make a Prevent referral using the current national/local referral arrangements.

Any immediate risk of harm or suspected criminal offence is escalated to the police through the appropriate route.

Visiting speakers and organisations are subject to appropriate due diligence and the school's visitor procedures.

Children who go missing or whose attendance causes concern are dealt with through the school's safeguarding and attendance procedures; these concerns may form part of a wider vulnerability assessment where relevant.

Prevent arrangements are reviewed alongside safeguarding, online safety and filtering/monitoring arrangements.

3. Training

- All staff receive Prevent awareness as part of the school's safeguarding training and induction. Training is proportionate to the school's phase and risk.
- All staff know that Prevent is part of safeguarding and know who the DSL and Deputy DSLs are.
- All staff understand the school's 'Notice, Check, Share' approach and know how to record concerns on MyConcern.
- The DSL and relevant safeguarding staff maintain appropriate Prevent knowledge and complete additional training where required.
- Training needs are reviewed in light of local intelligence, incidents, changes in national guidance and the school's risk assessment.
- Staff are directed to current government Prevent training and resources where further learning is needed.
- At Hillside, the DSL/Prevent Lead is David Graves. Deputy DSLs are Emma Gahan and Lauren Palmer.

4. Building Resilience to Radicalisation

- Hillside builds children's resilience through its existing curriculum and wider school culture. The intention is not to expose young children unnecessarily to terrorist material, but to help them develop the knowledge, relationships and confidence needed to recognise unsafe behaviour, seek help and participate positively in society.

- PSHE and personal development help children manage risk, resist pressure, make safer choices and seek help.
- RE and wider curriculum learning promote understanding of faith, belief, diversity and mutual respect.
- Children are taught age-appropriate online safety and how to report harmful content or seek help.
- Assemblies and wider school life promote democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, mutual respect and tolerance.
- Children are given safe opportunities to discuss difference, disagreement and sensitive issues in an age-appropriate and non-partisan way.
- Staff model respectful challenge and ensure that children feel safe to express concerns.
- Staff should not make assumptions about a child's beliefs, religion, culture, background or identity. Strong opinions, curiosity about politics or religion, or ordinary expressions of identity are not, by themselves, indicators of radicalisation.

5. IT Policies and Training

- The school recognises that online activity can expose children to harmful or extremist material and that radicalisation can occur online. Prevent is therefore integrated into the school's Online Safety and Filtering and Monitoring arrangements.
- The school uses filtering and monitoring systems intended to reduce the likelihood of pupils accessing harmful or extremist material on school networks and devices.
- Filtering and monitoring arrangements are reviewed through the school's safeguarding and online safety procedures.
- Online safety education is delivered in an age-appropriate manner.
- Concerns identified through filtering or monitoring are escalated through safeguarding procedures and recorded where appropriate.
- Staff understand that children may encounter harmful content outside school and that concerning online activity can be a safeguarding concern.

- Technical details of the school's current filtering and monitoring system are maintained in the relevant IT/online safety documentation rather than hard-coded into this policy.

6. Working in Partnership

The school will work with Dorset safeguarding partners, Dorset Council, Dorset Police and other relevant agencies to fulfil its Prevent duty.

The Prevent Lead keeps awareness of relevant local and national risk under review.

The school follows current Dorset safeguarding and Prevent referral arrangements.

The DSL seeks advice from relevant partners where the level or nature of risk is unclear.

Information is shared lawfully and proportionately in accordance with safeguarding and information-sharing guidance.

Prevent referrals are recorded on MyConcern and followed up appropriately.

Where there is uncertainty about whether a concern meets the Prevent threshold, staff should follow the school's safeguarding escalation arrangements and seek advice. The current national guidance states that frontline professionals should use professional judgement and the national referral process where they believe someone may be at risk of being drawn into terrorism.

Current key national guidance includes the Home Office 'Notice, check, share' guidance published in August 2026.

Appendix 1 – Guidance to Staff on Prevent Duty

What is Prevent?

Prevent aims to stop people from becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism. In school it forms part of safeguarding and early intervention.

What is the Prevent duty?

Hillside has a legal duty to have due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism. Staff support this duty by maintaining a safe environment, developing children's resilience and reporting safeguarding concerns.

Behavioural indicators

There is no single route to radicalisation and no single behaviour proves that a child is being radicalised. Staff should consider behaviour in context and report concerns.

significant or unexplained changes in behaviour, relationships or presentation;

increasing isolation, withdrawal or fixation on a grievance or ideology;

concerning online activity or exposure to extremist or terrorist material;

expressions supporting terrorism or terrorist violence;

attempts to influence, recruit or groom others;

persistent intolerance or dehumanising views towards a group of people;

concerning contact with individuals or groups associated with violent extremist activity; and

other information which causes a member of staff to believe that a child may be vulnerable to being drawn into terrorism.

These are indicators for professional consideration, not a checklist. Many have ordinary explanations and may relate to other safeguarding, SEND, wellbeing or family circumstances.

What do you do if you have a concern?

NOTICE → CHECK → SHARE

- Notice the concern and remain professionally curious.
- Check the information you have. Do not investigate beyond your role.
- Record factual information, including the child's own words where relevant, on MyConcern.
- Share the concern promptly with the DSL or Deputy DSL.
- Do not promise confidentiality.
- Do not label a child as 'radicalised'.
- If there is an immediate threat to life or a suspected criminal offence, use the appropriate emergency/police route.
- The DSL will consider whether normal safeguarding action, a Prevent referral or another agency response is required.

Appendix 2 - "Prevent" Risk Assessment and Action Plan

Hillside Community First School has considered the risk of children being drawn into terrorism, including online, in the context of its phase, size and local setting. The current assessment is proportionate to a first school educating children aged 4–9 and will be reviewed annually and whenever significant changes occur.

Duty / Risk	What this means at Hillside	Action / Controls	By whom
Risk assessment	The direct risk is low but children may encounter harmful content or influences online, through family/community contexts or through other safeguarding vulnerabilities.	Review local and national Prevent information; maintain proportionate risk assessment; review following significant incidents.	DSL / Prevent Lead
Policies and procedures	Prevent is embedded within safeguarding, online safety, behaviour and visitor procedures.	All staff use MyConcern; DSL assesses and escalates; current referral routes maintained.	DSL / All staff

Staff awareness	Staff need to recognise concerns without attempting to diagnose radicalisation.	Annual safeguarding/Prevent awareness; induction for new staff; current 'Notice, Check, Share' guidance shared.	DSL
External speakers	External organisations and speakers can introduce risk if appropriate checks are not undertaken.	Named organiser; proportionate due diligence; visitor procedures; supervision; right to refuse where risk is unacceptable.	Headteacher / Organiser
Working in partnership	Local intelligence and specialist advice may be needed.	Maintain links with Dorset safeguarding/Prevent partners; seek advice where uncertain; record referrals and decisions.	Prevent Lead / DSL
Online safety	Children may encounter harmful material online, particularly outside school.	Filtering/monitoring; age-appropriate online safety teaching; safeguarding escalation of concerns.	DSL / Computing lead
Building resilience	Children need age-appropriate skills to manage influence, difference and disagreement.	PSHE, RE, assemblies, curriculum and wider school culture promote respect, democracy and help-seeking.	Curriculum leaders / Staff
Referral	Concerns need a clear, timely route.	Notice, Check, Share; MyConcern; DSL considers Prevent/local safeguarding referral; emergency concerns to police.	All staff / DSL

References:

- Prevent Duty Guidance: England and Wales (2023), Home Office.
- Keeping Children Safe in Education 2026, Department for Education.
- The Prevent duty: safeguarding learners vulnerable to radicalisation, Department for Education.
- Prevent duty: risk assessment templates, Department for Education.
- Notice, check, share, Home Office, August 2026.

- Current Dorset safeguarding and Prevent arrangements.

Useful resources:

- **Prevent Duty Guidance:** <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/prevent-duty-guidance>
- **Keeping Children Safe in Education 2026:** <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/keeping-children-safe-in-education--2>
- **Notice, check, share:** <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/notice-check-share>
- **Prevent risk assessment templates:** <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/prevent-duty-risk-assessment-templates>
- **Prevent safeguarding guidance for education:**
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-prevent-duty-safeguarding-learners-vulnerable-to-radicalisation>

Reviewed by	Headteacher and Deputy DSLs
Date / next review	September 2026 / September 2027