

Prevent Duty Policy



This policy is prepared using the following publications:

- DFE “The Prevent Duty. Departmental advice for Schools and Childcare Providers. June 2015”
- DFE “Keeping Children Safe in Schools July 2015”
- HM Gov channel Guidance- Preventing vulnerable people from being drawn into terrorism 2015.

Statement of intent

From 1st July 2015, all registered Early Years Childcare Providers are subject to a duty under Section 26 of the Counterterrorism and Security Act 2015 to have “due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism”. This duty is known as the Prevent Duty and this policy aims to fulfil this duty.

What is Radicalism?

Radicalism refers to the process by which a person comes to support terrorism and forms of extremism. Protecting children from the risk of radicalisation is part of Little Cherubs wider safeguarding duties. It is similar in nature to protecting children from other forms of harm and abuse. During the process of radicalisation, it is possible to intervene to prevent vulnerable people being radicalised.

There is no single way of identifying an individual who is likely to be susceptible to an extremist ideology. It can happen in many ways and in different settings. Specific background factors may contribute to vulnerability. This combined with specific influences such as family, friends or online influences may lead a vulnerable child to feel an extremist or terrorist group may appear to provide an answer. The internet and the use of social media has become a major factor in the radicalisation of young people.

What is Extremism?

Extremism 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. We also include in our definition of extremism calls for the death of members of our armed forces, whether in this country or overseas.

Constant Practice and Procedure

At the Little Cherubs Day Nursery, it is essential that staff can identify children who may be vulnerable to radicalisation and know what to do when they are identified.

Protecting children from the risk of radicalisation is part of our wider safeguarding duties, and is similar in nature to protecting children from other harms (e.g. drugs, gangs, neglect, sexual exploitation), whether these come from within their family or are the product of outside influences.

We can also build children’s resilience to radicalisation by promoting fundamentally the British Values and enabling them to challenge extremist views. All staff are instructed to challenge extremist and radical views.

In the nursery, we can emphasise this in daily play such as assisting the children's personal, social and emotional development and understanding of the world.

Risk assessment

All the nursery staff, particularly the staff who work directly with the children are expected to assess the risk of children being drawn into terrorism, including support for extremist ideas that are part of terrorist ideology.

This means being able to demonstrate both a general understanding of the risks affecting children and young people in the area and a specific understanding of how to identify individual children who may be at risk of radicalisation and what to do to support them.

As with managing other safeguarding risks, staff should listen to children and be alerted to changes in children's behaviour which could indicate that they may need help or protection. Staff should use their professional judgement in identifying children who might be at risk of radicalisation and act proportionately which may include making a referral to the relevant authorities.

Procedure for reporting concerns

If a member of staff has a concern about a child they should follow the normal safeguarding procedures as outlined in the Safeguarding Policy, including discussing with the designated Safeguarding Officer, who will, where deemed necessary, work with children's social care.

- Concerns about an adult
 - telephone: 0121 675 4806
 - or in an emergency contact the West Midlands Police: 101
- Concerns about a child
 - Email: secure.cass@birmingham.gcsx.gov.uk
 - telephone: 0121 303 1888

Outside normal office hours: Ring the Emergency Duty Team on 0121 675 4806

Review of this policy

- All policies are reviewed at least annually.
- This policy was last reviewed October 2022 by Kayleigh Wadsworth