The Abbey Primary School

Preventing Extremism and Radicalisation Policy Statement

Approved by:	Lucy Kelsall HoS	**Date:** 01.09.26
Last reviewed on:	September 2026	
Next review due by:	September 2027	

This policy should be read with the following policies;

- Safeguarding & Child Protection Policy
- Equality Policy
- Anti-Bullying Policy
- Behaviour Policy
- Online Safety Policy
- PREVENT Strategy HM Gov
- Keeping Children Safe in Education DfE 2026
- Working Together to Safeguard Children 2026

1. POLICY STATEMENT

The Abbey Primary school is fully committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all its pupils. Every member of staff recognises that safeguarding against radicalisation and extremism is no different to safeguarding against any other vulnerability in today's society. The Tackling Extremism and Radicalisation Policy sets out our beliefs, strategies and procedures to protect vulnerable individuals from being radicalised or exposed to extremist views, by identifying who they are and promptly providing them with support.

2. LINKS TO OTHER POLICIES

The Abbey Primary Tackling Extremism and Radicalisation Policy links to the following policies;

- Child Protection and Safeguarding
- Equality Policy
- Behaviour Policy
- Online Safety Policy.

The following national guidelines should also be read when working with this policy;

- PREVENT Duty Guidance
  Prevent duty guidance: Guidance for specified authorities in England and Wales (publishing.service.gov.uk)
- Keeping Children Safe in Education DfE 2026
- Working Together to Safeguard Children 2026.

3. AIMS AND PRINCIPLES

3.1 The Abbey Primary School Prevent Policy is intended to provide a framework for dealing with issues relating to vulnerability, radicalisation and exposure to extreme views. We recognise that we are well placed to be able to identify safeguarding issues and this policy clearly sets out how the school will deal with such incidents and identifies how the curriculum and ethos underpins our actions.

There is no place for extremist views of any kind in our school, whether from internal sources (pupils, staff or governors) or external sources (school community, external agencies or individuals). Our pupils see our school as a safe place where they can explore controversial issues safely and where our teachers encourage and facilitate this – we have a duty to ensure this happens. As a

school we recognise that extremism and exposure to extremist materials and influences can lead to poor outcomes for children and so should be addressed as a safeguarding concern as set out in this policy. We also recognise that if we fail to challenge extremist views, we are failing to protect our pupils. Extremists of all persuasions aim to develop destructive relationships between different communities by promoting division, fear and mistrust of others based on ignorance or prejudice and thereby limiting the life chances of young people. Education is a powerful weapon against this; equipping young people with the knowledge, skills and critical thinking, to challenge and debate in an informed way. We therefore will provide a broad and balanced curriculum, delivered by skilled professionals, so that our pupils are enriched, understand and become tolerant of difference and diversity and also to ensure that they thrive, feel valued and not marginalized.

The Abbey Primary School is aware that young people can be exposed to extremist influences or prejudiced views from an early age which emanate from a variety of sources and media, including via the internet, and at times pupils may themselves reflect or display views that may be discriminatory, prejudiced or extremist, including using derogatory language. Any prejudice, discrimination or extremist views, including derogatory language, displayed by pupils or staff will always be challenged and where appropriate dealt with in line with our Behaviour Policy for pupils and the Code of Conduct for Staff.

3.2 The objectives are that:

- All governors, teachers, teaching assistants and non-teaching staff will understand what radicalisation and extremism are and why we need to be vigilant in school.
- All governors, teachers, teaching assistants and non-teaching staff will know what the school policy is on tackling extremism and radicalisation and will follow the policy guidance swiftly if issues arise.
- All pupils will understand the dangers of radicalisation and exposure to extremist views; building resilience against these and knowing what to do if they experience them.
- All parents/carers and pupils will know that the school has policies in place to keep pupils safe from harm and that the school regularly reviews its systems to ensure they are appropriate and effective.

3.3 The main aims of this policy are to ensure that staff are fully engaged in being vigilant about radicalisation; that they overcome professional disbelief that such issues will not happen here and ensure that we work alongside other professional bodies and agencies to ensure that our pupils are safe from harm.

4. DEFINTIONS AND INDICATORS

4.1 Radicalisation is defined as the act or process of making a person more radical or favouring of extreme or fundamental changes in political, economic or social conditions, institutions or habits of the mind.

4.2 Extremism is defined as ‘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; and/or calls for the death of members of our armed forces, whether in this country or overseas.”

4.3 As part of wider safeguarding responsibilities school staff will be alert to:

- Disclosures by pupils of their exposure to the extremist actions, views or materials of others outside of school, such as in their homes or community groups, especially where pupils have not actively sought these out. Graffiti symbols, writing or art work promoting extremist messages or images

● Pupils accessing extremist material online, including through social networking sites

● Parental reports of changes in behaviour, friendship or actions and requests for assistance

● Partner schools, local authority services, and police reports of issues affecting pupils in other schools or settings

● Pupils voicing opinions drawn from extremist ideologies and narratives

● Use of extremist or 'hate' terms to exclude others or incite violence

● Intolerance of difference, whether secular or religious or, in line with our equalities policy, views based on, but not exclusive to the protected characteristics.

● Attempts to impose extremist views or practices on others

● Anti-Western or Anti-British views

Our school will closely follow any locally agreed procedure as set out by our Trust, the Local Authority and/or our Safeguarding Children Board's agreed processes and criteria for safeguarding individuals vulnerable to extremism and radicalisation. In the event of concerns about a person becoming radicalised consideration will be given to using the LA Channel process. All staff should be familiar with the channel process and complete annual PREVENT training.

More information can be found at: Prevent | Northamptonshire Police (northants.police.uk)

5. PROCEDURES FOR REFERRALS

5.1 It is important for us to be constantly vigilant and remain fully informed about the issues which affect the local area in which we teach. Staff are reminded to suspend any 'professional disbelief' that instances of radicalisation 'could not happen here' and to be 'professionally inquisitive' where concerns arise, referring any concerns through the appropriate channels.

(See appendix 1 – Dealing with referrals)

5.2 We believe that it is possible to intervene to protect people who are vulnerable. Early intervention is vital and staff must be aware of the established processes for front line professionals to refer concerns about individuals and/or groups. We must have the confidence to challenge, the confidence to intervene and ensure that we have strong safeguarding practices based on the most up-to-date guidance and best practise.

5.3 The Headteacher is trained as Designated Safeguarding Lead for Child Protection and Safeguarding and will deal swiftly with any referrals made by staff or with concerns reported by staff.

5.4 The Headteacher will discuss the most appropriate course of action on a case-by-case basis and will decide when a referral to external agencies is needed (see appendix 1 – Dealing with referrals)

5.5 As with any child protection referral, staff must be made aware that if they do not agree with a decision not to refer, they can make the referral themselves.

6. GOVERNORS, LEADERS AND STAFF

6.1 The Headteacher and Deputy Headteacher are the leaders for referrals relating to extremism and radicalisation. In the unlikely event that the Headteacher / Deputy Headteacher are not available another Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead will make the referral.

6.2 Governors and staff will be fully briefed about what to do if they are concerned about the possibility of radicalisation relating to a pupil, or if they need to discuss specific children whom they consider to be vulnerable to radicalisation or extremist views.

6.3 Designated Safeguarding Leads will work closely with external agencies to decide the best course of action to address concerns which arise.

6.4 Prejudicial behaviour can be a factor in radicalisation and extremism. With this in mind, The Abbey has updated procedures for dealing with prejudicial behaviour, as outlined in the Equality Policy.

7. THE ROLE OF THE CURRICULUM

7.1 Our curriculum is 'broad and balanced'. It 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.

7.2 Our core values and 5Bs are embedded across the curriculum and underpin the ethos of the school. It is recognised that children with low aspirations are more vulnerable to radicalisation and therefore we strive to equip our pupils with confidence, self-belief, respect and tolerance as well as setting high standards and expectations for themselves.

7.3 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.

8. STAFF TRAINING

8.1 Through training opportunities in school, we will ensure that our staff are fully aware of the threats, risks and vulnerabilities that are linked to radicalisation; are aware of the process of radicalisation and how this might be identified early on and are aware of how we can provide support as a school to ensure that our children are resilient and able to resist involvement in radical or extreme activities.

9. VISITORS AND THE USE OF SCHOOL PREMISES

9.1 If any member of staff wishes to invite a visitor in the school, they must request agreement from the Headteacher before the visitor can enter school and then they will be subject to Safeguarding Checks including checking their DBS and photo identification.

9.2 Upon arriving at the school, all visitors including contractors, will read the child protection and safeguarding guidance and be made aware of who the DSLs are and how to report any concerns which they may experience.

9.3 If any agreement is made to allow non-school groups or organisations to use the premises, appropriate checks will be made before agreeing the contract. Usage will be monitored and in the event of any behaviour not in-keeping with the Prevent Policy, the school will contact the police and terminate the contract.

10. ADDITIONAL MATERIALS

10.1 See Appendix 3 for further reading

11. POLICY REVIEW

11.1 The Abbey Primary School Prevent Policy will be reviewed annually as part of the overall Child Protection and Safeguarding policy review.

Appendix 1 – Dealing with referrals

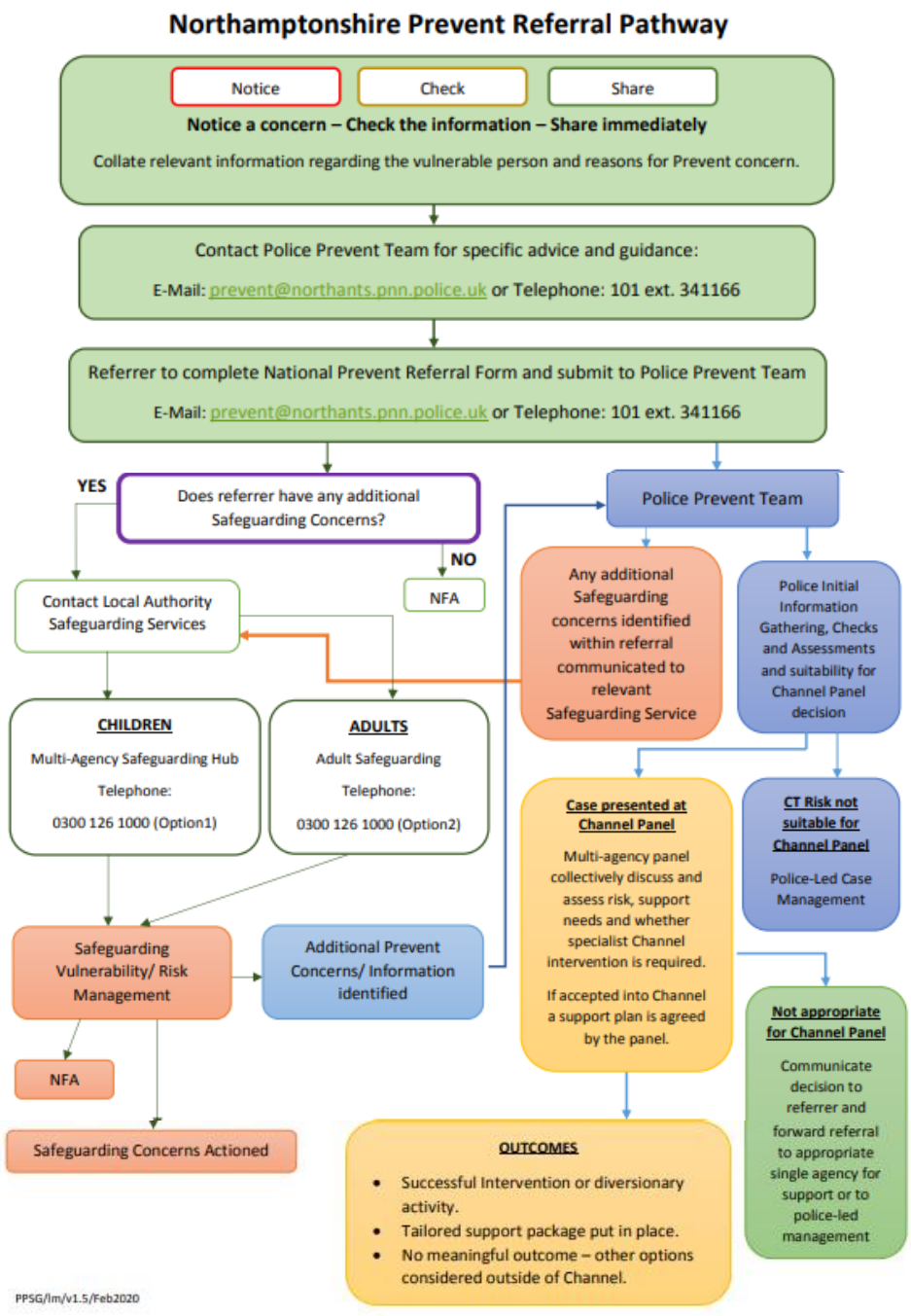
We are aware of the potential indicating factors that a child is vulnerable to being radicalised or exposed to extreme views, including peer pressure, influence from other people or the internet, bullying, crime and anti-social behaviour, family tensions, race/hate crime, lack of self-esteem or identity, prejudicial behaviour and personal or political grievances

In the event of prejudicial behaviour the following system will be followed;

- All incidents of prejudicial behaviour will be reported directly to a Designated Safeguarding Lead.
- All incidents will be fully investigated and recorded using My Concern.
- Parents/carers will be contacted and the incident discussed in detail, aiming to identify motivating factors, any changes in circumstances at home, parental views of the incident and to assess whether the incident is serious enough to warrant a further referral. A note of this meeting is kept alongside the initial referral on My Concern.
- The DSLs will follow-up any referrals for a period of four weeks after the incident to assess whether there is a change in behaviour and/or attitude. A further meeting with parents would be held if there is not a significant positive change in behaviour.
- If deemed necessary, serious incidents will be discussed and referred to MASH: Monday to Friday, 8am to 6pm: telephone 0300 126 7000 - select option 1 for children and option 2 for adults. Online referral form: Complete an Online Referral (Link)
- In the event of a referral relating to serious concerns about potential radicalisation or extremism, the school will also contact Northampton Police: Prevent: 101 then option 1, Ash Sparks Prevent Constable Tel: 101 Ext: 348927 Mobile: 07557778423 Email: prevent@northants.pnn.police.uk Website: Prevent | Northamptonshire Police (northants.police.uk)
- Please see Northamptonshire Prevent Referral Pathway below:

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Appendix 2 – Staff



Safeguarding Training

Whole school in-service training on Safeguarding and Child Protection will be organised annually for staff and governors and will comply with the prevailing arrangements agreed by the Local Authority and the Safeguarding Children Board and will, in part, include training on extremism and radicalisation and its safeguarding implications. Additional training on extremism and radicalisation is also completed yearly by all staff online via an E-learning platform. The school also invites Police Officers from the PREVENT team in Northampton into school to deliver whole staff training at least every three years. The Designated Safeguarding Leads will attend training courses as necessary, and the appropriate inter-agency training organised by the Safeguarding Children Board at least every two years, again this will include training on extremism and radicalisation and its safeguarding implications.

Appendix 3 - Additional materials referred to:

- The Prevent Strategy, GOV.UK – HomeOffice
- Keeping Children Safe in Education DfE 2026
- Working Together to Safeguard Children 2026
- Prevent duty self-assessment tool for schools 2025
- Managing risk of radicalisation in your education setting 2023
- Understanding and identifying radicalisation risk in your education setting 2023
- The Prevent duty: an introduction for those with safeguarding responsibilities 2023
- The Prevent duty: safeguarding learners vulnerable to radicalisation: Case studies 2023