

Title: Prevent Policy**Type:** Policy

Purpose: To inform staff of the college response to Section 26 of the Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015 (the Act), which places a duty on specified authorities to have 'Due regard, in the exercise of its functions, to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism.'

Scope: This policy applies to all students, staff and visitors. This policy reflects the statutory guidance issued under Section 29 of the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015, updated by the Home Office in March 2024.

Responsibility: The Vice Principal HR & Student Services is responsible for this policy. The Director Student Services & Equality is responsible for the monitoring of the policy

Note: Legal Context The Prevent Duty

1 Introduction

Section 26 of the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 (updated March 2024) places a duty on specified authorities to have:

Due regard, in the exercise of its functions, to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism.

Solihull College and University Centre is a specified authority in respect of its Higher and Further Education provision. It is committed to providing students with the necessary skills and knowledge to keep themselves and others safe. The College is committed to implementing the Prevent Duty in a proportionate, evidence-based and non-discriminatory manner which protects freedom of speech, academic freedom, equality and individual rights. Education, like other key sectors, has a responsibility to promote values of openness and tolerance and to facilitate free debate which is characteristic of being a British citizen. It is in this context that Solihull College and University Centre provide a 'Policy to Prevent Radicalisation & Violent Extremism'.

The College also affirms its commitment to upholding freedom of speech and academic freedom, in line with the Education (No. 2) Act 1986 and the Higher Education (Freedom of Speech) Act 2023.

The Government has defined Extremism as the promotion or advancement of an ideology based on violence, hatred or intolerance, that aims to: negate or destroy the fundamental rights and freedoms of others; or. undermine, overturn or replace the UK's system of liberal parliamentary democracy and democratic rights.

The previous definition, provided below, is still relevant and continues to inform the College's engagement with students and staff on this topic:

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 faith and beliefs.*

We also include in our definition of extremism calls for the death of members of our armed forces.

2 Context

The aim of this strategy is to:

- Develop an awareness of Prevent in Solihull College and University Centre
- Recognise current practice which contributes to the Prevent agenda
- Identify areas for improvement
- Monitor the effectiveness of the implementation of the Prevent agenda

The policy will be delivered across the following areas: Partnerships, Risk Assessment, Staff training, Speakers and Events, Welfare and Pastoral care for all learners, On-line safety, Prayer and faith facilities.

The implementation of this policy will be carried out with due regard to the College's obligations under the Equality Act 2010, the Data Protection Act 2018 and the Human Rights Act 1998. This policy should be read alongside the College Safeguarding Policy, Safeguarding Young People and Adults at Risk. All staff are trained and regularly updated on safeguarding, associated professional practice, conduct and the referral process. However, Solihull College and University Centre recognises that additional training and development for staff and students is necessary and the distinction made so that the strategy does not become diluted.

Whilst Protection from Extremism and Radicalisation sits within the wider context of safeguarding and is referred to within the College Safeguarding Policy and procedures, it is also integral to other policies, such as The Equality Policy and Health and Safety and is integral to Solihull College and University Centre's vision and values.

Issues related to radicalisation are included in safeguarding reports to the Corporation.

3 Local Partnerships

The College has well-established partnerships with local CTU Prevent Officers and holds regular meetings with senior police officers to receive regular updates, share information and to discuss training opportunities.

Solihull College and University Centre maintain links with both the West Midlands and Warwickshire Regional Prevent leads.

The Vice Principal HR & Student Services and Director of Student Services (who is also the DSL for safeguarding), represents Solihull College and University Centre on Solihull Prevent partnership working groups.

The Caring Services Coordinator, who is also the Deputy DSL for Stratford campus, represents Solihull College and University Centre on the Warwickshire Prevent Partnership Group.

4 Risk Assessments

The College will establish clear policies and risk assessments of where and how students might be at risk of being drawn into terrorism (including violent *and* non-violent extremism). The assessment will include policies regarding student welfare and safety, equality and diversity and the physical management of the estate, including events for or led by external visitors.

5 Staff

'Keeping children safe in education – Statutory Guidance for Schools and Colleges' is issued to all staff to keep students safe. This must be observed by staff as part of our safeguarding policy.

All staff receive awareness training on an on-going basis to ensure they have an understanding of the factors that make people support terrorist ideologies or engage in terrorist activity and to recognise vulnerability to being drawn into terrorism. Prevent training is mandatory for all staff, including contractors and volunteers. Training will be tailored to different roles, including frontline staff, senior leaders, and governors.

All staff are responsible for responding appropriately to students with challenging and inappropriate behaviour. Staff will be supported and use the skills required to challenge appropriately, as part of this strategy.

6 Responding to Concerns

Any member of staff, volunteer, contractor or visitor who has concerns that a student may be vulnerable to radicalisation or extremist influences must report those concerns immediately to a Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) or Deputy DSL.

The DSL will assess the concern in accordance with safeguarding procedures and determine whether further support, intervention or referral is required. Where appropriate, referrals may be made to Prevent partners and the Channel programme in line with local safeguarding arrangements.

All concerns will be recorded and managed in accordance with college safeguarding and data protection procedures.

7 Students

The Student Voice representatives receive training The College will work with the Student Executive Committee and Student Voice representatives to co-develop awareness campaigns and ensure student perspectives are reflected in Prevent-related decisions. in order to raise awareness and contribute to Preventing Radicalisation & Violent Extremism.

Through tutorials, enrichment activities and awareness campaigns, students will:

- Develop awareness of how individuals may be groomed, exploited or influenced by extremist ideologies;
- Understand how online platforms and social media can be used to promote harmful or extremist content;
- Develop critical thinking skills that enable them to evaluate information, challenge misinformation and make informed decisions;
- Understand the purpose of the Government's Prevent strategy and how concerns can be raised safely;
- Know how to access support and report concerns for themselves or others.

Welfare and pastoral care are readily available for all students in particular 16 – 18 and vulnerable adults and are a key element of the College's commitment to the Prevent Duty.

8 Online Safety

The College will refer to relevant safeguarding guidance, including Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE), to ensure best practice in online safety and digital safeguarding.

Solihull College and University Centre recognises that individuals may be exposed to extremist and radicalising content through online platforms, including social media, video-sharing sites, discussion forums, gaming environments, messaging applications and emerging technologies.

The College will maintain appropriate filtering and monitoring systems to reduce the risk of access to harmful or extremist content whilst supporting legitimate educational activity and freedom of expression.

Students will be supported to develop digital resilience and critical thinking skills, enabling them to:

- Identify potentially harmful, extremist or misleading online content;
- Recognise how individuals may be groomed or influenced through online platforms;
- Critically evaluate information and challenge misinformation and conspiracy narratives;
- Understand how to report concerns regarding harmful online content.

The College recognises the growing use of artificial intelligence and other emerging technologies and will continue to review associated safeguarding risks, including the creation and dissemination of extremist or misleading content.

Online safety arrangements will be reviewed regularly as part of the College's wider safeguarding and Prevent risk assessment processes.

9 Speakers and Events

Solihull College and University Centre will ensure that a policy and procedures are in place for the management of events and visiting speakers. The College will maintain clear approval processes and risk assessment criteria for external speakers and events, including record-keeping. Solihull College and University Centre hire its conference venues for external events and will also, from time to time, invite external speakers to talk to students and/or staff. Our processes will enable the exclusion of speakers promoting extremist views.

10 Prayer and Faith Facilities

Solihull College and University Centre has three multi-faith rooms and positively promotes tolerance between faiths and those of no faith through its enrichment and tutorial activities.

11 Delivering the Policy

The effectiveness of the policy will be evaluated through:

- Annual review of Prevent referrals and outcomes;
- Feedback from staff and students;
- Monitoring of training completion rates;
- Review of Prevent risk assessments;
- External updates and partnership activity.

This policy is supported by an associated Prevent Risk Assessment and Prevent Position Statement.

Author	Date Created	Approved By	Last Reviewed	Next Review Date
Adam Thomas / Pete Haynes	December 2009	Corporation	October 2026	By October 2027