

 ***Motivate, Develop, Inspire***

**PREVENT**

**Policy**

*The****College****does not tolerate extremist views of any kind whether from internal sources: learners, staff or trustees, or external sources:****college****community, external agencies or individuals.*

*We also recognise that if we fail to challenge extremist views, we are failing to protect our students.*

**Important Contacts**

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| WRAP trainerMay 2022 | Clare Scattergood | c.scattergood@victoria college.bham.org.uk |
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| **Regional Prevent Lead Further and Higher Education (West Midlands)****Counter Extremism Division****Department for Education** | **Sheriyar Alamgir (Sheri)** | **Alamgir.SHERIYAR@education.gov.uk****07785-654148** |

**Introduction**

Social and educational inclusion at Victoria College underpins the core values, policies and strategic planning of the organisation. There is a high level of commitment to equality of opportunity and the curriculum and support services are designed to meet the needs of all groups of students.

Victoria College respects and celebrates the diversity of its community in which people have the freedom and form to embrace their identity.

The aim of this policy is to outline our approach to supporting the national ‘Prevent’ Agenda linked to the safeguarding of our students and staff. This policy is written with reference to the Prevent Duty contained within Section 26 of the Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015 and the specific Prevent Duty Guidance:

https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/preventing-extremism-in-schools-and-childrens-services/preventing-extremism-in-the-education-and-childrens-services-sectors

*“Prevent* is one of the key elements of CONTEST, the Government’s counter- terrorism strategy and it aims to stop people from being drawn into terrorist-related activity. *Prevent* has a strong link to safeguarding because vulnerable children and adults can be susceptible to radicalisation and recruitment into terrorist organisations.

Nationally, there have been cases where extremist groups have attempted to radicalise vulnerable children to hold extreme views. Such views include justifying political, religious, sexist or racist violence, or to steer individuals into a rigid and narrow ideology that is either vocal or active opposition to fundamental British values including embracing diversity and mutual respect and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs.

While it remains rare for children and young people to become involved in terrorist activity, they can be exposed to terrorist and extremist influences or prejudiced views from a young age. This can include through the influence of family members or friends and/or direct contact with extremist groups and organisations or, increasingly, through the internet. This can put a young person at risk of being drawn into illegal activity and has the potential to cause significant harm. As with other forms of safeguarding strategies, early intervention is always preferable. All agencies working with children and young people, along with families and communities, play a key role in ensuring young people and their communities are safe from the threat of radicalisation and terrorism.”

**Scope of Policy**

This policy is written in conjunction with the prevent risk assessment and action plan that is reviewed every half term and reported to the Board of Trustees via the Head of College reports. and is closely linked to the Safeguarding policy, with all members of the Victoria College community being within scope including: students, staff, visitors, employer partners, contractors, volunteers or individuals on work placements It is also linked to the following, but not restricted to, policies:

* Equality and Diversity
* KCSIE (2021)
* Safeguarding Children and Young People
* Health and Safety
* Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Policy
* Risk Management
* IT Acceptable Use Policy
* Working together to safeguard children (2018)
* E safety
* Student Behaviour Policy and Anti bullying

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**The objectives of Prevent are to:**

* **tackle the ideological causes of terrorism**
* **intervene early to support people susceptible to radicalisation**
* **enable people who have already engaged in terrorism to disengage and rehabilitate**

The Prevent duty, introduced as part of the Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015,(revised 2023) came into effect for key bodies including schools, health bodies and police on 1st July 2015 and the most current information from Government has stated that Universities and colleges across the country are from Friday 18 September 2015 legally required to take steps to prevent students from being drawn into terrorism.

The latest departmental advice for schools can be found at:

[Revised Prevent duty guidance: for England and Wales - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/prevent-duty-guidance/revised-prevent-duty-guidance-for-england-and-wales)

**Statement of Policy**

To adhere to our legal obligations and to safeguard the health, well-being and safety of individuals and the Victoria College will:

1. Through its activities, systems and culture champion democratic values, rule of law, equality of opportunity, freedom of speech and the rights of all men and women to live free from persecution of any kind

1. Work in partnership with external agencies to seek advice, share intelligence and safeguard individuals and the College community including our local Police and County Council,
2. Provide comprehensive systems for reporting concerns and working with vulnerable individuals following the reporting to CHANNEL procedures . A referral to Channel can come from anyone who is concerned about a person they know who may be at risk, whether a family member, friend, colleague or concerned professional (through our normal safeguarding process).
3. Use the prevent education toolkit
4. Provide annual training and/or additional training as updates require and development for staff, trustees and students to recognise signs of radicalisation and understand responsibilities and systems for reporting concerns; monitor this training through staff CPD records. Training is provided through Staff development sessions, e-learning and workshops
5. Provide all students with access to welfare and safeguarding support and a personal tutor who will meet with them regularly to monitor academic, personal and social progress.
6. Provide posters and visual information within Victoria College to inform and remind staff, students and visitors of the Prevent agenda and Victoria College values
7. Work with multi-agency teams to develop interventions for students at risk, including students with learning difficulties and disabilities
8. Prohibit access to extremist material and monitor the use of IT through Victoria Colleges’ IT Acceptable Use Policy
9. Monitor the use of accommodation by students, staff and commercial lettings



**Useful Links**

[The Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 (Risk of Being Drawn into Terrorism) (Revised Guidance) Regulations 2023](https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2023/1268/contents/made)

[www.Smallsteps.ltd](http://www.smallsteps.ltd)

| **Date accepted by Trustees: 16.05.2024** |
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| **Signed:**  |
| **Chair of Trustees: John Rodway - Acting Chair of Trustees Sadie Bolton** |
| **Date for Review: May 2025** |