



The National Prevent Strategy Section 26 of the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 places a duty on schools to have due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism. The Prevent Strategy (2011) recognises the link between terrorism and extremist ideology. This policy applies to all staff and students at Rochester Independent College.

The Prevent Duty Guidance 2021 states that independent schools “will need to demonstrate that they are protecting children and young people from being drawn into terrorism by having robust safeguarding policies in place to identify children at risk, and intervening as appropriate. Institutions will need to consider the level of risk to identify the most appropriate referral, which could include Channel or Children’s Social Care, for example. These policies should set out clear protocols for ensuring that any visiting speakers – whether invited by staff or by children themselves – are suitable and appropriately supervised.”

Any concerns received along the themes of PREVENT should be reported in line with the college Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy

Radicalisation refers to the process by which a person comes to support terrorism and extremist ideologies associated with terrorist groups.

Terrorism is an action that endangers or causes serious violence to a person/people; causes serious damage to property; or seriously interferes or disrupts an electronic system. The use or threat must be designed to influence the government or to intimidate the public and is made for the purpose of advancing a political, religious or ideological cause. Terrorism is a by-product of radicalisation.

Extremism is defined as ‘vocal or active opposition to fundamental British values,’ which include

- democracy
- the rule of law
- individual liberty
- mutual respect and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs

We also include within our definition of extremism calls for the death of members of our armed forces.

The **Prevent Strategy** deals with all forms of terrorism and non-violent extremism, which can create an atmosphere conducive to terrorism and can popularise views which terrorists can then exploit. This includes animal rights extremism and far-right nationalism, as well as religious terrorism. It is necessary, to prevent people being drawn into or supporting terrorism, to challenge ideas expressed to legitimise terrorism and to intervene to stop people moving from extremist groups into terrorist activity.

RIC recognises that students can be susceptible to extremist ideology and radicalisation and staff will be alert to changes in student’s behaviour which could indicate that they may be in need of help or protection.

The Government's counter terrorism strategy, CONTEST aims to combat terrorism and radicalisation so that people can go about their daily lives freely and with confidence This consists of the four Ps:

- **Protect** - to strengthen protection against a terrorist attack in the UK or against its interests overseas and so reduce their vulnerability. This work focuses on border security, the transport system, national infrastructure and public places
- **Prepare** - to mitigate the impact of a terrorist attack where that attack cannot be stopped. This includes work to bring a terrorist attack to an end and to increase the UK's resilience to facilitate recovery from its aftermath
- **Pursue** - to stop terrorist attacks by detecting, prosecuting and otherwise disrupting those who plot to carry out attacks against the UK or its interests overseas
- **Prevent** - to stop people from becoming or supporting terrorism. This includes countering terrorist ideology and challenging those who promote it; supporting individuals who are especially vulnerable to becoming radicalised; and working with sectors and institutions where the risk of radicalisation is assessed to be high.

The **Channel programme** focuses on providing support at an early stage to people who are identified as being vulnerable to being drawn into terrorism.

The global pandemic has added an extra challenge to the Prevent Strategy, as more young people have spent more time online and may have been exposed to conspiracy theories and fake news through extremists exploiting coronavirus to create division and hatred by blaming minority groups such as the Chinese, Muslim or Jewish communities.

Schools should be safe places in which children and young people can discuss a wide range of topics, including terrorism and extremism, and learn how to challenge these ideas. The Prevent Strategy is not intended to limit these discussions. At the College we encourage our students to voice their opinions, to think critically, creatively and independently.

Kent.gov.uk states that "Kent has unique characteristics, such as its ports, the Channel Tunnel and its proximity to France. The county remains relatively safe and doesn't have terrorist hotspots that other parts of the UK have. We are working hard to maintain this situation for the people of Kent."

Set out below are the ways the College complies with and supports the Prevent Strategy:

Raising staff awareness of the issue of radicalisation:

- Whole-staff safeguarding training at the beginning of the academic year in September includes Prevent.
- Reference to the Prevent Duty and radicalisation in the Child Protection and Safeguarding policy
- Bi-Annual training from an outside speaker. Sally Green (PREVENT Education Officer Medway) delivered whole college training in September 2023.
- Other staff training undertaken by staff around equality, diversity and inclusion training, widens staff awareness of groups that could otherwise become marginalised
- HM Government PREVENT Duty training on induction of all new staff
- The DSL will complete additional training on PREVENT and the Channel process (HM Government online Prevent Duty and Channel training).

Raising student awareness, both implicitly and explicitly:

- Through academic subjects offered such as Government and Politics, History and Philosophy and PSHE, including how to apply our knowledge and keeping ourselves safe online.
- Teaching and learning strategies that explore controversial issues in a way that promotes critical analysis
- Clubs and activities that promote discussion
- Promoting tolerance and respect and celebrating diversity
- Encouraging student voice and active citizenship
- Form activities in Lower School
- Resources provided from Medway PREVENT Team.
- Votes for Schools assemblies promoting British Values.

Safeguarding:

- The DSL is the single point of contact for all matters concerning Prevent and will keep a record of concerns raised and action taken in accordance with safeguarding procedures.
- Similarly the Safeguarding governor will be kept informed of any Prevent concerns.
- Radicalisation concerns are a safeguarding issue to be passed to the DSL, who will action appropriately, which may involve a referral to the PREVENT team

Concerns to pass on about students and staff would include:

- Expression of anti-British or anti-Western opinions
- Attempts to impose extremist views on others
- Intolerance of the protected characteristics: age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, and sexual orientation
- Using hate or extremist language to incite violence or exclude others
- Disclosures of being exposed to extremist views, actions or materials both in and out of school
- Symbols, images or writing that promotes extremist messages
- Accessing extremist material through social media
- Reports from friends, parents and colleagues about the above
- Expressing opinions of extreme ideologies
- Supporting those at risk through the appropriate support processes
- Working in partnership with others - staff, governors, children's services, police, health professionals, Prevent professionals
- Misogynistic or misandrist views

The DfE has a dedicated telephone helpline for staff and governors to raise concerns around Prevent (020 7340 7264). Concerns can also be raised by email to counter.extremism@education.gsi.gov.uk.

Reporting Concerns

- If we have an immediate concern about the welfare of any persons, then we will contact the Police by calling 999.
- We may [make a referral](#) (if the Safeguarding Team has any concerns or are unsure about making a referral then we will contact Medway Prevent Team by emailing prevent@kent.gov.uk)

- contact the Kent and Medway Prevent Coordinator, Jess Harman by emailing jess.harman@kent.gov.uk
- contact the police on 101 or 0800 789 321 or complete an [online report form](#)
- [report online material promoting terrorism or extremism](#)

Terrorist attacks can sadly lead to spikes in hate crimes against certain groups, and many people in communities across the country are likely to feel vulnerable. Such action is not tolerated, is taken extremely seriously, and should always be reported.

[View guidance on reporting hate crime](#)

Information found online

illegal or harmful information, pictures or videos online, can be reported anonymously: [report your concerns anonymously](#).

Monitoring internet use:

- The College uses Securely as our filtering and monitoring system, it filters internet traffic that comes through the College's network and rules are applied to block extreme or illegal material
- Concerns about accessing radical sites would be reported to the DSL
- Responsible user policies and user agreements in place for students and staff
- The college adheres to all guidance in KCSIE 2023 around filtering and monitoring

External speakers and visitors:

Checks are carried out to verify the speaker's background eg internet research, LinkedIn, reviews from other schools, and a 'request for visiting speaker form' is filled in for the principal to sign off. Further details can be found in the Visiting Speakers policy.

We recognise that students and staff may be at risk of radicalisation. Students who have a concern about another student or anybody else can report it to their form or personal tutor, teacher, boarding member of staff or whoever they feel most comfortable with telling. Students are also able to report concerns anonymously through the Whisper app. .

At Rochester Independent College we are dedicated to promoting values that ensure that our students develop a strong sense of social and moral responsibility. We prepare the students for life in Modern Britain since values such as individual liberty, democracy, the rule of law, mutual respect and tolerance are embedded within the curriculum and the College ethos. The College embodies a democratic model in the way we work, the way we are structured and our general ethos and culture in the College. Additionally our rules and regulations are there for the benefit of everyone, and the College takes a holistic approach to teaching British values rather than concentrating on individual subjects.

Respect and inclusion are qualities we pride ourselves on, and which are taught to all our students both in and out of the classroom, with equal opportunities for all regardless of age, gender, race, religion, disability, or any other protected characteristic as set out in the Equality Act 2010. Our student body

represents a cross section of cultural and social backgrounds, and in our day-to-day contact with students we foster this atmosphere of tolerance and mutual respect whilst developing teamwork, resilience and building self-esteem. These are all values and qualities that we feel are relevant in order to play a full and meaningful role in society, and are promoted via our democratic principles, social mixing, pastoral care and PSHE lessons.

We endeavour to ensure that students:

are reflective about their own beliefs and perspectives on life, and the extent to which they are the same as/different to others' faith, feelings and values;

show an interest in investigating and offering reasoned views about moral and ethical issues, and appreciate the viewpoints of others;

have a sense of enjoyment and fascination in learning about the world around them and participate actively in artistic, sporting or cultural activities;

recognise the difference between right and wrong, understand that actions have consequences, and apply this in their own lives by respecting the law;

cooperate well, celebrate diversity and resolve conflicts effectively;

engage positively with life in a democracy; and

understand and appreciate the history, heritage and wide ranging cultural influences that underpin our individual and shared experience of life in modern Britain.

We are committed to providing a curriculum which:

- is broad and balanced, complies with legislation and provides a wide range of subjects which prepare students for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of life in Modern Britain;
- promotes tolerance of and respect for people of all faiths [or none], cultures and lifestyles through effective spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of students, including by engaging students in extracurricular activity and volunteering in their local community.

In short, we believe that we allow our students to recognise right from wrong, resolve conflicts, understand and explore diversity, develop a moral code, understand others beliefs and understand how communities function.

Kent and Medway Prevent Team

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