



Prevent Policy

Statement of Compliance

Centre of English Studies 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.

Policy Preparation and Review

The policy will usually be reviewed annually

Leadership

Responsibility for ensuring PREVENT duty is met in is with Johnathan Cockayne, Principal CES Edinburgh.

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What is PREVENT

PREVENT:

- Is a government strategy to stop people becoming involved in violent extremism and/or in supporting terrorism
- Affects everyone, not only under 18s; all students, staff and sub-contractors (homestays)
- Is coordinated by the Home Office, it includes
 - ❖ Working with local community groups to support anti-radical/terrorist attitudes
 - ❖ Working with educational establishments, including ELT, to reduce risk of radicalisation
 - ❖ Identifying and safeguarding the vulnerable, who are more likely to be drawn into extremism
 - ❖ Identifying and challenging those holding extremist views
 - ❖ Police forces/local authorities now have Prevent staff/co-ordinators
 - ❖ WRAP training (Workshop Raising Awareness of Prevent), free from police/local authority
 - ❖ Channel is a multi-agency support process to try and safeguard vulnerable people, once identified, from being drawn further into extremism and criminality
 - ❖ The Home Office have identified ELT providers as potential 'soft targets' for those promoting radical views.

Prevent applies to any extremism: for example terrorism in any form, racism, homophobia, right-wing ideology.

Context

Centre of English Studies accepts students from age 12 throughout the year and from many different countries around the world. There is no upper age limit. In its busiest weeks it may have up to 800 students, 80-100 staff and work with 500 homestay providers. The school has always promoted a multi-cultural environment where respect for and tolerance of others beliefs is required. This environment is promoted via inductions, handbooks and public display posters. The school is located in the centre of Edinburgh which has a predominantly caucasian local population of around 450,000 people.

At CES we aim to:

- Understand how an extremist narrative which can lead to harm can be challenged by staff and model to students how diverse views can be heard, analysed and challenged in a way which values freedom of speech and freedom from harm.
- Understand how to prevent harm to students by individuals, groups or others who promote violent extremism
- Understand how to support individuals who are vulnerable through strategies to support, challenge and protect
- Increase the abilities of students to challenge extremist views and to insist on an ethos that promotes respect for others (part of the core British values)
- Use teaching styles and curriculum opportunities which allow differences of opinion to be aired in a tolerant and respectful manner
- Provide effective student support processes including peer mentoring and staff mentoring
- Raise staff awareness on key issues.
- Form good links with police PREVENT lead

Understanding Terminology

Radicalisation: act or process of making a person more radical or favouring of extreme or fundamental changes in political, economic or social conditions, institutions or habits of the mind.

Extremism: holding extreme political or religious views which may deny right to any group or individual. Can be expressed in vocal or active opposition to core British values

Core British values: including

- Democracy
- The rule of law
- Individual liberty
- Respectful tolerance of different faiths or beliefs.

* NB: **extremism** can refer to a range of views, for example racism, homophobia, right-wing ideology, as well as any religious extremism.

Risk Assessment

A risk assessment / action plan is available and may be obtained from the Principal

Working with Local Partners

Centre of English Studies has made and maintains contact with the local police/local authority PREVENT coordinator to understand their role and the support available In addition to this the school always endeavours to develop local area PREVENT links with other organisations and to share information with all local organisations as appropriate

Understanding the Risk of Extremism

Staff, students & other adults (group leaders, homestays etc) may arrive at school already holding extremist views or, whilst studying at the school, they may be influenced by a range of factors such as 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.

Ways to Counteract Risks

Centre of English Studies will promote a safe and supportive international environment via clear expectations of accepted behaviours and those, including radicalisation and extremism, that will not be tolerated. These expectations will be reflected in our handbooks, declarations to be signed and public notices on display around the school.

Further to this we will promote core British values through documents given to students, notices around the school, via stand-alone classes on British culture & traditions on arrival and via the CES curriculum. Our approach is to educate and inform that the way things are done in the UK may not be the same as the way they are done in the student's home country. Where possible and appropriate we will develop critical awareness and thought to counter accepting extremism without question, especially of online material.

CES staff and those working with us will challenge radical or extremist views in any context (formal or informal) via stated procedures. In most situations this would require an immediate response by referring to the international environment of the school and the fact that tolerance is expected by all staff and students. If persistent concerns remain then these concerns should be reported via the procedure outlined in this policy document

All staff and hosts will be ready to react when world or local events may cause upset and there is an increased likelihood of conflicting feelings being expressed. The PREVENT lead will take the initiative in these situations. The school will also have strong filters on IT equipment and clear rules on accessing extremist / terrorist websites and uses of social networks to exchange extremist / terrorist views

CES will ensure that extremist speakers do not use school premises to distribute material or expound views and will monitor and investigate the appropriacy of any visiting speakers or presenters. Staff and homestays get to know students, their home circumstances and friendship groups. Through knowing students well, it is easier to spot changes in behaviour. Staff and homestays will also be observant and vigilant in noticing any signs of radical or extremist behaviour(see below). Welfare and all staff and homestays will work hard supporting any students identified as vulnerable.

Training

The PREVENT lead will undertake face to face training with local PREVENT officers. All staff will undertake on line PREVENT training. All homestay hosts will receive their own copy of the PREVENT policy and sign a declaration stating that they have received and understood their duties in this regard. The purpose of the training is to:

- understand context and expectations of PREVENT
- understand staff/homestay duty to implement the policy
- understand terminology and risks associated with radicalisation and extremism
- understand how to identify and support vulnerable students
- understand ways the school will counteract the risks
- recognise signs that may cause concern
- know the lead PREVENT person and procedures for communicating concerns
- know the importance of staff behaviour and professionalism in (a) being exemplars of British values and (b) not discussing inflammatory subjects with students

Online training will be conducted via: <https://www.foundationonline.org.uk>

Signs of Concern

- Students talking about exposure to extremist materials or views outside school (*in this event, 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 LSCB contacted

Reacting to Concerns

- Staff/homestays should always challenge extremist or intolerant remarks
- Staff/ homestays should explain why such remarks are unacceptable in the UK in general and in CES in particular, pointing out that CES is an international organisation accepting students from all over the world and that we expect all staff and students to follow a policy of tolerance and respect to all irrespective of their race, religion, sexuality political affiliation and so on
- **All concerns, however small, should be reported to the PREVENT lead.**
- Staff and homestays are assured confidentiality when reporting a concern
- Staff and homestays are assured that all reports will be dealt with sensitively and carefully