

# **GREENHEART**

## **LEARNING PARTNERSHIP**

### **PREVENT**

## **Position Statement**

**Signed off by Trust Board meeting dated: July 2024**

**Effective from: September 2024**

**Review Date: July 2025**

Greenheart Learning Partnership (GLP) ensures the safety of children is paramount.

We do this by:

- Aiming to provide a safe environment for children to learn
- Listening to what children tell us
- Identifying children who are suffering or likely to suffer significant harm, and taking appropriate action with the aim of making sure that they are kept safe both at home and in the education setting.

To achieve this objective, we:

- Identify instances where there are grounds for concern about a child's welfare and initiate or take appropriate action to keep them safe.
- Contribute to effective partnership working between all those involved in providing services for our children.
- Aim to prevent unsuitable people from working with children.
- Promote safe practice and challenge any poor or unsafe practice.
- Ensure staff receive training as specified by legislation including induction for staff on entry to our academies.

Statutory guidance for England and Wales, issued on 7 September 2023 under [Section 29 of the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015](#) came into force on 31 December 2023, replacing the 2015 guidance. This places a duty on specified authorities, including local authorities and childcare, education and other children's services providers, in the exercise of their functions, to have due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism ("the Prevent duty").

GLP academies should be aware of the signs and symptoms of a young person being at risk of becoming radicalised as per the Partnership Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy

- Changing their style of dress or personal appearance to accord with the group
- Their day-to-day behaviour becoming increasingly centred around an extremist ideology, group or cause
- Loss of interest in other friends and activities not associated with the extremist ideology, group or cause
- Possession of material or symbols associated with an extremist cause (e.g. the swastika for far right groups)
- Attempts to recruit others to the group/cause/ideology
- Communications with others that suggest identification with a group/cause/ideology

The examples above are not exhaustive and vulnerability may manifest itself in other ways. Since 2010, when the Government published the Prevent Strategy, there has been an awareness of the specific need to safeguard children, young people and families from violent extremism.

There have been several occasions both locally and nationally in which extremist groups have attempted to radicalise vulnerable children and young people to hold extreme views including views justifying political, religious, sexist or racist violence, or to steer them into a rigid and narrow ideology that is intolerant of diversity and leaves them vulnerable to future radicalisation.

The Partnership values freedom of speech and the expression of beliefs / ideology as fundamental rights underpinning our society's values. Both pupils/students and teachers have the right to speak freely and voice their opinions. However, freedom comes with responsibility and free speech that is designed to manipulate the vulnerable or that leads to violence and harm of others goes against the moral principles in which freedom of speech is valued. Free speech is not an unqualified privilege; it is subject to laws and policies governing equality, human rights, community safety and community cohesion.

The current threat from terrorism in the United Kingdom may include the exploitation of vulnerable people, to involve them in terrorism or in activity in support of terrorism. The normalisation of extreme views may also make children and young people vulnerable to future manipulation and exploitation. Our academies are clear that this exploitation and radicalisation should be viewed as a safeguarding concern.

The Partnership seeks to protect children and young people against the messages of all violent extremism including, but not restricted to, those linked to Islamist ideology, or to Far Right / Neo Nazi / White Supremacist ideology, Irish Nationalist and Loyalist paramilitary groups, and extremist Animal Rights movements.

Greenheart Local Academy Committees, Headteachers and the Safeguarding Leads will assess the level of risk within academies and put actions in place to reduce that risk.

Our staff group understands when it is appropriate to make a referral to the Channel programme and that when any member of staff has concerns that a pupil may be at risk of radicalisation or involvement in terrorism, they should speak Designated Safeguarding Lead or Partnership DSL.

Relevant issues will be addressed through the PSHE curriculum and through other areas of the curriculum, for example, in Primary academies through circle time, English, History, Drama, Art.

What does this mean in practice?

Many of the things we already do across the academies to help children become positive, happy members of society also contribute to the Partnership Prevent agenda.

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 - Examples of actions academies can take to promote British values are to:
  - Include in suitable parts of the curriculum - as appropriate for the age of pupils - material on the strengths, advantages and disadvantages of democracy, and how democracy and the law work in Britain, in contrast to other forms of government in other countries
  - Ensure all pupils within the academy have a voice that is listened to, and demonstrate how democracy works by actively promoting democratic processes such as a school council whose members are voted for by the pupils
  - Use opportunities such as general or local elections to hold mock elections to promote fundamental British values and provide pupils with the opportunity to learn how to argue and defend points of view
  - Consider the role of extra-curricular activity, including any run directly by pupils, in promoting fundamental British values.

We will also protect children from the risk of radicalisation, for example by using filters on the internet to make sure they cannot access extremist and terrorist material, or by vetting visitors who come into academies to work with pupils. Different academies will carry out the Prevent duty in different ways, depending on the age of the children and the needs of the community.

Greenheart Learning Partnership regularly reviews action plans to ensure that the safeguarding of children is secure whilst undertaking its responsibilities in line with the 'Prevent duty'.