



We are all 'wonderfully made' by God and loved by Him just as we are.



Peace, Trust, Friendship

Safeguarding at Alderman Cogan's Church of England Primary Academy

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to our first **Safeguarding** Newsletter of the academic year.

At Alderman Cogan's Church of England Primary School, safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is **everyone's responsibility** and our top priority. Anyone who comes into contact with children and their families has a role to play.

This month's newsletter will focus on the Prevent Strategy and how it relates to the teaching of British Values in school.

Thank you,
Mrs Malster-Hinett

Safeguarding Governor Our Safeguarding

Our Safeguarding Governor at Alderman Cogan's CE Primary Academy is Revd Rich Phillips.

The safeguarding governor's responsibilities include:

- Behaviour and recruitment of both staff and volunteers, ensuring the school is following safer recruitment procedures.
- Reviewing all activity and policy relating to the physical and emotional well-being of all children.
- Seeking improvement to ensure the school follows best practice in creating a productive and safe environment for all.

Revd Rich Phillips can be contacted via the school office:

admin.acs@ebor.academy

WHO TO CONTACT IF YOU HAVE A CONCERN ABOUT A CHILD

If you are worried about a child's safety please do not hesitate to contact any of the Designated Safeguarding Team.

The following members of staff are Designated Safeguarding Leads for Alderman Cogan's CE Primary Academy:

Mrs Malster-Hinett (DSL)
Mrs Barnard (DDSL) & Welfare Lead Practitioner.

They can be contacted via the school office, or by telephone on 01482 376203. If your concern is urgent and out of school hours, please contact:
EHASH: 01482 448879

For a copy of our school's Child Protection and Safeguarding 2021 Policy, please visit the 'Safeguarding' page on our website.



[The Prevent Strategy at Alderman Cogan's CE Primary Academy](#)



[What is the Prevent strategy?](#)

Prevent is a government strategy designed to stop people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorist or extremist causes. The Prevent strategy covers all types of terrorism and extremism, including the extreme right wing, violent Islamist groups and other causes.

[How does the Prevent strategy apply to schools?](#)

Since July 2015 all schools (as well as other organisations) have a duty to safeguard children from radicalisation and extremism. This means we have a responsibility to protect children from extremism and violent views the same way we protect them from drugs or gang violence. Importantly, we can provide a safe place for pupils to discuss these issues so they better understand how to protect themselves.

[What does this mean in practice?](#)

Many of the things we already do in school to help children become positive, happy members of society also contribute to the Prevent strategy.

These include:

- Exploring other cultures and religions and promoting diversity
- Challenging prejudices and racist comments
- Developing critical thinking skills and a strong, positive self-identity
- Promoting the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils, as well as British values such as democracy

We will also protect children from the risk of radicalisation, for example by using filters on the internet to make sure they can't access extremist and terrorist material, or by vetting visitors who come into school to work with pupils.

Different schools will carry out the Prevent Duty in different ways, depending on the age of the children and the needs of the community.

The role of the Curriculum

Our curriculum promotes respect, tolerance and diversity. Children are encouraged to share their views and recognise that they are entitled to have their own different beliefs which should not be used to influence others. By building resilience and self-esteem, children are encouraged to stand firm and be positive about others and not be influenced by negative peer pressure they may encounter. Through our curriculum, we can enable children to think for themselves by providing valuable opportunities for discussing, debating, researching and questioning, set within the context of learning based on sound knowledge and understanding.

Our PSHE/SMSC provision is embedded across the curriculum, through the PSHE scheme of work. It directs our worships and underpins the ethos of the school. It is recognised that children with low aspirations are more vulnerable to radicalisation; therefore we strive to equip our pupils with confidence, self-belief, respect and tolerance as well as setting high standards and expectations for themselves. We actively promote knowledge, skills and understanding to build the resilience of all our learners. These complement the key "British Values" of tolerance, respect, democracy and freedom of speech.

Social media is an increasingly influential part of life particularly for young people. All of our staff are aware that social media has been identified as an important tool in the sharing of extreme material and extremist groups are actively using this to inform, share propaganda, radicalise and recruit for their cause. Social media safeguarding is an important element of protecting young people from extremist narratives and Prevent can play an active part in this process. As a result of this, our children are regularly taught about how to stay safe when using the internet and are encouraged to recognise that people are not always who they say they are online. They are taught to seek adult help if they are upset or concerned about anything they read or see on the internet.

Children are supported in making good choices from a very young age, so they understand the impact and consequences of their actions on others.

In RE, children learn about all major faiths and visit places of worship wherever possible.

Ofsted and the Prevent Strategy

When assessing the effectiveness of schools, Ofsted inspectors already consider a school's approach to keeping pupils safe from the risk of radicalisation and extremism, and review the institute's procedures when it is suspected that pupils are being drawn into extremism or terrorist-related activity.

Prevent can work within both violent and non-violent extremism arenas and can include topics such as hate crime, racism, bullying, online safety and extreme political views.

The Counter Terrorism & Security Act 2015:

The Act places a Prevent duty on specified authorities to have "due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism".

Alderman Cogan's Church of England Primary Academy is subject to the Prevent Duty and is expected to demonstrate activity in the following areas –

- Assessing the risk of children being drawn into terrorism
- Demonstrate that they are protecting children and young people from being drawn into terrorism by having robust safeguarding policies.
- Ensure that their safeguarding arrangements take into account the policies and procedures of the Local Safeguarding Children Board.
- Make sure that staff have training that gives them the knowledge and confidence to identify children at risk of being drawn into terrorism, and to challenge extremist ideas which can be used to legitimise terrorism
- Expected to ensure children are safe from terrorist and extremist material when accessing the internet in school.

Indicators

The early identification of safeguarding risks and subsequent intervention activity to protect and divert people away from the risks of radicalisation is a key element of the Prevent strategy. Following an assessment of Prevent activity within a school or college key indicators may be identified which will require further intervention activity within the location. Indicators may include things such as racist graffiti or comments being made on school premises, extremist content being shared on social media, terrorist or extremist propaganda being shared with students or vulnerable students being influenced by others with extreme views.

Supportive Interventions

Prevent Interventions may take many forms. Police activity can be utilised when delivering intervention activity but more often it is partner agency activity that can be the most effective form of intervention. Individuals who are identified as being vulnerable to being drawn into any form of extremism that could lead to terrorist related activity may be referred into Prevent for appropriate support.

[What is Channel?](#)

Channel is a key element of the Prevent strategy. It is a multi-agency approach to protect people at risk from radicalisation. Channel uses existing collaboration between local authorities, statutory partners (such as the education and health sectors, social services, children's and youth services and offender management services), the police and the local community to:

- Identify individuals at risk of being drawn into terrorism
- Assess the nature and extent of that risk
- Develop the most appropriate support plan for the individuals concerned.

Channel is about safeguarding children and adults from being drawn into committing terrorist-related activity. It is about early intervention to protect and divert people away from the risk they face before illegality occurs.

Channel is one tactical option employed by Prevent and has recently been placed on a statutory footing. To understand more about the Channel Programme further information can be found here:

www.gov.uk/government/publications/channel-guidance

Channel vulnerability assessment – Publications – GOV.UK

Staff at Alderman Cogan's Church of England Primary Academy have completed an online training course that covers Prevent and Channel.

[Reporting Concerns](#)

Should concerns require support from other agencies there are a number of ways that issues relating to terrorism and extremism can be reported. These include the following –

- Dept for Education Due Diligence & Counter Extremism Group: 020 7340 7264
- Anti Terrorist Hotline: 0800 789 321
- Crime stoppers: 0800 555 111
- Relevant Police force: 101
- www.gov.uk/report-suspicious-activity-to-mi5
- www.gov.uk/report-terrorism

At Alderman Cogan's Church of England Primary Academy the designated safeguarding lead is the Headteacher.

[Frequently Asked Questions](#)

Frequently Asked Question

Isn't my child too young to learn about extremism?

The Prevent strategy is not just about discussing extremism itself, which may not be appropriate for younger children. However, it is about teaching children values such as tolerance and mutual respect. The school will make sure any discussions are suitable for the age and maturity of the children involved.

Is extremism really a risk in our area?

Extremism can take many forms, including political, religious and misogynistic extremism. Some of these may be a bigger threat in our area than others. We will aim to develop children's own skills to protect themselves from any extremist views they may encounter, now or later in their lives.

KEY TERMS

Extremism – vocal or active opposition to fundamental British values such as democracy, the rule of law and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs

Ideology – a set of beliefs

Terrorism – a violent action against people or property, designed to create fear and advance a political, religious or ideological cause

Radicalisation – the process by which a person comes to support extremism and terrorism