

Radicalisation, Extremism & Prevent Policy



1. Why this policy matters

At Lewis School of English, we are committed to providing a safe, respectful and inclusive environment for students, staff, hosts and visitors.

This policy explains how we respond to concerns about radicalisation and extremism as part of our wider safeguarding responsibilities.

2. What we mean

Radicalisation is when a person becomes more open to extremist ideas or support for terrorism.

Extremism includes promoting violence, hatred or intolerance in ways that can harm other people's rights, safety or freedom.

Prevent is part of the UK's work to help stop people from being drawn into terrorism. In schools, this is treated as part of safeguarding.

3. What we expect

We expect everyone in our school community to:

- behave respectfully towards others
- respect different backgrounds, faiths and beliefs
- avoid hateful, threatening or extremist behaviour
- raise concerns through the proper school channels

We value freedom of speech within the law, individual liberty, mutual respect and the rule of law.

4. Recognising concerns

There is no single sign that a person is being radicalised. Concerns may relate to behaviour, language, online activity, relationships or responses to sensitive topics.

Possible concerns may include:

- expressing support for terrorist violence or groups
- using repeated extremist or hateful language
- trying to intimidate others because of religion, race, nationality, sex, sexual orientation or other characteristics
- sharing extremist material
- repeated interest in violent extremist content online
- trying to draw others into extremist beliefs or activity

These signs do not prove radicalisation on their own. Staff should report concerns rather than make assumptions.

5. Lessons, discussion and the learning environment

At Lewis School of English, students may discuss political, religious or social issues in lessons. This is not in itself a concern.

Staff should manage sensitive topics carefully, encourage respectful discussion and challenge hateful, threatening or extremist behaviour where needed.

We want students to be able to express views lawfully and respectfully, without using those views to pressure, intimidate or influence others in harmful ways.

6. Reporting concerns

If a member of staff is worried that a student or another person may be vulnerable to radicalisation, or may be showing extremist behaviour that raises a safeguarding concern, they must report this promptly to the Designated Safeguarding Lead or Deputy DSL.

Staff should:

- record what they have seen or heard
- use factual language
- avoid investigating the matter themselves
- avoid promising confidentiality where there is a safeguarding concern

If there is an immediate risk of harm, staff must follow the school's emergency and safeguarding procedures straight away.

7. What happens next

If a concern is reported, we will look at it carefully and decide what action is needed under our safeguarding procedures.

This may include:

- support and monitoring in school
- speaking to the student in a suitable safeguarding context
- asking advice from relevant professionals or agencies
- considering referral to Prevent or Channel, where appropriate
- taking other safeguarding or discipline action where needed

8. Online safety

Online content can play a part in radicalisation.

Staff should remain alert to concerns about:

- extremist or terrorist content online
- sharing of extremist material
- attempts to influence or recruit others online
- threatening or hateful messages linked to extremist beliefs

Concerns about online behaviour must be reported through the same safeguarding route.

9. Equality, respect and fair treatment

This policy must not be used to target or stigmatise anyone because of their religion, nationality, ethnicity, political views or other protected characteristics.

Concerns must be based on behaviour, safeguarding indicators and evidence, not on assumptions or stereotypes.

10. Linked policies

This policy should be read with our:

- Safeguarding Policy
- Equality Policy
- Discipline Policy – Adults
- Discipline Policy – Junior Programmes
- Online Safeguarding Procedures

You can find our school policies at: <https://lewis-school.co.uk/school-policies/>

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