

Safeguarding and Welfare Requirement: Child Protection

Providers must have and implement a policy, and procedures, to safeguard children.

1.10 Prevent duty

Policy statement

This policy is prepared using the following publications DFE “The Prevent duty. Departmental advice for schools and childcare providers. June 2015” DFE “Keeping children safe in schools July 2015” HM Gov. channel Guidance- Preventing vulnerable people from being drawn into terrorism 2015.

From 1 July 2015 all schools , registered early years childcare providers and registered later years childcare providers (referred to in this advice as ‘childcare providers’) are subject to a duty under section 26 of the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015, in the exercise of their functions, to have “due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism”. This duty is known as the Prevent duty. It applies to a wide range of public-facing bodies.

What is Radicalism?

Radicalism refers to the process by which a person comes to support terrorism and forms of extremism. Protecting children from the risk of radicalisation is seen as part of Little Fingers Pre-school’s wider safeguarding duties, and is similar in nature to protecting children from other forms of harm and abuse. During the process of radicalisation it is possible to intervene to prevent vulnerable people being radicalised. There is no single way of identifying an individual who is likely to be susceptible to an extremist ideology. It can happen in many different ways and settings. Specific background factors may contribute to vulnerability which are often combined with specific influences such as family, friends or online, and with specific needs for which an extremist or terrorist group may appear to provide an answer. The internet and the use of social media in particular has become a major factor in the radicalisation of young people.

What is Extremism?

Extremism is 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. We also include in our definition of extremism calls for the death of members of our armed forces, whether in this country or overseas.

Constant practice and procedure

At Little Fingers Pre-school, it is essential that staff 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 seen as part of our pre-schools’ 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.

We can also build pupils' resilience to radicalisation by promoting fundamental British values and enabling them to challenge extremist views.

All staff are instructed to challenge extremist and radical views. In the pre-school we can help children understand the risks associated with terrorism by emphasising the risks in daily work such as assisting the children's personal, social and emotional development and understanding of the world.

All staff are DBS checked.

Risk assessment

All the pre-school staff, particularly the staff who work directly with the children are expected to assess the risk of children being drawn into terrorism, including support for extremist ideas that are part of terrorist ideology.

This means being able to demonstrate both a general understanding of the risks affecting children and young people in the area and a specific understanding of how to identify individual children who may be at risk of radicalisation and what to do to support them.

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. Staff should use their professional judgement in identifying children who might be at risk of radicalisation and act proportionately which may include making a referral to the Channel program (see appendix one for further information on Channel)

Procedure for reporting concerns

If a member of staff in the pre-school has a concern about a particular child they should follow the school's normal safeguarding procedures, including discussing with the school's designated safeguarding lead, who will, where deemed necessary, with children's social care.

You can also contact your local police force or dial 101 (the non-emergency number). They can talk to you in confidence about your concerns and help you gain access to support and advice. Also, they can advise if this would be a case for Channel The Department for Education has dedicated a telephone helpline (020 7340 7264) to enable staff to raise concerns relating to extremism directly.

Concerns can also be raised by email to counter.extremism@education.gsi.gov.uk.

Appendix one

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.

Section 36 of the CTSA 2015 places a duty on local authorities to ensure Channel panels are in place. The panel must be chaired by the local authority and include the police for the relevant local authority area.

Following a referral the panel will assess the extent to which identified individuals are vulnerable to being drawn into terrorism, and, where considered appropriate and necessary consent is obtained, arrange for support to be provided to those individuals.

Channel is available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/channel-guidance>

Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub For consultations/advice on concerns about a child 0344 8008020 Local number (This number is available 24 hours a day; between 08.00am to 06.00pm the call will be passed to the Access Team, outside those hours the call will go to the Duty Team.)

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

This policy was adopted by

Little Fingers Pre-school

On

Date to be reviewed

March 2022

Signed on behalf of the provider

Name of signatory

Carolyn Coleman

Role of signatory (e.g. chair, director or owner)

Chair