

PREVENT STRATEGY		Policy Ref: STR001
1.	Purpose	
	This documents sets out the SMB Group approach and implementation of the Government's Prevent Strategy	
2.	Scope	
3.	Policy Statement	
	This strategy has been updated in the light of latest Prevent duty guidance for FE institutions, published by the Home Office in April 2021 and other good practice guidance. It should be read in conjunction with the SMB Group's commitment to promote 'British Values' and the SMB Group Prevent Action Plan. It should also be read in relation to SMB Group policies for safeguarding, online safety, student behaviour and equality and diversity.	
4.	Responsibilities	
	As defined in section 4 of the policy	
5.	Equality and Diversity Impact Measures	
	The SMB Group has considered the Equality and Diversity implications in relation to the rules and policies set out in this document. It does not consider them to unduly impact upon any protected group.	
6.	Environmental Impact Assessment	
	The SMB Group has considered environmental implications in relation to the rules and policies set out in this document. The SMB Group considers the environmental impact to be neutral.	
7.	Data Protection Impact	
	The impact of this policy on an individual's data has been considered and necessary actions implemented	
8.	Associated Policies, Processes, Procedures or Guidance	
	The following are policies, processes, procedure or guidance which should be referred to alongside this policy: Safeguarding Policy Student Behaviour Policy Single Equality Policy	

Person Responsible for Policy Head of Student Safeguarding, Wellbeing and Residential Services

Improvement

Date Policy Written December 2022
 Date Approved by SMT January 2023
 Date Approved by Governors/ NA
 Date for Review December 2024

Version	Date	Status & changes	Author
1	December 2022	Updated version in line with current processes and protocols	L Cox

PREVENT STRATEGY

1 CONTEXT

In 2011 the Government published its Prevent Strategy designed to; (1) respond to the ideological challenge of terrorism and those that promote it; (2) prevent people from being drawn into terrorism and ensure that they are given appropriate support and (3) work with sectors and institutions where there are risks of radicalisation or extremism* that need to be addressed.

The Counter –Terrorism and Security Act (2015) contains a duty on specified authorities, including education authorities to take steps to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism. This is known as the Prevent duty. Guidance on the ‘Prevent Duty’ of FE SMB Groups was first published in 2015 and was last updated in April 2021. The Prevent Duty requires SMB Groups to establish mechanisms for understanding the risks of radicalisation*, to ensure that staff understand these risks and how to deal with them, to communicate the importance of the Duty and to ensure that staff implement the duty effectively. The Duty also required FE SMB Groups to promote ‘fundamental British Values’ to students – defined as democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance for those of different beliefs and faiths.

The United Kingdom currently faces a range of terrorist threats. There are currently 5 threat levels: Critical (an attack is expected imminent); ‘Severe (an attack is high likely); Substantial (an attack is a strong possibility); Moderate (an attack is possible, but not likely); Low (an attack is highly unlikely). The international threat level in the UK is currently categorised as ‘substantial’, which was set on 9 February 2022.

2 DEFINITIONS

Terrorism in the UK it is defined as a violent action that endangers a person’s life, involves serious violence against a person, causes serious damage to property, creates a serious risk to the public’s health and safety or Interferes with or seriously disrupts an electronic system.

Extremism is defined as the vocal or active opposition to fundamental British values, including democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, mutual respect for others and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs. Not all extremist groups will commit terrorist or violent acts but some groups pose particular threats, both on-line and off-line.

Radicalisation is the process by which a person comes to support terrorism and extremist ideologies associated with terrorist groups.

Originally developed to counter the risks of Islamic extremism, latest data from the Home Office (2021) evidences an increasing concern about the rise of right-wing extremism. Of referral to the government’s Channel Programme; 46% were related to extreme right-wing radicalisation; 30% came under a mixed, unclear or unstable ideology, 22% were linked to Islamist radicalisation and 2% were related to other radicalisation concerns (16)

3 SMB GROUP COMMITMENT TO PREVENT

The SMB Group is committed to take all reasonable steps to promote and safeguard the welfare of its students. Protection from the risk of radicalisation and extremism will form part of this safeguarding duty. This Strategy is designed to ensure that the SMB Group has a structured and informed response to safeguarding concerns for students who may be vulnerable to possible exploitation by terrorist/extremist groups.

This strategy has been updated in the light of latest Prevent duty guidance for FE institutions, published by the Home Office in April 2021 and other good practice guidance. It should be read in conjunction with the SMB Group's commitment to promote 'British Values' and the SMB Group Prevent Action Plan. It should also be read in relation to SMB Group policies for safeguarding, online safety, student behaviour and equality and diversity.

4 POLICY OBJECTIVES

- To develop staff and student awareness of the Government's Prevent Strategy
- To ensure that students, staff and Governors are aware of their roles and responsibilities in identifying and preventing radicalisation and extremism.
- To promote shared values and integration among student communities, including 'British Values'.
- To ensure student safety and support for students who may be at risk of radicalisation.
- To monitor, manage and deal effectively with any threat posed by individuals supporting or engaging in extremism in the name of ideology or belief.

4 RESPONSIBILITIES WITHIN THE PREVENT DUTY

Leadership and Management

Leadership and Management is about assessing the threats from terrorism, extremism and radicalisation and ensuring plans are in place to respond appropriately to such threats. Overall responsibility for the management of Prevent will rest with the SMB Group Designated Safeguarding Lead, Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead and the Designated Safeguarding Governor. The responsibilities of these post-holders are listed in Appendix 1.

SMB Group Staff

All staff have a responsibility to: uphold SMB Group values and promote respect, equality, diversity and inclusion, understand factors that may make people vulnerable to extremism, use opportunities to educate and challenge extremist ideas, report concerns about the risks of radicalisation, report any literature that could cause offense or promote extremist views and provide support to students at risk of harm from extremist activity. All staff are also expected to participate in Prevent training

Students

All students will be expected to adhere to the terms of the SMB Group Prevent Strategy, including policies setting out the activities that are or are not allowed to take place on campus or online. They will also be expected to work closely with the SMB Group in challenging extremist ideas, which risk drawing people into terrorism.

5 MEASURES TO MITIGATE RISK

Prevent Awareness

All Designated Safeguarding Staff and Governors will receive external Prevent awareness training.

All new staff members will receive Prevent training as part of their induction; refresher training will also be given. Briefing papers and newsletters will ensure that staff understand the factors that make people vulnerable to being drawn into terrorism, are able to challenge extremist ideas and to

take appropriate action to prevent risks to students and staff including referrals and where to get additional advice and support.

The SMB Group will also ensure that employers, sub-contractors and agency staff understand the factors that make people vulnerable to terrorism and extremism and how to deal with safeguarding risks.

All students will receive Prevent awareness information as part of their induction and through briefing papers during their courses. An understanding of ‘fundamental British Values’, including respect for others will be developed through curriculum- led activity and tutorials. **Students undertaking work placements will be briefed on how radicalisation and extremism may affect them in the workplace.**

External Partnerships

The SMB Group has developed well-established partnerships with external safeguarding authorities, including the East Midlands Police Force, the regional higher/further education Prevent coordinator and Channel Panels of the Local Authority. Regular feedback is received from the regional Prevent coordinator and Designated Safeguarding Staff attend the Regional Prevent Forum to ensure that local information is received and acted upon.

The SMB Group also works with local schools and SMB Groups, to share information about vulnerable individuals. It will also provide advice and support is to families who raise concerns and ensure that they are signposted to relevant support agencies. Where employers are involved in the delivery of courses, the SMB Group will ensure that the employer is aware of the Prevent duty and not inadvertently linked to extremist organisations.

External Speakers and Events

The SMB Group has adopted a policy for the management of events held on SMB Group premises. This proscribes external speakers who may wish to encourage terrorism or invite support for terrorist organisations (both criminal offences). The SMB Group will seek to balance its legal duties for ensuring freedom of speech with its responsibilities for protecting student and staff welfare. When deciding whether or not to host a particular speaker, staff should consider carefully whether the views being expressed, or likely to be expressed, constitute extremist views that risk drawing people into terrorism or are shared by terrorist groups. The SMB Group will establish a system for assessing/rating the risks associated with planned events, to determine whether an event should proceed, be cancelled or action taken to mitigate any risk. An event will not be allowed to proceed unless the SMB Group is entirely convinced that any risks can be fully mitigated without cancellation of the event. Staff involved in the physical security of the estate will be made aware of their Prevent duties.

Curriculum Activity

As part of the Prevent Duty, SMB Groups are expected to teach ‘British Values’ as an intrinsic part of curriculum and tutorial activity. British Values are intended to challenge extremist ideologies and are defined as:

Democracy - all have a role in using opinion to influence decision-making.

Rule of Law – laws protect everyone; no one is above the law.

Individual Liberty – freedom of speech and expression

Mutual respect for others, regardless of background or orientation.
Tolerance of different faiths and beliefs

British Values will be taught as part of measures to support the personal development of students: to facilitate the student voice, to help students distinguish right from wrong, to get students to accept responsibility for their own behaviour, to support freedom of speech and personal choice, to appreciate diversity, to showing respect to others, to challenge discrimination and show tolerance to other cultural traditions. Students will also be taught to recognise and manage risk, think critically, and make reasoned arguments. Prevent is not about trying to silence strong voices or opinion. Instead it is concerned with preventing the translation of strongly held views into deliberate violence against others. A separate policy statement sets out the SMB Group approach to promoting British Values.

Online Safety

The SMB Group recognises that technology often provides the platform for facilitating harm, including radicalisation. It will therefore take steps to protect and educate the whole SMB Group community in their use of technology and establish mechanisms to identify and intervene in any incidents of online exploitation.

The SMB Group has ICT policies and procedures that cover what is and is not permissible in the use of SMB Group IT equipment by students and staff. It also has filtering systems to prevent individuals from accessing inappropriate websites and monitoring systems to ensure compliance. Many students will have unlimited and unrestricted access to the Internet via mobile technology and measures will be taken to ensure this properly managed on SMB Group premises. Guidance will be given to any student needing to research terrorism and counter terrorism in the course of their learning.

Further information is given in the SMB Group Online Safety Policy.

Whole SMB Group Risk Assessment

Prevent guidance requires that all educational institutions should carry out a risk assessment which assesses where and how students or staff may be at risk of being drawn into terrorism, including extremist ideas that are part of terrorist ideology. To ensure that its approach to exercising its Prevent Duty is robust and effective, the SMB Group regularly undertakes comprehensive assessments against the following areas of risk: policy and strategy, awareness raising, external partnerships, curriculum activity, safeguarding, critical incidents, whistleblowing, good behaviour and respect, online safety, campus security, events and external speakers, subcontractors. and monitoring and review. Where a risk is identified, the SMB Group will develop an action plan setting out the actions to be taken to mitigate the risks. The SMB Group has clear and visible policies and procedures for managing whistleblowing and complaints.

5 IDENTIFYING POTENTIAL RISK

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. Students may become susceptible to radicalisation through a range of social, personal and environmental factors. They may be exploring new ideas, or establishing new identities. They can be exposed to extreme messages e.g. on the Internet, they be targeted by terrorist groups. Exposure to extremist groups increases risks of young people being drawn into criminal activity, and the potential to cause significant harm.

Extremism therefore comes from a range of backgrounds and experiences and there is no such thing as a ‘typical extremist’. There are however, a number of indicators, which suggest, with differing levels of probability, that a person may be vulnerable to or involved with extremism and these are listed in Appendix 2. These indicators should be used to identify possible risk, without suggesting that persons exhibiting these characteristics are necessarily at potential or actual risk.

6 DEALING WITH RISK TO INDIVIDUAL STUDENTS

Radicalised students can act as a focal point for further radicalisation through personal contact with fellow students or with other persons outside the SMB Group. The SMB Group will assess the risk of students or staff being drawn into extremist activity and take action where there is evidence of actual engagement in extremism. Staff have a duty to report any concerns about terrorism or extremism involving other staff, volunteers students, external speakers, contractors on site or other visitors. This duty also extends to reporting any inappropriate material such as leaflets and notices that may have been distributed around the campuses, without authorisation.

Where a member of staff has such a Prevent concern, this must be reported to the Designated Safeguarding Lead or Deputy. The DSL will assess the risk and where appropriate will contact the Local Authority or the police for further advice and guidance. Where a student is thought to be at risk of significant harm a referral to Social Services will be made in line with the SMB Group safeguarding procedures.

Where there is information that a violent act is imminent, or where weapons or other materials may be in the possession of a student or a community member, a 999 call will be made and the SMB Group’s Senior Management team informed as soon as practicably possible. As part of the referral process the DSL will also contact Channel. Where a child or vulnerable adult is thought to be at risk of significant harm a referral to Social Services will be made in line with the SMB Group safeguarding procedures, following advice from the appropriate Prevent Coordinator.

The SMB Group will provide pastoral care and support or all students at risk of harm from extremist activity. It will also work with local schools, SMB Groups and other agencies to share information about vulnerable individuals.

8 MONITORING AND REVIEW OF THE STRATEGY

Designated Safeguarding Staff will review the scope and effectiveness of this strategy annually. Recommendations for change will be made to the SMB Group Management Team and then to the Governing Body. The latest version of the document will be maintained on the SMB Group website. An annual Safeguarding Report will be presented to the Governing Body outlining SMB Group practice with regards to the Prevent agenda and identifying any areas for improvement, detailing relevant changes to the Prevent agenda and actions taken at the SMB Group to ensure that students are safe.

APPENDIX 1 DESIGNATED PERSONS FOR PREVENT

Designated Safeguarding Leads

The designated senior member of staff with lead responsibility for safeguarding issues, including Prevent, is the Vice Principal Curriculum and Quality who is a member of the SMB Group Management team. The general duties and training of this person are recorded in the SMB Group Safeguarding Policy.



Additional duties that relate specifically to the Prevent Strategy include:

- Overseeing the referral of any safeguarding cases that relate to Prevent activities.
- Providing advice and support to staff on issues relating to Prevent.
- Maintaining a proper record of any safeguarding referrals, complaints or concerns.
- Ensuring that students and other stakeholders are aware of the SMB Group's Prevent duties.
- Liaising with the LEA, local Prevent Coordinator, LSCB and other relevant agencies.
- Ensuring staff training in Prevent issues and safeguarding procedures.
- Ensuring a whole SMB Group approach to implementation of the SMB Group's Prevent duties and that Prevent is considered within all relevant policies and processes.

Other Designated Staff Members

The other designated members of staff with responsibility for safeguarding issues, including Prevent, are the Managers of Student Services. The duties and training of these designated members of staff are recorded in the SMB Group Safeguarding Policy. Additional duties that relate specifically to the Prevent Strategy include:

- Reporting to the senior member of staff with lead responsibility for Prevent.
- Ensuring that staff and students are aware of the Prevent agenda.
- Providing advice and support to students and staff on issues relating to Prevent.
- Ensuring appropriate training is in place.
- Making appropriate referrals to the local Prevent Coordinator and Channel.

Designated Governor

The designated member of the Governing Body with responsibility for safeguarding (including Prevent) can be contacted via the Clerk to the Corporation. The duties and training of the designated governor are recorded in the SMB Group Safeguarding Policy. Additional duties that relate specifically to the Prevent Strategy include:

- Ensuring the SMB Group has policies consistent with the Prevent Duty Guidance.
- Ensuring the Governing Body considers, annually, the SMB Group policy on safeguarding, including Prevent and how the SMB Group has complied with the policy, including training.

APPENDIX 2 PERSONS AT RISK OF ENGAGEMENT IN EXTREMIST ACTIVITY

Extremism comes from a range of backgrounds and experiences and there is no such thing as a 'typical extremist'. There are however, a number of indicators, which suggest with differing levels of probability that a young person or their family may be vulnerable to or involved with extremism. These indicators will be used to identify possible risk, without suggesting that persons exhibiting these characteristics are necessarily at automatic or actual risk.

Personal vulnerability

- Identity crisis – persons uncomfortable with their place in the society around them.
- Personal crisis - searching for answers to questions about identity, faith and belonging.
- Personal circumstances - experience of disadvantage, discrimination or social exclusion.
- Unmet aspirations - low self-esteem; perceptions of injustice; rejection of civic life.
- Criminality - experiences of imprisonment; involvement with criminal groups.

Access to extremist influences

- Association with those known to be involved in extremism.
- Possession or distribution of extremist material.
- Access to extremist websites, especially those with a social networking element.
- Travel to international locations known to be associated with extremism.
- First-hand experience of racial or religious hate crime.

Opinions and behaviours

- Extreme concerns regarding another section of society.
- Verbal or written support for extremist causes or intolerance of moderate views.
- Justifying the use of violence to solve societal issues.
- Joining an extremist organisation.
- Expressed desire/intent to take part in, or support extremist activity.
- Fraudulent identity/use of documents to support this.
- Significant changes to appearance, behaviour or health.