

Prevent Policy

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.

Matthew 5:9

Ampleforth College

Person responsible for Policy	Designated Safeguarding Lead Ampleforth College
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Policy at a glance:

- This policy sets the Prevent Duty at Ampleforth College.
- The policy explains how the College safeguards students and staff from being radicalized or drawn into extremism through risk assessment, working in partnership, training of staff, IT policies and education for students.
- The policy outlines the reporting of concerns and provides link for further resources.

The Prevent duty is the duty in the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 on specified authorities, in the exercise of their functions, to have due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism.

From 1 July 2015 as a school, we are subject to a duty under section 26 of the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015, in the exercise of our function, to have “due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism”. This duty is known as the Prevent duty. Prevent forms part of the wider UK government CONTEST counter-terrorism strategy.

This policy has been drafted to ensure that all staff think about what they can do to protect our students from the risk of radicalisation and if a concern arises what support can be accessed to protect children from this risk.

This policy has been drafted to take into consideration to The Prevent Duty Departmental advice for schools and childcare providers June 2015 and Prevent Duty Guidance for Specified Authorities in England and Wales (31 December 2023).

Contents

1. Prevent Duty at Ampleforth College
2. Key Definitions
3. Risk Assessment
4. Working in Partnership
5. Staff Training
6. IT Policies
7. Building Resilience to Radicalisation
8. Reporting a Concern
9. Review and Audit
10. Role of the Prevent Officer
11. Further Resources

1. Prevent Duty at Ampleforth College

It is essential that staff at Ampleforth College are able to identify children who may be vulnerable to radicalisation, and know what to do when they are identified.

Protecting children from the risk of radicalisation is part of Ampleforth College wider safeguarding duties, and is similar in nature to protecting children from other harms (e.g. drugs, gangs, neglect, sexual exploitation), whether these come from within their family or are the product of outside influences.

Ampleforth College builds our students' resilience to radicalisation by promoting fundamental British values and enabling them to challenge extremist views.

The Prevent duty in Ampleforth College is not intended to stop students debating controversial issues. On the contrary, we provide a safe space in which our students and staff can understand the risks associated with terrorism and develop the knowledge and skills to be able to challenge extremist arguments.

2. Key Definitions

Extremism

Extremism is the promotion or advancement of an ideology based on violence, hatred or intolerance, that aims to:

- (1) negate or destroy the fundamental rights and freedoms of others; or
- (2) undermine, overturn or replace the UK's system of liberal parliamentary democracy and democratic rights; or
- (3) intentionally create a permissive environment for others to achieve the results in (1) or (2).

Radicalisation

The process by which a person comes to support terrorism and forms of extremism leading to terrorism. During that process it is possible to intervene to prevent vulnerable people being drawn into terrorist-related activity.

Terrorism

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.

3. Risk Assessment

Ampleforth College has a Prevent Risk Assessment that assesses the risks of children being drawn into terrorism, including support for extremist ideas that are part of terrorist ideology.

The College's Prevent Risk Assessment also states the mitigations put in place to reduce those risks.

We risk assess in order to ascertain an understanding of the risks affecting our students in the area and a specific understanding of how to identify individual students who may be at risk of radicalisation and what to do to support them.

We understand that the general risks affecting students may vary from area to area, and according to their age. The College acknowledges that we are in an important position to identify risks within a given local context.

The College maintains it is important to understand these risks so that we can respond in an appropriate and proportionate way.

Whilst we understand that our students may be at risk based on their geographical location, we are aware of the increased risk of online radicalisation, as terrorist organisations seek to radicalise young people through the use of social media and the internet.

The College is aware that risks can take many forms, including Islamist Extremism, as well as radicalisation from the extreme right, neo-fascism and INCEL.

Our Local Authority PREVENT support Team are:

Principal Safer Communities Officer (Community Safety and Prevent) – Lesley Gray

Contactable at:

Email: Lesley.Gray@northyorks.gov.uk

Telephone: 01609 533487

The College maintains that there is no single way of identifying an individual student who is likely to be susceptible to a terrorist ideology. As with managing other safeguarding risks, staff should be alert to changes in children's behaviour which could indicate that they may be in need of help or protection.

Students at risk of radicalisation may display different signs or seek to hide their views. Staff should use their professional judgement in identifying children who might be at risk of radicalisation and act proportionately.

The College has clear procedures in place for protecting children at risk of radicalisation as set out in our Safeguarding Policy and in our Prevent Risk Assessment. The general safeguarding principles apply to keeping children safe from the risk of radicalisation as set out in the relevant statutory guidance, Working Together to Safeguard Children (2023) and Keeping Children Safe in Education (2024).

As part of the risk assessment for the Prevent duty the College understands the importance of knowing when to refer to the Channel programme. The College follows the guidelines outlined in the North Yorkshire Community Safety Partnership.

<https://www.safeguardingchildren.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/NY-Channel-Leaflet-for-professionals-2020.pdf>

Channel is a programme which focuses on providing support at an early stage to people who are identified as being vulnerable to being drawn into terrorism. It provides a mechanism for schools to make referrals if they are concerned that an individual might be vulnerable to radicalisation. An individual's engagement with the programme is entirely voluntary at all stages.

The programme uses a multi-agency approach to protect vulnerable people by:

- identifying individuals at risk
- assessing the nature and extent of that risk
- developing the most appropriate support plan for the individuals concerned

Where a professional has identified the need to refer an individual, the relevant safeguarding procedures should be followed to ensure that an appropriate referral is made to Children's Social Care or Health and Adult Services in an effective and timely way.

In such circumstances the College will follow the North Yorkshire Community Safety Partnership's Working with Individuals Vulnerable to Extremism in Education Settings [NYSCP](#)

In circumstances where a student is believed to be involved in terrorism, the College will also refer directly to the police if the appropriate threshold has been met in line with official guidance.

The College will undertake a risk assessment on all visiting speakers to our school to ensure that they are appropriate and safe to be in contact with our students. Further details are contained in our Safeguarding Policy.

4. Working in Partnership

We understand that the Prevent Duty builds on existing local partnership arrangements. We uphold our professional relationship with the Local Authority and Social Services. Information can be found here: <https://www.nypartnerships.org.uk/prevent>; <https://cyps.northyorks.gov.uk/prevent>

In addition to the Local Authority we uphold a relationship with the Police. Information can be found here: [Staying safe from terrorism | North Yorkshire Police](#)

The College understands that in addition to local professional partnerships is paramount to maintain effective engagement with parents and carers as they are in a key position to spot signs of radicalisation. We will assist and advise families who raise concerns and will be able to point them to the right support mechanisms.

5. Staff Training

We understand that training will equip staff to identify students at risk of being drawn into terrorism and to challenge extremist ideas.

The Designated Safeguarding Lead (who is also the Prevent Officer) has undertaken Prevent and Channel referral, and Panel, training. The DSL undertook a renewal of the Prevent Awareness certificate on 16 January 2025.

All staff are required to complete the Home Office's E-Learning Prevent training as part of their induction, and Prevent awareness is included in the College's initial safeguarding presentation to all staff. The DSL (College Prevent Officer) shares additional information with staff in order to refresh understanding of duties in this area.

6. IT Policies

At Ampleforth College we do our best to ensure that children are safe from terrorist and extremist material when accessing the internet in school. Following para. 29 of Prevent Duty Guidance (Dec. 2023) we recognize that online radicalisation presents the greatest risk in terms of the exposure of young people to extremist ideologies.

In line with para. 186 of Prevent Duty Guidance (Dec. 2023) the College has suitable filtering in place as contained within our IT Policy. Following KCISE (2024) paras. 140-144; Meeting Digital and Technology Standards in Schools and Colleges (DfE 2023); and the College's Online Safety Policy, all devices and all users connecting to the College's network and WIFI are scanned in real-time by filtering and monitoring software. The Sophos FastVue software is compliant with the requirement to block terrorist-related content, and Sophos is registered with the Counter-Terrorism Internet Referral Unit list (CTIRU). The operation of the SOPHOS software is reviewed at least annually to check that terrorism-related content is being blocked. The most recent check was undertaken using the SWGFL compliance tool on 01/08/2024 and it was found to be compliant.

Should any user behaviour result in the software detecting concerns around terrorism or extremism the DSL (as Prevent Officer) will log this and follow-up. If the user behaviour is deemed to be a cause for concern, the DSL will follow local Prevent reporting procedures, in line with the College's Safeguarding and Child Protection Policies and Procedures.

The terms that are blocked by the College's Firewall are reviewed periodically, and if the need arises, new search terms or websites may be added to the blocked list. The Firewall is checked annually using the SWGFL compliance tool to ensure that it blocks terrorist content.

Internet safety is integral to the Ampleforth College curriculum and is embedded in our PSHE programme (Christian Living).

Our teachers are aware of the risks posed by the online activity of extremist and terrorist groups.

7. Building resilience to radicalisation

We build students' resilience to radicalisation by providing a safe environment for debating controversial issues and helping them to understand how they can influence and participate in decision-making.

We promote the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of students and, within this, fundamental British Values, in line with paras. 180-181 of Prevent Duty Guidance (Dec. 2023)

Through Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE - Christian Living) we are able to provide students with time to explore sensitive or controversial issues, and equipping them with the knowledge and skills to understand and manage difficult situations. This provision includes lectures tailored to year-groups around the dangers of radicalisation, extremism and terrorism, and the operation of the Prevent Duty at Ampleforth, as well as other UK anti-terrorist procedures.

Through this subject we teach our students to recognise and manage risk, make safer choices, and recognise when pressure from others threatens their personal safety and wellbeing. They are taught to develop effective ways of resisting pressures, including knowing when, where and how to get help.

Through PSHE we encourage students to develop positive character traits, such as resilience, determination, self-esteem, and confidence.

Citizenship helps to provide students with the knowledge, skills and understanding to prepare them to play a full and active part in society. It should equip students to explore political and social issues critically, to weigh evidence, to debate, and to make reasoned arguments. In Citizenship, students learn about democracy, government and how laws are made and upheld.

Our students are also taught about the diverse national, regional, religious and ethnic identities in the United Kingdom and the need for mutual respect and understanding.

8. Reporting a concern

If a member of staff at the College has a concern about a particular student they should follow the safeguarding reporting procedures found in the Safeguarding Policy.

Any concerns about a student should initially be logged on CPOMS or submitted via the Safeguarding Concern Reporting Form and then discussed with the DSL (College Prevent Officer). If the relevant thresholds are met, the DSL (College Prevent Officer) will make a referral in line with the NYSCP guidelines for Prevent. The DSL (College Prevent Officer) will also seek NYSCP guidance relating to the threshold for a specific concern if this is not clear.

The College may contact our local police force or dial 101 (the non-emergency number).

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

The helpline is not for use in emergency situations, such as a child being at immediate risk of harm or a security incident, in which case the normal emergency procedures should be followed.

9. Review and Audit

The College will undertake an annual Prevent Self-assessment review using the NYCSP template contained in the document:

[NYSCP](#)

Any actions arising from this review will be completed in a timely manner.

10. Role of the Prevent Officer

In line with paras. 73 and 151 of the Prevent Duty Guidance (Dec. 2023) the College's DSL is the Prevent Officer. The Prevent Officer undertakes regular training and this was most recently updated on 15 November 2023.

The Prevent Officer is responsible for:

- Implementation of Prevent related guidelines within the College
- Updating the Headmaster and Governors on any Prevent-related issues
- Dissemination of information and training and staff in relation to Prevent
- Liaison with relevant external agencies, including making any referrals in line with North Yorkshire Council procedures
- Maintaining a record of any Prevent-related concerns
- Educating students around the risks of radicalisation and extremism

11. Further resources

[Keeping Children Safe in Education \(DfE, 2024\)](#)

[HM Government Prevent Duty Guidance \(2023\)](#)

[HM Government definition of extremism \(2024\)](#)

Educate Against Hate <https://educateagainsthate.com/>

UK Home Office, Channel and Prevent Multi-Agency Panel Guidance

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/channel-and-prevent-multi-agency-panel-pmap-guidance>

North Yorkshire Partnerships Prevent <https://www.nypartnerships.org.uk/prevent>

North Yorkshire Community Safety Partnership
<https://edemocracy.northyorks.gov.uk/documents/s38389/Community+Safety+Update.pdf>