

**Prevent Policy**

Approved by Board of Trustees on: May 23rd 2023

Lead Staff Member: Jackie Rosenberg

Lead Trustee: Grace Reid

**PDT and PDT Training**

PDT and PDT Training (PDTT) wants to help people by preventing them from being drawn into terrorism or extremist violence. As a public institution we have both a moral and a legal duty to ensure individuals are protected and that students and communities remain safe.

**What is Prevent?**

Prevent is part of the Government's Counter Terrorism Strategy. The current threat from terrorism and extremism in the United Kingdom is real and can involve the exploitation of vulnerable people, including children and young people. There have been recent occasions both locally and nationally in which extremist groups have attempted to radicalise vulnerable young people and adults and encourage them to hold extreme views, including views justifying political, religious, sexist or racist violence, or to steer them into a rigid and narrow ideology that is intolerant of diversity.

PDT’s Prevent Policy sits within our overall policies of Equalities and Diversity and Safeguarding. We therefore see Prevent as a strategy to support our learners, offering a crucial extension of our Safeguarding Duty of Care.

**What is radicalisation?**

Radicalisation is the process by which a person comes to support terrorism and extremist ideologies. For example, someone who believes in animal rights can legitimately campaign against cruelty to animals by democratic means like petitions, letters, taking part in peaceful demonstrations etc. However, they could be radicalised by an extremist animal liberation group into actions like sending threatening letters to those who conduct animal research or attacking research buildings or scientists’ homes. Signs that a person is becoming radicalised can include: 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 and increased secretiveness, especially around internet use.

**What is extremism?**

Extremism is the use of extreme behaviour to support a belief or ideology.  Not all extremism is harmful or criminal, but sometimes those who behave in an extreme way can go on to hurt and harm other people..

**The Prevent Strategy includes educating against:**

* Extreme right wing groups
* Radical religious groups.
* Extreme animal rights/environmental groups that advocate violence
* Groups that spread ideologies about the racial superiority/inferiority of a particular ethnic group
* Extreme nationalists and separatists e.g. the ‘real’ IRA
* Islamist inspired extremists like Isis or Al Qaeda who create a narrative of ‘them’ and ‘us’ and support and advocate violence against those who do not share their views.

**Prevention is best**

The aim of Prevent legislation is to discourage people from being drawn into violent action.. It is based on the belief that it is best to ensure people are diverted away from anti-social beliefs and dangerous behaviour before a crime is committed. Research shows that people are most susceptible to radicalisation to terrorist ideologies when they feel that their views are not heard, they are in situations of poverty and particular trigger events that cause them to act. Communities can be threatened by a minority of people who encourage or glorify violence in the name of a political ideology or a religion. PDT Training and its staff, in partnership with local authorities and other partnership agencies, is committed to helping build stronger, safer communities who feel empowered to reject extremism and terrorism in all its forms.

**What else does PDT do?**

Making racist, sexist, homophobic, extremist, sectarian or any other forms of hate comments is not tolerated by PDT Training and disciplinary action is taken against anyone making them. This includes sectarian intolerance against groups within the same faith e.g. Protestant vs Catholic Christians, Shia vs Sunni Muslims.

We promote tolerance, diversity and respect for fundamental British values and human rights. Staff are trained in Prevent and equality and diversity.

We have a team of safeguarding officers who are here to protect you from harm, and this includes the dangers of radicalisation. Should a concern arise, we will take advice from the local Police Prevent Co-ordinator.

We have a process for ensuring that speakers and visitors will not promote extremist views.

We will also:

* ensure that Trustees and PDT’s Leadership have a full and in-depth understanding of the radicalisation process, and the Prevent Duty so we are in the best position to lead and support all staff and students in this area. Trustees have regular training and receive safeguarding and Prevent updates throughout the academic year.
* empower staff through continuous training and development to better understand the radicalisation process and thereby equip tutors and staff to notice and identify behaviours that could be signs of radicalisation.
* support students to be able to express their views and make their opinions heard (following PDT’s code of conduct that has been informed by UK Equality and Diversity rules and the Human Rights Act).
* support students using a whole-person approach, including support for welfare, financial advice and crisis support, so that students are not at risk of radicalisation from groups looking to exploit their vulnerabilities.
* challenge unethical behaviour and opinions that go against our Equality and Diversity Policy.
* building confidence of teaching staff teams to teach and discuss challenging subjects in class, such as ‘terrorist attacks’ to allow conversation and expression of opinions and contest the manipulation of facts e.g. by social and other media.
* encourage the expression of opinions about events in the world, encouraging questioning and providing alternative avenues of expression, within the framework of the Equality and Diversity policy.
* build into the curriculum opportunities to understand and value democracy; the rule of law; individual liberty and mutual tolerance and respect for those of different faiths and beliefs.
* safeguard students who express shock, grief and sadness with national and international events by making referrals to sources of support.
* students to be safe online
* ensure our learners are aware of the intentions of Prevent, the dangers of radicalisation and what they can do if they have concerns about themselves or others.

**How can you protect yourself and friends against radicalisation?**

If you have any worries about the issues raised here, discuss them with your family, your tutor or a safeguarding officer (see below). If you believe strongly in a cause, make sure you research any groups or charities before supporting them.

**Contact us**

If you have any concerns about someone you know being radicalised or would like advice, speak to the safeguarding team or your tutor. They will know whom to contact if it is necessary to take the matter further.

You can contact the PDT Training safeguarding team directly by calling or emailing:

* ***Safeguarding Lead: Semin Archidiacono – 07791 044579 Semin@pdt.org.uk***
* ***Safeguarding Deputy: Mayette Esdicul – 07501004156.*** ***Mayette@pdt.org.uk***

**You can also report any concerns or discuss any issues by calling or emailing the**

**Deputy CEO: 07949108112 –** **jackie@pdt.org.uk**