Prevent Duty and Radicalisation Policy

Stowey Bears Preschool recognises its safeguarding responsibility under section 26 of the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 to have due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism. This policy has been updated in line with the Prevent duty guidance for England and Wales, issued in 2023 and in force from 31 December 2023, and should be read alongside our Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy, Online Safety Policy, Equality and Diversity Policy, Behaviour Policy and Promoting British Values Policy.

Prevent is a safeguarding duty. Its aim is to stop people from becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism by tackling the ideological causes of terrorism, intervening early to support people who may be susceptible to radicalisation, and enabling people who have already engaged with terrorism to disengage and rehabilitate. Concerns about radicalisation will be managed through our normal safeguarding procedures and escalated where necessary.

Radicalisation means the process by which a person comes to support terrorism or extremist ideologies associated with terrorist groups. Extremism is relevant to Prevent where it is linked to terrorism, creates an environment that may draw people into terrorism, or supports terrorist ideologies. Terrorism involves the use or threat of serious violence, serious damage to property, or serious disruption to electronic systems, where the purpose is to influence government or intimidate the public and advance a political, religious, racial or ideological cause.

Children in early years settings are not expected to understand extremist ideology, but they may be affected by harmful views, online content, family influences, community tensions, discrimination, conspiracy narratives or adults who seek to exploit vulnerability. We will remain professionally curious, act proportionately, record concerns clearly, and seek advice without delay where there is a concern that a child, family member, staff member, volunteer or visitor may be susceptible to radicalising influences.

Possible indicators of concern may include, but are not limited to:

- isolating themselves from family and friends
- talking as if from a scripted speech
- unwillingness or inability to discuss their views
- a sudden disrespectful attitude towards others
- increased levels of anger

• increased secretiveness, especially around internet use.

Early years providers have a critical role in the Prevent duty as part of their wider safeguarding responsibilities. The Early Years Foundation Stage requires providers to keep children safe and promote their welfare, including being alert to issues of concern in a child's life at home or elsewhere. Ofsted expects providers to demonstrate effective safeguarding, leadership and management, including how they identify and respond to risks such as radicalisation, extremism and online harm.

We promote children's personal, social and emotional development, understanding of the world, respect for others, positive relationships, inclusion and age-appropriate challenge to prejudice and stereotypes. We teach fundamental British values through everyday practice, including democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs.

Expectations for Stowey Bears Preschool

To meet the Prevent duty, we will ensure that:

• Keep children safe and promote their welfare
• Be alert to any safeguarding and child protection issues in the child's life at home or elsewhere (paragraph 3.4 EYFS)
• Staff, volunteers and leaders receive appropriate Prevent training, proportionate to their role and the local risk, so that they can recognise concerns, respond appropriately and know where to seek advice.
• Demonstrate that they are protecting children and young people from being drawn into terrorism by having clear policies and procedures for protecting children at risk of radicalisation
• Ensure their safeguarding arrangements take into account the policies and procedures of the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Partners
• We maintain and review a Prevent risk assessment that considers local risks, online risks, staff training, visitors, use of premises, curriculum practice and referral routes.
• Staff understand when to discuss concerns with the Designated Safeguarding Lead, when to seek advice from Somerset safeguarding partners, and when a Prevent referral or Channel support may be appropriate.
• Focus on children's personal, social and emotional development
• Ensure children learn right from wrong, mix and share with other children and value others' views
• Ensure children know about similarities and differences between themselves and others, and challenge negative attitudes and stereotypes (in an age-appropriate way)

Stowey Bears Preschool treats radicalisation and exploitation as safeguarding concerns. We will work in partnership with parents, carers, the local authority, the Somerset Safeguarding Children Partnership, children's social care, police and other agencies where appropriate, while always prioritising the safety and welfare of children.

Definitions and Indicators

There is no single checklist that proves a person is being radicalised. Concerns should be considered in context, alongside the child's age, development, communication needs, family circumstances and wider safeguarding information. Indicators may include:

• Sudden or concerning changes in behaviour, language, play themes, relationships, attitudes or emotional presentation.
• Exposure to extremist, hateful, violent or terrorist-related content, including through social media, messaging apps, gaming platforms, videos or family devices.
• Repeated use of discriminatory, hateful or dehumanising language about groups of people.
• Withdrawal, isolation, secrecy or fearfulness, especially where this is linked to online activity or influence by others.
• Possession, sharing or discussion of symbols, material or narratives associated with extremist or terrorist causes.
• Attempts to recruit others to the group/cause
• Attempts by an adult, older child, peer, family member or online contact to groom, exploit, intimidate or influence a child or family member.
• Using insulting or derogatory names for another group
• Increase in prejudice-related incidents committed by that person – these may include:
• Physical or verbal assault
• Provocative behaviour
• Damage to property
• Derogatory name calling
• Possession of prejudice-related materials
• Prejudice related ridicule or name calling
• Inappropriate forms of address
• Refusal to co-operate
• Attempts to recruit to prejudice-related organisations
• Condoning or supporting violence towards others.

At Stowey Bears Preschool, we take safeguarding very seriously. To comply with the Prevent duty, we will:

• Train all staff to understand Prevent, radicalisation, susceptibility, extremist and terrorist influences, online risks, local referral routes and the role of Channel.

• Completing a Prevent Risk Assessment

• Make timely referrals where concerns indicate a risk of radicalisation, using local safeguarding and Prevent referral routes and sharing information lawfully and proportionately.

• Ensure our Preschool is an inclusive environment, tackle inequalities and negative points of view and teach children about tolerance through British Values

• Use current government Prevent duty training and guidance to maintain staff knowledge. New staff will receive Prevent information during induction, and the Designated Safeguarding Lead will keep more detailed knowledge of Prevent, Channel and local procedures up to date.

Prevent training is available through GOV.UK Prevent duty training: https://www.support-people-susceptible-to-radicalisation.service.gov.uk/

Practitioner's Role

• Staff will be alert to changes in children's behaviour which could indicate that they may be in need of help or protection (children at risk of radicalisation may display different signs or seek to hide their views). The key person approach means we already know our key children well and so we will notice any changes in behaviour, demeanour or personality quickly.

• Be alert to any safeguarding and child protection issues in the child's life at home or elsewhere (paragraph 3.4 EYFS)

• Take action to protect children from harm and be alert to harmful behaviour by other adults in the child's life

• Be aware of how settings can provide support to help families and children to be resilient and able to resist involvement in radical or extreme activities

• We will be aware of the online risk of radicalisation through the use of social media and the internet

• Know when to make referrals, where to get advice and support, and how to work in partnership with the Designated Safeguarding Lead, Somerset safeguarding partners, children's social care, police and local Prevent contacts.

• Support children's personal, social and emotional development by helping children develop a positive sense of themselves, and others; to form positive relationships and develop respect for others; to develop social skills and learn how to manage their

feelings; to understand appropriate behaviour in groups; and to have confidence in their own abilities

• Support children's personal, social and emotional development by helping them build confidence, respect, empathy, positive relationships, a sense of belonging, and age-appropriate understanding of similarities, differences, fairness and kindness. Practitioners will challenge negative attitudes, prejudice and stereotypes in a calm, proportionate and developmentally appropriate way.

Prevent Risk Assessment

The Preschool will complete and review a Prevent risk assessment at least annually, and sooner if local risks, national guidance, incidents, staffing or premises use change. The assessment will consider local threat information where available, staff training, safeguarding records, online safety, filtering and monitoring arrangements, visitors and speakers, use of premises, curriculum practice, partnership working and referral routes. Actions from the assessment will be recorded and monitored by the Designated Safeguarding Lead and the manager.

http://llrscb.proceduresonline.com/chapters/p_referr.html#duty

Where it is safe and appropriate, the Designated Safeguarding Lead may speak with parents or carers before making a referral. However, staff must not delay action or discuss concerns if doing so could increase risk, place a child or another person at risk of harm, compromise an investigation, or lead to evidence being hidden or destroyed. Information will be shared in line with safeguarding procedures and data protection requirements, recognising that safeguarding concerns may justify sharing relevant information without consent.

Local Referral and Advice Routes

If there is an immediate risk of harm, staff must call 999. For non-emergency police advice, call 101. If worried about a child or young person in Somerset, contact Somerset Children's Social Care on 0300 123 2224 or email childrens@somerset.gov.uk. Out of hours, contact the Emergency Duty Team on 0300 123 2327. Designated Safeguarding Leads can seek real-time advice from Somerset's Family Front Door consultation line on 0300 123 3078. Prevent concerns should follow Somerset's local Prevent and Channel referral arrangements and the Preschool safeguarding procedure.

Stowey Bears Preschool actively promotes fundamental British values within the setting through inclusive routines, respectful relationships, play, stories, discussion, turn-taking, listening to children's voices, celebrating diversity and challenging prejudice. We support children to develop positive identities, empathy, emotional

literacy, confidence, curiosity and critical thinking in ways that are appropriate for their age and stage of development.

What is not acceptable

• Promoting intolerance, hatred, violence, discrimination or exclusion towards people because of their faith, culture, race, sex, disability, family background or other protected characteristic.
• Failure to challenge gender stereotypes and routinely segregating boys and girls.
• Isolating children from the wider community.
• Failure to challenge behaviours (whether this is staff, children or parents) that are not in line with the fundamental British values of democracy, rule of law, individual liberty, mutual respect and tolerance for those with different faiths and beliefs.

What to do if you suspect a child, family member, staff member, volunteer or visitor may be at risk of radicalisation: follow the Preschool safeguarding procedure immediately. Report the concern to the Designated Safeguarding Lead, record the concern factually, and agree next steps. If there is an immediate risk of harm, call 999. If there is no immediate risk but advice is needed, contact Somerset safeguarding services, the local Prevent referral route, children's social care or police as appropriate. Concerns must never be ignored or treated as a disciplinary matter alone where safeguarding risk may be present.

Monitoring and Review

This policy, the Prevent risk assessment and related safeguarding procedures will be reviewed annually, and earlier if statutory guidance, local procedures, risk information or significant incidents require an update. The Designated Safeguarding Lead will ensure staff are informed of changes and that training records, referral records and risk assessment actions are maintained.

This policy was adopted by Stowey Bears Preschool
Date adopted/reviewed – 15-07-2026. Reviewed annually or sooner if guidance or local procedures change.

Rachel Penny.