

PREVENT POLICY 2020/2021

Radicalisation, Extremism and prevent for Staff and Homestay:

LanguageUK understands its responsibilities under the Counter Terrorism & Security Act 2015 to prevent people of all ages being radicalised or drawn into terrorism and seeks to meet its obligations in the ways shown below.

- The policy is part of the overall safeguarding policy
- This policy affects everyone, not only U18, all students, staff and homestay providers.
- LanguageUK has zero tolerance of any member of our schools and homes engaged in extremist behaviour.
- As part of our safeguarding policy, all staff are expected to remain vigilant of any potential threat of radicalisation and extremism.
- to uphold and promote equality, individual liberty and respect for other cultures, faiths and beliefs, and respect for the rule of law.
- Under current legislation, LanguageUK is required to contain and respond to any extremist beliefs among its students that could potentially support acts of terrorism.
- LanguageUK is a multinational, multicultural and multi-faith learning environment with students and staff originating from many and various parts of the world and is fully committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all its students and staff.

LanguageUK has a responsibility to provide a safe and healthy environment for all students and staff but especially for students under the age of 18 and adults at risk.

LanguageUK accepts students aged 6 years and up throughout the year and from many different countries around the world/in Europe.

The school has always promoted a multi-cultural environment where respect for and tolerance of other beliefs is required.

Prevent:

There are four strands to the strategy:

- Pursue – to stop terrorist attacks.
- Prevent – to stop people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism.
- Protect – to strengthen our protection against a terrorist attack.
- Prepare – to mitigate the impact of terrorist attacks Since 1st July, schools now have a duty to safeguard all from radicalisation under the Terrorism and security Act (2015).

Extremism:

Is defined as vocal or active opposition to fundamental human values and those of our society, including democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs.

Understanding risk of extremism

Staff, students & other adults (group leaders, homestays etc.) may arrive at school already holding extremist views.

Or, whilst part of the school, they may be influenced by a range of factors: global events, peer pressure, media, family views, extremist materials via hardcopy or online, inspirational speakers, friends or relatives being harmed, social networks. People who are vulnerable are more likely to be influenced. Their vulnerability could stem from a range of causes: loss of identity or sense of belonging, isolation, exclusion, mental health problems, sense of injustice, personal crisis, victim of hate crime or discrimination, bereavement

Radicalisation:

Is defined as the act or process of encouraging extremist views or actions in others, including forms of extremism leading to terrorism.

Although no incidents involving radicalisation and extremism have occurred at LanguageUK to date, it is important for all staff to be consistently vigilant and report to the director of any instances or suspicions arising from behaviours, conversations or comments made by others – inside and outside of the classroom – which might indicate a leaning or perceived interest in this direction.

LanguageUK staff must be alert to and have a duty to report:

- Graffiti symbols, writing or artwork promoting extremist views.
- Students accessing extremist material online and through social media.
- Students voicing opinions drawn from extremist ideologies.
- Attempts to impose extremist views or practices on others.
- Anti-western or anti-British views.
- Any reports of changes of behaviour, friendships and actions.

Propaganda:

Information, especially of a biased or misleading nature, used to promote a political cause or point of view.

Terrorism:

The unofficial or unauthorised use of violence and intimidation in the pursuit of political aims.

Bias: Inclination or prejudice for or against one person or group, especially in a way considered to be unfair.

Refugee: A person who has been forced to leave their country often because of war to find work or better living conditions.

Migrant: A person who moves from one place to another to find work or better living conditions.

ISIS/ Daesh: Is a Wahhabi/ Salafi jihadist Islamic extremist militant group. It is led by and mainly composed of Sunni Arabs from Iraq and Syria.

Far Right: Far right politics are right-wing politics to the right of the mainstream centre right on the traditional left-right spectrum. They often involve a focus on tradition as opposed to policies and customs that are regarded as reflective of modernism.

Ways to counteract risk

- Promote a safe and supportive international environment via clear expectations of accepted behaviours and those, including radicalisation and extremism, that will not be tolerated
- Promote core British values through documents given to students, notices around the school, via stand-alone classes on British culture and traditions on arrival and via curriculum. Approach is to educate that this is how things are in UK; although it may be different to your country.
- Where possible, develop critical awareness and thought to counter accepting extremism without question, especially of online material
- Be ready to react when world or local events (e.g. Paris attacks) cause upset and the likelihood of conflicting feelings being expressed. Prevent lead to take initiative in these situations.
- Have strong filters on IT equipment and clear rules on accessing extremist/ terrorist websites/ uses of social networks to exchange extremist/ terrorist views
- Ensure that extremist speakers do not use premises to distribute material or expound views; have system for vetting any visiting speakers/ presenters
- Staff and homestays get to know students, their home circumstances and friendship groups, making it easier to spot changes in behaviour
- Staff and homestays to be observant and vigilant in noticing any signs of radical or extremist behaviour
- Welfare, all staff, and homestays to work hard supporting any students identified as vulnerable.

LanguageUK responsibilities.

Languageuk has to give proportionate consideration to the need to prevent people being drawn into terrorism when carrying out everyday functions and duties.

Preventing people becoming terrorists, or supporting terrorism, requires challenge to extremist ideas where these are used to legitimise terrorism, and intervention to stop people moving into terrorist-related activity. All members of staff need to be aware of the Prevent duty and the LanguageUK responsibilities. This briefing note sets out information on the general duty and the way LanguageUK responds to the duty. There is also information on how to raise any matter of concern regarding a student or member of staff.

Signs of Concern

Students talking about exposure to extremist materials or views outside the centre in the event of which information must be shared with relevant local authorities

- Changes in behaviour, e.g. becoming isolated
- Fall in standard of work, poor attendance, disengagement
- Changes in attitude, e.g. intolerant of differences/ having closed mind
- Asking questions about certain topics (e.g. connected to extremism)
- Offering opinions that appear to have come from extremist ideologies
- Attempts to impose own views/ beliefs on others
- Use of extremist vocabulary to exclude others or incite violence
- Accessing extremist material online or via social network sites
- Overt new religious practices
- Drawings or posters (e.g. in accommodation) showing extremist ideology/ views/ symbols
- Students voicing concerns about anyone

NB: Any concerns relating to a person under 18 are safeguarding issues and should be dealt with by safeguarding staff (if different from Prevent staff) and, where necessary, the Local Safeguarding Children board (LSCB) contacted.

The responsibility for the staff when there is a concern.

No member of staff is expected to make a judgement about whether someone is at risk of being drawn into terrorism or not. This is the responsibility of those key staff identified as key to the addressing of the Prevent duty.

However, all members of staff have a responsibility to report internally any matters of concern, so that an appropriate assessment can be undertaken by key staff. LanguageUK approach is to address any vulnerability of a student as a safety guarding issue.

Therefore, the Prevent duty is exercised as part of the general approach of addressing matters that are an identifiable concern, which can include matters of mental health, substance abuse, isolation, serious aggression, and significant behavioural change.

Members of staff are not to report any concerns externally; this will only be done by a small number of key individuals who would review a case carefully before an external reference is made.

You may become concerned about an individual's wellbeing. You may be concerned that the person is a risk to themselves or to others. Perhaps you have noticed a change in behaviour. You might notice that the person has stopped turning up.

The person might have become withdrawn or are acting differently. Maybe something the student has said something that concerned you, or it is something that someone else has said.

There can be a variety of things, or it could just be one thing that causes you concern. Teaching staff and homestay provider in may often be the first to notice if a student is experiencing difficulties.

What do I do about it?

Do not ignore your concerns but check what you have noticed. You could speak to the student directly or talk to other members of staff to see if they share your concerns.

If, after checking, you identify a potential matter of concern, or one is referred to you, you should contact **Verity Sessions or Ece Inan** as soon as possible for advice. This should always be your first step. You should not carry out an investigation yourself.

Even if you have doubts as to whether a matter is relevant or not, you should always seek advice. Staff with the appropriate training will be able to assess if the matter requires further investigation or not.

Any information reported under these arrangements should be regarded as confidential by all involved in the process. It will be processed in accordance with the data protection principles.

If the case is sufficiently serious, it will be referred to a full risk assessment and decision on any further action including, if necessary, external referral.

Prevent Referral form

Kent Police

<https://www.kent.gov.uk/about-the-council/strategies-and-policies/community-safety-and-crime-policies/contest/prevent>

In very serious cases, where there is clear evidence that an individual is vulnerable to being drawn into terrorism, **Verity Sessions and Ece Inan** will refer the person to an external Channel panel.

In deciding whether there is a case for referring a concern outside of LanguageUK, consideration is to be given to the following questions:

- Is it appropriate and proportionate to share the information with outside agencies because there is, on the balance of probabilities, a serious risk posed by the individual to the wider public or to that individual?
- By making the referral, is the intention to protect the individual from criminal exploitation, grooming (being drawn into terrorism) or self-harm?

What is channel?

Channel is a multi-agency approach, which is led by the local authority (not the police or security service) to help support individuals who are identified as vulnerable for a variety of reasons. It is a programme focussed on providing support at an early stage to people. This includes those that are identified as being vulnerable to being drawn into terrorism. Channel panels are concerned with preventing people being drawn into criminal activity rather than dealing with crimes and are required to consider referrals in line with the requirements to safeguard vulnerable individuals.

Channel is about ensuring that vulnerable children and adults of any faith (or none), ethnicity or background receive support before their vulnerabilities are exploited by those that would want them to embrace terrorism, and before they become involved in criminal terrorist activity. Channel is an inclusive process, in that the individual concerned is part of the process.

Training

A key requirement is to ensure that members of staff receive appropriate information and training. All members of staff are expected to be aware of the Prevent Duty and to know what their responsibilities are in relation to it, including knowing how to raise a matter of concern.

An e-learning Prevent training module is available for all members of staff, and all new members of staff are required to take this course.

Documents and face-to-face training ensure staff understand this policy:

- a) context and expectations of Prevent
- b) their duty to implement the policy
- c) terminology and risks associated with radicalisation and extremism
- d) how to identify and support vulnerable students
- e) ways the centre will counteract the risks
- f) signs to notice that may cause concern
- g) know the lead Prevent person and procedures for communicating concerns
- h) know the importance of their own behaviour and professionalism in:
 - i) being exemplars of British values, and
 - ii) not discussing inflammatory subjects with students

- Training materials are adapted to ensure that homestay hosts understand the sections of the policy they need to be aware of.

- Students and group leaders must be made aware of key parts of the policy:

- a) understanding terminology
- b) importance of maintaining a supportive and tolerant society in the centre
- c) what core British values are and why they are considered important
- d) any changes to rules, particularly those regarding IT
- e) that they must report concerns/ incidents and understand the procedure to do so

Risk Assessment

A risk assessment / action plan has been produced showing what is already being done and what still needs to be done; it will be reviewed and updated at least annually.

Some helpful links

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/channel-guidance>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/prevent-duty-guidance>

<https://www.kent.gov.uk/about-the-council/strategies-and-policies/community-safety-and-crime-policies/contest/prevent>

<https://www.kent.gov.uk/about-the-council/partnerships/prevent-duty-delivery-board-pddb>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/prevent-strategy-2011>

https://www.elearning.prevent.homeoffice.gov.uk/channel_awareness/01-welcome.html#

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