

‘Duty to Prevent’



*A guide for staff and students to raise awareness
and understanding of the risks posed by
radicalisation and extremism*

Introduction

The **Counter-Terrorism and Security Act** places a legal duty on colleges (and many other organisations) to 'have due regard, in the exercise of its functions, to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism'. Preventing people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism also requires challenge to extremist ideas where they are used to legitimise terrorism and are shared by terrorist groups. The act requires colleges to have regard to the 'prevent duty guidance' which is currently in draft form with further information and guidance regarding procedures detailed in the College safeguarding and duty to prevent policy – available on moodle.

Young people in the UK are potentially vulnerable to engagement with extremist ideologies or to targeting by extremist organisations. St Vincent College is aware of these risks and are familiar with the support networks and processes in place to protect vulnerable individuals from becoming radicalised or drawn into terrorism.

It is the aim of the College to stop people from becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism by working with students, staff and our communities to address issues before they become a criminal matter to stop people moving from extremism into terrorist-related activity.

It should be noted that this guidance and the relevant policies relate to all St Vincent College stakeholders and include students, staff, governors, visitors, Leisure Centre users and parents.



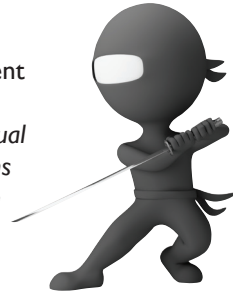
What is Radicalisation and Extremism?

The Institute of Strategic Dialogue defines radicalisation as “the process through which an individual changes from passiveness or activism to become more revolutionary, militant or extremist, especially where there is intent towards, or support for, violence”.

The Government has defined extremism in the prevent strategy as: “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”.

Driving factors behind radicalisation and extremism can include:

- Lack of integration and/or polarisation
- Identity crises and/or isolation
- Political and/or democratic disenfranchisement
- Discrimination
- Foreign policy and/or international crises or disputes
- Political movements
- Ideologies and/or faiths



Who are we Safeguarding?

There is no stereotype for people who hold extremist views. Vulnerability, isolation and personal grievances added to strong political, religious or social views, can result in a person searching for a cause. People can become vulnerable for many reasons, some of these include:

- Low self-esteem
- Guilt
- Loss
- Isolation
- Family breakdown
- Fear
- Lack of purpose
- Anger
- Peer pressure



We are by no means suggesting that one or all of these characteristics or circumstances will drive someone to terrorism. But they can lead to a sense of injustice – be that on a personal or more far reaching scale. These vulnerabilities or susceptibilities can then be potentially exploited towards crime or terrorism by people who have their own agenda.

There is no typical gender, age, religion or background that extremists will target but they use a sense of “duty” (belong to a specific group). “Status” (need for reputation) and “spiritual rewards” (test of faith) as a way of drawing people in.

This raised the question of what will those signs of radicalisation look like: they will look a lot like troubling behaviour

Emotional – angry, mood swings, new found arrogance

Verbal – expressing opinions that are at odds with generally shared values

Physical – appearance (tattoos), change in routine

What to do if you believe someone to be at risk of radicalisation

The procedure for raising concerns is fully detailed in the College **Safeguarding and Duty to Prevent Policy**. This procedure provides the following guidance:

- Any allegations of abuse, or suspicions of abuse, need to be taken seriously and handled in a sensitive manner.
- If a concern is raised directly by a student questions should be kept to the minimum necessary to understand what is being alleged and leading questions should be avoided as these can cause problems in any subsequent investigation. The student should be informed of the actions that will follow the conversation and be assured that they will be kept informed of all developments.
- Staff who receive reports or have concerns regarding our duty to prevent should make a written record (the safeguarding report form should be used wherever possible) as soon as possible of the nature of the allegation and any other relevant information including:
 - The date and time that the allegation was made
 - The name of the member of staff writing the report and the names of any others present
 - The date, time and place where the alleged abuse happened
 - The name of the student and, where different, the name of the student who has allegedly been abused
 - The nature of the alleged concerns
- Some students with learning difficulties or disabilities may need a different approach from other students: for example the student's Learning Support Assistant or teacher could be present to act as a facilitator or in an advocacy role.



- Individual members of staff should never deal with disclosures of concerns regarding our duty to prevent in isolation and should always report the details to one of the safeguarding team as soon as possible, with a view to these concerns being passed on to the police and/or local authority.

Responsibility for contacting appropriate services regarding concerns

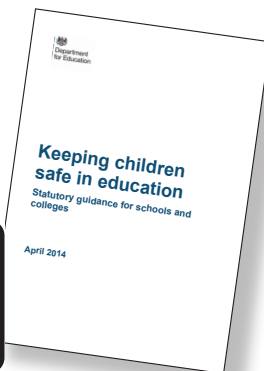
The College has developed internal support mechanisms and the referral procedures detailed in this policy as well as supporting guidance for staff and students. This procedure outlines who staff and students should contact with any concerns about fellow staff or students. If, once internal processes are completed, it is considered that additional external support or referral is required this can be arranged via the designated senior manager for safeguarding (if the concern is about this post holder the Principal will assume responsibility). External support will normally involve an individual being asked to voluntarily receive tailored support from relevant external individuals or organisations.

If a concern is raised the police and/or local authority will be notified. They will then determine if a 'channel' multi-agency, early intervention process with relevant partners is required. The College is committed to support appropriate interventions to support the prevent agenda and we will work with these services to identify and provide appropriate support and access to services.



Any of the following people are responsible for making decisions to contact the counter-terrorism team at Hampshire Police if serious concerns are raised about a student, staff member or visitor:

- Assistant Principal (Students and Community) any member of the senior management team
- Student Support Manager
- Learning Support Unit Manager
- Personnel Manager



Note:

As outlined in Keeping Children Safe in Education (April 2014), anyone has the right to refer to social care regarding any concerns for an individual. The College gives this right with regards to extremism and anyone can report a concern to Hampshire Police via 101. Where this does occur please inform the designated senior manager for safeguarding.



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