

# Prevent Duty and Risk Assessment Policy



**Approved by:** Neil Gage **Date:** 1<sup>st</sup> September 2025

**Last reviewed on:** 1<sup>st</sup> August 2025

**Next review due by:** 1<sup>st</sup> August 2026



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## 1. Statement of Intent

Dovecote School is fully committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all students. As part of this commitment, the school recognises its 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 policy sets out how the school meets the Prevent Duty in line with:

- Keeping Children Safe in Education (DfE, 2025)
- Prevent Duty Guidance (HM Government)
- Working Together to Safeguard Children (2026)
- Independent School Standards

This document also incorporates the school's **Prevent Risk Assessment**, identifying and mitigating risks specific to our context.

## 2. School Context

Dovecote School is part of Cavendish Education and provides specialist education for students with additional needs. Students may present with:

- Social, emotional and mental health needs (SEMH)
- Communication difficulties
- Increased vulnerability to online influence

The school recognises that these factors may increase susceptibility to radicalisation and therefore adopts a safeguarding-led, early intervention approach.

## 3. Key Principles

- Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility
- Prevent is part of wider safeguarding duties
- Early identification and intervention are essential
- Students are supported to build resilience, confidence and critical thinking

## 4. Roles and Responsibilities

### Governing Body – Cavendish Education

- Ensures compliance with Prevent Duty



- Monitors safeguarding arrangements

**Operative Director & Principal:** Ian Thorsteinsson

**Group Compliance, Safeguarding and Quality Director:** Gary Balcombe

### **Headteacher**

#### **Neil Gage**

- Overall responsibility for implementation

### **Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)**

#### **Julie Jackson**

- Leads Prevent strategy
- Makes referrals (including Channel)
- Ensures staff training
- Maintains records

### **Deputy DSLs**

- Sam Andrews – People, Resources and Compliance Manager
- Leah Roberts
- Rachael Auton – Phase 1 Lead
- Mark Thompson – Deputy Head
- Sian Gage – SENCO
- Nicola Maguire – Phase 2 Lead
- Ellie Chilcott – Phase 3 Lead, Family, Inclusion and Wellbeing Coordinator

### **All Staff**

- Complete Prevent training
- Understand signs of radicalisation
- Report concerns immediately

## **5. Identifying Risk and Vulnerability**

Radicalisation may occur through online activity, peer influence or external contacts.

Indicators may include:

- Changes in behaviour, beliefs or attitudes

- Isolation from peers or family
- Exposure to extremist content
- Fixation on ideologies
- Increased secrecy online

These indicators are considered within the wider safeguarding context.

## 6. Prevent Risk Assessment (DfE-Aligned)

Area	Risk	Level	Controls	Further Action	Owner
Local Context	Exposure to extremist influences	Low/Medium	LA Prevent links	Annual review	DSL
Student Vulnerability	SEMH/SEND increases risk	Medium/High	Pastoral & EHCP support	Targeted interventions	DSL/SENCO
Online Safety	Access to harmful content	Medium	Filtering & monitoring	Regular audits	IT/DSL
Staff Awareness	Lack of knowledge	Medium	Training programme	Annual refresh	DSL
Curriculum	Weak resilience education	Low	PSHE/SMSC	Ongoing review	SLT
Visitors	External influence risk	Low	Vetting procedures	Maintain logs	Office/DSL
Behaviour	Expression of extremist views	Low/Medium	Behaviour systems	Monitor trends	SLT

**Overall Risk Level:** Medium (due to student vulnerability)

## 7. Curriculum and Building Resilience

The school promotes British values and supports students to:

- Develop critical thinking
- Respect diversity
- Build resilience to extremist narratives

- Engage safely online

Delivered through:

- PSHE and RSHE
- Personal development curriculum
- Therapeutic approaches
- Online safety education

## **8. Online Safety**

The school recognises the internet as a key risk area.

We ensure:

- Filtering and monitoring systems are effective
- Students are educated about risks
- Staff monitor online behaviour

## **9. Staff Training**

All staff receive:

- Prevent training at induction
- Annual safeguarding updates
- Ongoing guidance

## **10. Reporting Concerns**

All concerns must be reported to the DSL immediately.

The DSL will:

1. Assess risk
2. Record (e.g. CPOMS)
3. Seek external advice
4. Refer to Channel if appropriate

## **11. Working with External Agencies**

The school works with:

- Local Authority safeguarding teams



- Police and Prevent teams
- Channel panels

## **12. Monitoring and Review**

- Reviewed annually or following incidents
- Updated in line with guidance
- Monitored by SLT and governing body

**Next Review:** 01/08/2026

**Responsible Person:** Designated Safeguarding Lead

## **13. Linked Policies**

- Safeguarding & Child Protection
- Behaviour Policy
- Online Safety Policy
- Equality and Diversity Policy
- Staff Code of Conduct