OUR LADY & ST OSWALD'S
CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

"I came so that they might have life and have it more abundantly."
John 10:10

Preventing Radicalisation Policy

Academic year 2026 to 2027

Document control	Details
Status	Review draft for authorised approval — not yet in force
Version and reference	2.0 | OLSO-POL-PREVENT
Prepared and guidance checked	2 October 2026
Policy owner	Conor Meehan Designated Safeguarding Lead with deputy DSLs
Accountability and approval	Our Lady Help of Christians Catholic Academy Trust; approval under the current Scheme of Delegation
Approval and effective date	To be recorded following authorised approval
Next planned review	September 2027 or sooner following material change

This short companion policy explains the school's implementation of the Prevent duty. It supports the safeguarding policy, staff training, risk assessment and referral process. A standalone Prevent policy is a school choice; the duty and effective safeguarding arrangements are required.

Our promises: We Are Kind • We Make Safe Choices • We Try Our Best

Core policy 1 of 2

Purpose and duty

The Prevent duty is part of safeguarding: we have due regard to the need to prevent people being drawn into terrorism while protecting children's dignity, lawful expression and equal treatment. Our Catholic ethos supports respectful discussion, belonging and critical thought. The policy applies across teaching, online activity, visitors, school-run provision and relevant off-site concerns.

Responsibility and readiness

Conor Meehan, DSL, leads Prevent decisions with deputy DSLs Allison Stowell, Charlotte Jones and Charlotte Woodward. All staff notice, report and act on concerns; the Headteacher ensures training, risk assessment and safe provision. Governors and the Trust oversee implementation under the Scheme of Delegation. Know the DSL cover arrangement; do not wait for one named colleague to return.

Assess risk and teach safely

The DSL reviews the school's proportionate Prevent risk assessment at least annually and after relevant changes, using local information, pupil needs, online risks, curriculum, visitors and lettings. Record actions, owners and review. Staff receive induction and appropriate updates; the DSL maintains current Prevent knowledge and relevant training.

Teach age-appropriate British values, respectful relationships, how to assess information and how to seek help through the approved curriculum. Check speakers, outside organisations and resources for suitability. Online Safety governs filtering, monitoring, AI and reporting; a technical block alone is not a safeguarding response.

Understand the concern in context

Record what was actually said, seen or shared and the circumstances. Consider possible coercion, harmful online contact, exploitation and changes in behaviour. Faith, ethnicity, family background, disability, lawful political opinion or a single expression of prejudice is not proof of susceptibility to terrorism. Do not profile pupils or conduct a covert investigation. General violence or mental ill health without a terrorism-related concern still needs the appropriate safeguarding, health or behaviour response.

Core policy 2 of 2

Follow the concern to action process

1. Protect. Call 999 where there is immediate danger or an urgent terrorist threat. Ensure the pupil and others are safe.

2. Report. Tell the DSL or deputy directly and promptly; make an accurate CPOMS record. An unread message is not a response to an urgent concern.

3. Assess. The DSL considers the context, pupil needs, available information and current national and local guidance, obtaining safeguarding or Prevent advice where needed. Staff do not interrogate the pupil or collect proof before reporting.

4. Refer. Make an appropriate children's social care, early-help or Prevent referral when indicated. Use the current national Prevent form and verified local submission route, check receipt and record reasons. A genuine concern must not be delayed while the school seeks more evidence.

5. Support and follow up. Continue education, reasonable adjustments and family support; record agency responses, actions and review. Escalate if the response does not address continuing risk.

Consent information and family involvement

Channel participation is voluntary and requires the applicable consent. This is distinct from sharing safeguarding information or making a referral: consent is not a prerequisite where lawful duties require action. Apply the information-sharing duty, necessity, proportionality and secure handling. Normally involve parents and explain concerns, unless doing so would increase risk or compromise safeguarding action; the DSL records the decision and takes advice. No promise of absolute confidentiality is made.

Contacts and escalation

School DSL team: 01691 652849 during school provision. Emergency: 999. Non-emergency police: 101. Shropshire First Point of Contact/Compass: 0345 678 9021; emergency social work outside office hours: 0345 678 9040 option 1. The DSL maintains the current local Prevent submission and advice contacts in the controlled safeguarding contact sheet. Staff can contact the appropriate safeguarding agency directly where necessary and must inform the DSL as soon as possible.

Records required reference and review

Keep facts, decisions, advice, referral receipt, response and support in CPOMS with restricted access. The Headteacher reviews anonymised patterns, training and the risk assessment with governors. Appendix A provides the detailed referral and review reference; use it alongside Safeguarding, Online Safety, Behaviour, Attendance, SEMH and Confidentiality. Review annually and after relevant change.

Appendix A Referral guidance and source register

Required reference for the DSL when considering a referral and reviewing the school risk assessment.

General violent behaviour, criminality, exploitation, distress or fascination with violence without a terrorism-related concern is addressed through the appropriate safeguarding, health, public-protection or other route. Seek specialist advice if the distinction is unclear. A Prevent pathway can operate alongside necessary child protection or police action; one does not displace the other.

Notice check share and refer

Stage	Action
Notice and immediate safety	Listen and protect. Call 999 for immediate danger. Record the child's words and context; do not conduct an interrogation, investigate extremist material or promise secrecy.
Share with DSL	Speak directly to Conor or a deputy promptly and record on CPOMS. If unavailable and urgent action is needed, seek relevant police/social-care advice directly under the safeguarding policy.
DSL assessment and advice	Check available context, pattern, school records, relevant colleagues and safeguarding advice. Speak appropriately with the pupil/family where safe to understand experiences; avoid labelling the child or questioning them as a suspect.
Decide the route	Record whether no further action, school support/review, Family Help, another safeguarding route or a Prevent referral is appropriate, with rationale and review. If there is a relevant radicalisation/terrorism concern, make the referral promptly; do not delay to gather more evidence.
Refer and follow through	Use the national Prevent referral form and current verified local submission pathway. Record receipt, advice, decision and ongoing support. Share new relevant concerns and escalate risk or delay.

Channel is a voluntary multi-agency support programme; the relevant consent requirements apply to participation. A necessary safeguarding/Prevent referral does not require parental agreement as a precondition. Normally explain the concern and sharing where safe, using the statutory information-sharing guidance. Record reasons for withholding family contact where it could increase risk or compromise protection.

Teaching online controls and providers

Teachers use age-appropriate resources to develop safe relationships, critical thinking, respectful disagreement and knowledge of trusted adults. The approved curriculum and Behaviour Curriculum guide teaching; pupils are not singled out on the basis of identity. Online Safety governs filtering, monitoring, AI and unsafe contact. Leaders check visiting speakers, external providers and lettings for suitability, safeguarding and educational purpose and act on any inappropriate content.

Any pupil needing help continues to receive school support while referrals are considered or processed. Charlotte Jones and the SENDCo coordinate relevant pastoral and educational adjustments within their competence. A child is not treated as having committed an offence merely because a concern or referral is raised. Act separately on a criminal offence or immediate risk through the proper route.

Records contacts and review

CPOMS records concern, context, advice, sharing, decisions, rationale and outcomes. Share relevant information lawfully and securely under the September 2026 Information Sharing Duty guidance; ordinary confidentiality is not a barrier to a required safeguarding disclosure. Use Trust retention/access arrangements. Governors receive anonymised assurance, not unnecessary case details.

School DSL access: 01691 652849. Urgent child protection advice: Shropshire FPOC/Compass 0345 678 9021; out of hours 0345 678 9040 option 1. Immediate danger: 999; non-emergency police: 101. The DSL

maintains the verified local Prevent submission route linked through the current national guidance and local safeguarding arrangements; former named officers and old personal email addresses are not retained as the operational route.

Linked policies and review

Read this policy alongside Child Protection and Safeguarding; Online Safety and Acceptable Use; Behaviour for Learning and Behaviour Curriculum; Pupil Mental Health Wellbeing and SEMH; SEND; Attendance and Punctuality; Confidentiality and Information Sharing; Trust Staff Code of Conduct, Safer Recruitment and lettings procedures. The Trust framework governs employment, complaints and data protection. This policy sets out the school's local implementation; it does not alter the Trust's legal accountability or statutory rights.

The owner checks actual arrangements and staff competence before issue. The authorised approving body records the approval and effective date; staff are briefed and parents receive accessible information where relevant. Review annually and earlier following a significant incident, changed needs, personnel, provision or guidance. Companion review drafts retain their own approval status. Urgent protective action does not wait for policy approval.

Source register

Public sources checked on 2 October 2026. Statutory guidance, non-statutory advice and school choices have different status. Publication-page links allow later editions to be checked. Local arrangements derive from the supplied policies and the Headteacher's school context; the accompanying audit identifies facts requiring confirmation.

Prevent duty guidance

Home Office 2023 statutory guidance effective from 31 December 2023

The Prevent duty practical guidance for designated safeguarding leads

DfE operational guidance updated 24 September 2026

Making a referral to Prevent

DfE referral process and links to the national referral form

Keeping children safe in education 2026

DfE statutory guidance in force from 1 September 2026

Working together to safeguard children 2026

DfE statutory guidance March 2026

Information Sharing Duty

DfE statutory guidance September 2026 and Children Act 2004 section 16LA duty in force from 30 September 2026

Shropshire safeguarding contact and referral routes

Council FPOC 0345 678 9021 and emergency social work 0345 678 9040 option 1

Trust sources: OLHOC Personnel Policies 2025–26 and Statutory Policy Handbook 2025–26, supplied September 2025 editions with September 2026 review dates. Confirm the current editions and Scheme of Delegation. School sources include Our Vision, Values and Aims 2.0, Behaviour for Learning, Attendance and Punctuality, SEND and ASP arrangements, and the recent Mathematics, Uniform, Accessibility and SEMH drafts where relevant.