



Stella Maris School

Tackling Radicalisation and Extremism **PREVENT POLICY**

Updated: Sept. 2025
To be reviewed: Sept. 2026

Stella Maris School is committed to Safeguarding and promoting the welfare and well-being of all members of the school. All school staff and volunteers who work in the school are expected to share this commitment and vision.

This Policy was written in consultation with the Trustees, Headteacher and the staff of Stella Maris School with due regard to our mission statement.

“At Stella Maris we endeavour to put the children at the centre of everything we do. Our mission is to educate, nurture and instil traditional values and cherish our children. We inspire them to achieve their best in every aspect of their lives.”

PREVENT POLICY (Tackling Extremism and Radicalisation)

1. POLICY STATEMENT

Stella Maris School is fully committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all its pupils and staff. All staff recognise that protecting our children against radicalisation and extremism is a key part of our Safeguarding Policy.

Our Tackling Extremism and Radicalisation Policy sets out our strategies and procedures for protecting vulnerable children or families from being radicalised or exposed to extremist views. It is the aim of the school to try and identify any vulnerable children and provide them with support.

2. LINKS TO OTHER POLICIES

Tackling Extremism and Radicalisation Policy links to the following school policies:

- Safeguarding Policy and Child Protection Policy
- Equality Policy
- Anti-bullying Policy
- E-Safety Policy

The following national guidelines should also be read when working with this policy:

- PREVENT DUTY
- Keeping Children Safe in Education DfE (Sept. 2025)

3. AIMS AND PRINCIPLES

Our Tackling Extremism and Radicalisation Policy is intended to provide a framework for dealing with issues relating to vulnerability, radicalisation and exposure to extremist views. It is our aim to try and identify any vulnerable children or situations which may lead to a child being in danger from either radicalisation or extremist views. We also recognise that prevention is important and incorporate many strands into our Curriculum in terms of teaching British Standards and educating the children to recognise danger and empowering them with the confidence to speak out if something is wrong.

Our objectives are:

- All school staff and Trustees will have an understanding of what radicalisation and extremism is and why we need to be vigilant at all times in school
- All school staff will understand and follow the set procedures set out in this policy in tackling extremism and radicalisation

- Pupils will be educated to recognise the dangers of radicalisation and extremism and know what to do in order to keep themselves safe
- All parents/carers and pupils will know that the school has policies in place to keep pupils safe from harm

VIGILANCE AT ALL TIMES

All staff need to be fully engaged in being vigilant about radicalisation and extremism. Stella Maris School will work alongside other professional bodies and agencies to ensure that all our pupils are safe from harm. In line with Government legislation Stella Maris School will complete an annual Prevent Risk Assessment. It will be carried out by the Board of Trustees and the Management of the school. The Prevent Risk Assessment is set out in the form of a checklist which can be found at the end of this policy. **(Attachment 1.)** It is kept in the DSL's Child Protection File in the Headteacher's office. All concerns, issues and action taken are recorded in the Serious Incident Book by the DSL.

DEFINITIONS AND INDICATORS

In the operating of this policy, we use the following accepted Government definition of extremism:

“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 and or calls for the death of our armed forces, whether in this country or overseas.”

Extremism is defined by the Crown Prosecution Service as:

“The demonstration of unacceptable behaviour by using any means or medium to express views which:

- Encourage, justify or glorify terrorist violence in furtherance of particular beliefs
- Seek to provoke others to terrorist acts
- Encourage other serious criminal activity or seek to provoke others to serious criminal acts
- Foster hatred which might lead to inter-community violence in the UK”

Radicalisation is defined as the act or process of making a person more radical or sympathetic towards extreme or fundamental changes in political, economic or social conditions, institutions of habits of the mind. These views will not be tolerated at Stella Maris School.

Pupils may become susceptible to radicalisation through a range of social, personal and environmental factors. It is vital that school staff are able to recognise these vulnerabilities.

All staff are aware of potential behaviours which may indicate a child or family is at a risk of being radicalised or open to extremist views.

Indicators of Vulnerability to Radicalisation for Staff could be:

- The pupil is distanced from their cultural/ religious heritage and experiences insecurity about their place in society
- Personal Crisis- the pupil may be experiencing a family situation, a sense of isolation and low self-esteem. They may have distanced themselves from friendship groups and become involved with a new and different group of friends and may be questioning religious or social attitudes which they once held
- Personal Circumstances can also upset a child and make them more vulnerable to these extremist views. Situations like migration and events affecting the pupil's country may contribute to a sense of loss or grief. Personal experiences can also trigger discontent

- A fear of rejection can make a child vulnerable as can unrealistic expectations placed by parents on their child
- Experiences of Criminality- which may include involvement with criminal groups or experience of imprisonment
- SEN pupils may experience difficulties with social interaction and being accepted and this can make them vulnerable

However, this list is not the only indicators as not all young people experiencing the above are the only ones at risk of radicalisation. Staff must be vigilant and report any suspicions to the SPOC.

The SPOC at Stella Maris School is **Mr Stephen Usher (Headteacher)**

These might include:

- Graffiti symbols, written or in artwork that promotes extremist messages or images
- A sudden or marked change in style of dress, appearance or personality which may associate a child or family with known extremist groups
- Behaviours reflecting extremist views
- Loss of interest in friendships and normal activities
- Evidence of accessing extremist materials outside of school
- Using insulting or derogatory names for other groups of people
- Use of anti-Western or anti-British Values views
- Intolerance towards others in relation to religion, culture, race or sex

More critical risk factors could include:

- Being in contact with extremist recruiters
- Accessing violent extremist websites, especially those with a social networking element or possessing extremist literature or living in a household where others are accessing them
- Using extremist narratives
- Justifying the use of violence to solve issues
- Seeking to join extremist organisations

PROCEDURES FOR REFERRALS

To date we have not experienced any incidents or indicators of radicalisation or extremism at Stella Maris School. However, it is important for all members of the school community to be constantly vigilant and remain fully informed about the issues which affect the local area and society in which we teach. Staff are reminded to be 'professionally inquisitive' where concerns arise, referring any concerns immediately to the DSL.

The DSL at Stella Maris School is **Mr Stephen Usher (Headteacher)**.

The Deputy DSL is **Mr. Ken Brown**.

For advice on any incidents relating to radicalisation or extremism concerns can be referred to **Stockport Children's Safeguarding Board** who can be contacted on **0161 474 5657**.

THE ROLE OF THE CURRICULUM and TEACHING STRATEGIES

Stella Maris School promotes respect, tolerance and diversity and this forms an integral part of every area of the Curriculum.

Children are encouraged to share their views and they understand from a very early age that they are entitled to have their own different beliefs. We respect all religious denominations in school and the children understand that everyone has a right to worship in the way which suits them. Our Curriculum is balanced and varied.

PSHE and Citizenship is embedded across the Curriculum and is an integrated part of all subjects. It directly underpins the ethos of the school and is the foundation for our assemblies and religious celebrations. Children are regularly taught about how to stay safe when using the internet and they are encouraged to recognise the dangers of the internet and people who may use it for the wrong reasons.

We ensure that our various teaching approaches, from the Pre-Prep to Yr. 6, help pupils to be resilient to extremism and have the confidence to speak out if something is not right or if they feel uncomfortable about any situations.

Stella Maris School will actively challenge and intervene if necessary to ensure that we have strong safeguarding practices based on the most up-to-date guidance and best practice.

If situations occur the DSL or/and Deputy DSL will decide on the most appropriate course of action to be taken. This will depend on the circumstances and the situation and action will be taken on a case-by-case basis.

They will decide when a referral to external agencies is needed.

Preventing Violent Extremism

Roles and Responsibilities of the single point of contact (SPOC) include:

- Staff being aware that Mr Stephen Usher is the SPOC in relation to protecting pupils from radicalisation and involvement in terrorism
- Having a good understanding of the relevant guidance in relation to preventing pupils from becoming involved in terrorism and protecting them from radicalisation
- Ensuring staff are aware of the role and responsibilities of Stella Maris School in relation to protecting pupils from radicalisation and involvement in terrorism and their duty as staff to understand and use this policy effectively
- Promoting through Curriculum teaching and assemblies tolerance of different faiths and beliefs
- Ensuring that all staff are knowledgeable about the safeguarding processes relating to protecting pupils from radicalisation and involvement in terrorism
- Acting as the first point of contact within the school for concerns relating to pupils involving radicalisation and terrorism
- Recording and being in charge of information from referrals of vulnerable pupils into the Channel* process
- Being the designated person to attend *Channel meetings as necessary and carrying out any actions as agreed
- Sharing any relevant additional information at appropriate times.

***(Channel is a multi-agency approach to provide support to individuals who are at risk of being drawn into terrorist related activity. It is led by the Greater Manchester Police Counter-Terrorism Unit)**

It aims to:

- Establish an effective multi-agency referral and intervention process to identify vulnerable individuals
- Safeguard individuals who might be vulnerable to being radicalised, so that they are not at risk of being drawn into terrorist-related activity
- Provide early intervention to protect and divert people away from the risks they face and reduce vulnerability

POLICY REVIEW

Our School Prevent Policy (Tackling Extremism and Radicalisation), will be reviewed annually as part of the overall Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy review.

STAFF TRAINING

Whole school in service training on Safeguarding and Child Protection is organised for all Staff and Trustees on a regular basis. In addition to this we are an open door for parents who may wish to come and seek advice on Safeguarding issues.

Through INSET opportunities in school and regular Safeguarding updates at our staff meetings we will ensure that our staff are fully aware of the vulnerabilities and risks which are associated with radicalisation. Staff are aware of the need for early identification of any indicators of radicalisation and the school can provide support where necessary.

The DSL and Deputy DSL are trained in the PREVENT DUTY and keep up to date with legislation and changes which may be made. This information is then passed on to staff at our regular safeguarding sessions.

VISITORS AND THE USE OF SCHOOL PREMISES

All Visitors and volunteers are subject to the appropriate Safeguarding Checks. Children are NEVER left unsupervised with external visitors, regardless of safeguarding check outcomes. We thus ensure that all messages communicated by visitors and volunteers are:

- Consistent with the ethos of the school
- Consistent with British values
- Do not promote extremism or radicalisation
- Matched to the needs of pupils

4. Referrals to Channel

In the event of pupils showing extremist/radicalisation behaviour the following system will be followed;

All incidents of prejudicial behaviour will be reported directly to the **SPOC**.

All incidents will be fully investigated and recorded and records will be kept in line with procedures for any other safeguarding incident.

Parents/carers will be contacted and the incident discussed in detail, aiming to identify motivating factors, any changes in circumstances at home, parental views of the incident and to assess whether the incident is serious enough to warrant a further referral. A note of this meeting is kept alongside the initial referral in the DSL's Child Protection File.

The school reserves the right to contact the relevant outside agencies.

As with all Safeguarding issues all areas of concern should be directed to the DSL or Deputy DSL.

Appendix 1

Prevent Risk Assessment

The Following Risk Assessment is intended to show how prepared we are in identifying people who may be vulnerable to radicalisation and extremism. It is intended to be completed on an annual basis and is kept in the DSL's Child Protection File.

Prevent Risk Assessment	Yes	No
Has STELLA MARIS SCHOOL got a DSL ?		
Has the DSL received training in line with DfE accreditation		
Have the staff at STELLA MARIS SCHOOL been trained in Prevent and know their duties?		
Have the school Trustees been trained in Prevent and know their duties?		
Is Prevent identified in the Safeguarding Policy?		
Do we have a Prevent Policy which includes the contact details of The Single Point of Contact who should be contacted in the event of a referral being made?		
Have all staff read the Prevent Policy?		

How to identify someone who is vulnerable to radicalisation or extremism.

Have any of our pupils:

1. Demonstrated graffiti symbols, written in art work that promotes extremist messages or images		
2. Changed their style of dress or personal appearance to accord with known extremist groups		
3. Demonstrated evidence that their normal behaviour is becoming increasingly centred on an extremist ideology, group or cause		
4. Shown evidence of accessing extremist materials from online sites/other sources?		

5. Viewed extremist or 'hate' terms to exclude others or incite violence?		
6. Expressed anti-Western or anti-British values view		
7. Shown intolerance of difference, (secular or religious) towards others. This may include intolerance based on race, colour/culture.		
8 Used language of a "us and them" mentality .		

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