



# Safe Hands Afterschool Club

## Prevent Duty Policy



**Approved by:** Melanie Lawlee

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### 1. Introduction

The UK faces a continuing threat from terrorism and extremist activity. It is known that terrorist groups seek to recruit and radicalise individuals, including young people.

Prevent forms part of the Government's counter-terrorism strategy, **CONTEST**, and places a duty on childcare providers and schools to safeguard children from being drawn into terrorism.

The Prevent strategy aims to:

- Respond to the ideological challenge of terrorism and those who promote extremist views
- Safeguard and support individuals vulnerable to radicalisation
- Provide practical help to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism

Although it remains rare for school-aged children to become involved in terrorism, young people may be exposed to extremist ideas, particularly online. Early identification and intervention are key safeguarding responsibilities.

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### 2. The CONTEST Strategy

The UK's counter-terrorism strategy, **CONTEST**, consists of four strands:

- **Pursue** – To stop terrorist attacks
- **Prevent** – To stop people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism
- **Protect** – To strengthen protection against a terrorist attack
- **Prepare** – To mitigate the impact of a terrorist attack

Safe Hands After School Club's responsibilities sit primarily within the **Prevent** strand.

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### 3. Purpose

Safe Hands Afterschool Club is committed to safeguarding children from radicalisation and extremist influences. This policy outlines the measures we take to comply with the Prevent Duty under the **Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015**, ensuring children are protected from being drawn into terrorism.



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Radicalisation is treated as a **safeguarding issue** and is managed within our wider **Safeguarding & Child Protection Policy**.

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### 4. Scope

This policy applies to:

- All children attending Safe Hands Afterschool Club
  - All staff, volunteers, students, and visitors
  - All club sessions, including on-site activities, online interactions, and off-site visits
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### 5. Legal & Statutory Framework

This policy is informed by:

- Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 – Section 26 (Prevent Duty)
  - Department for Education – *Prevent Duty Guidance*
  - Keeping Children Safe in Education
  - Working Together to Safeguard Children
  - EYFS Statutory Framework 2025 – Safeguarding and Welfare Requirements
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### 6. Definitions

- **Extremism:** Holding extreme political or religious views or taking extreme actions as a result.
  - **Radicalisation:** The process by which an individual is drawn into supporting terrorism or extremist ideologies.
  - **Prevent Duty:** The statutory duty to have due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism.
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### 7. Aims

Safe Hands Afterschool Club aims to:

- Protect children from exposure to extremist ideology
- Identify and support children vulnerable to radicalisation
- Promote **Fundamental British Values:** democracy, rule of law, individual liberty, mutual respect, tolerance of different faiths and beliefs
- Build resilience and critical thinking through safe discussion and debate
- Work in partnership with parents, local authorities, and safeguarding agencies



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#### 8. Preventative Measures

To safeguard children, we ensure:

- All staff complete safeguarding and **Prevent awareness training**
- The **Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) Mel Lawlee** undertakes advanced safeguarding and Prevent training
- Staff remain alert to signs of vulnerability or extremist influence
- Internet access is supervised and filtered in line with host school systems
- Children receive guidance on **online safety** and responsible digital use
- Visiting speakers and external agencies are vetted prior to engagement
- A culture of inclusion, equality, and respect is maintained

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#### 9. Recognising Vulnerability

Staff are alert to potential indicators of radicalisation, such as:

- Sudden behavioural or ideological changes
- Expressing extremist views or using extremist language
- Isolation from peers or family
- Accessing or sharing extremist material online
- Intolerance or hostility towards others based on faith, ethnicity, or beliefs

Indicators alone do not confirm radicalisation; concerns are assessed and managed through safeguarding procedures.

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#### 10. Procedure for Raising Concerns

1. Staff report concerns immediately to the **DSL**
2. DSL assesses concern within safeguarding procedures
3. Advice may be sought from the **Local Authority safeguarding team**
4. Referrals may be made to **Channel**, the multi-agency programme supporting vulnerable individuals
5. All concerns are **recorded confidentially**, including observations, actions, and outcomes

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#### 11. Online Safety and Digital Awareness

At Safe Hands, we actively support children to stay safe online by:

- Running regular online safety activities



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- Encouraging open conversations about games and social platforms
- Teaching children how to recognise inappropriate behaviour
- Supporting children to report concerns
- Monitoring interactions where digital devices are used

We recognise that online platforms are a key area of potential radicalisation risk and treat online safety as a safeguarding priority.

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#### 12. Partnership Working

Safe Hands works closely with:

- Parents and carers
  - Local safeguarding partners and authorities
  - Relevant agencies for advice or intervention
  - Ensuring communication is proportionate, confidential, and safeguarding-focused
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#### 13. Recording and Reporting

- All Prevent-related concerns are documented securely
  - Records include dates, observations, actions, and outcomes
  - Monitoring identifies trends or recurring risks
  - Ofsted and safeguarding authorities are notified when required
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#### 14. Monitoring & Review

This policy is reviewed:

- Annually, or sooner if guidance or legislation changes
  - After any Prevent-related incident
  - By the Manager and Designated Safeguarding Lead
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#### 15. Related Policies

- Safeguarding & Child Protection Policy
- Online Safety Policy
- Behaviour Policy
- Staff Behaviour Policy, Induction and Training
- Equality & Inclusion Policy