Prevent Duty Policy

Our Commitment

At Manor Farm, we recognise our responsibility to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children and young people attending our setting. This includes protecting them from the risk of radicalisation, extremism and involvement in terrorist-related activity.

Manor Farm is a therapeutic provision, supporting children and young people with additional needs, including social, emotional and mental health difficulties, attachment difficulties, developmental trauma, autism, learning disabilities and other neurodevelopmental conditions.

We recognise that some of the children we support may experience additional vulnerabilities which can make them more susceptible to manipulation, exploitation, coercion or influence from individuals or groups seeking to promote extremist ideologies.

Our approach to the Prevent Duty is therefore embedded within our wider safeguarding responsibilities.

We are committed to providing an environment where children feel safe, valued, respected and listened to. We promote tolerance, respect, individual identity and an understanding of different cultures, beliefs and backgrounds.

Our approach is child-centred, therapeutic and proportionate. We will consider each child's individual circumstances, developmental needs and vulnerabilities when responding to concerns.

What is the Prevent Duty?

The Prevent Duty forms part of the Government's counter-terrorism strategy, CONTEST. Under the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015, relevant settings have responsibilities to help prevent people from being drawn into terrorism.

Prevent aims to identify individuals who may be vulnerable to radicalisation and provide appropriate support at an early stage.

Radicalisation is the process through which a person comes to support terrorism or extremist ideologies associated with terrorism. Extremism can involve the promotion of ideologies based on violence, hatred or intolerance.

Radicalisation can happen in many environments, including within families, communities, social groups and online. Children may be exposed to extremist influences through social

media, online gaming, video-sharing platforms, messaging applications or relationships with other individuals.

Prevent is a safeguarding responsibility and concerns must be treated with the same seriousness as other forms of potential exploitation or harm.

Understanding Vulnerability and Additional Needs

We recognise that children attending Manor Farm may experience circumstances which could increase their vulnerability to exploitation or radicalisation.

These may include:

- Social isolation, loneliness or difficulties forming friendships.
- Low self-esteem or difficulties developing a positive sense of identity.
- A strong desire to belong or be accepted by others.
- Difficulties recognising manipulation, coercion or exploitation.
- Communication difficulties or challenges understanding social situations.
- Experiences of trauma, rejection, bullying or discrimination.
- Mental health difficulties or emotional vulnerability.
- Increased exposure to harmful online influences.

Some children may have autism, learning disabilities, sensory processing differences or other additional needs which influence how they communicate, process information and understand the world around them.

We recognise that these circumstances do not automatically make a child vulnerable to radicalisation. Staff must never make assumptions based on a child's diagnosis, disability or behaviour.

However, staff should consider whether changes in behaviour, presentation, relationships or expressed views may indicate that a child is experiencing harmful influences or exploitation.

Recognising Signs of Radicalisation

There is no single indicator of radicalisation. Staff should remain alert to changes in a child's behaviour, presentation, relationships and expressed views.

Potential indicators may include:

- Expressing support for violence, terrorism or extremist activity.
- Increasingly hostile or intolerant views towards particular groups, cultures or religions.
- Attempting to influence or recruit other children into extremist beliefs.
- Accessing, sharing or promoting extremist material online.
- Becoming increasingly isolated or withdrawn.
- Showing an unusual interest in extremist organisations or ideologies.
- Justifying terrorist attacks or suggesting violence is acceptable.
- Being influenced or encouraged by individuals promoting extremist beliefs.

Staff should consider concerns within the wider context of the child's individual needs and circumstances. A single behaviour or expressed opinion should not automatically be interpreted as evidence of radicalisation.

Our Preventive and Protective Approach

At Manor Farm, we believe that positive relationships, emotional security and a sense of belonging are important protective factors.

Through our therapeutic approach, we aim to:

- Provide a safe, supportive environment where children feel listened to and respected.
- Promote positive self-esteem, confidence and a healthy sense of identity.
- Encourage respect for different cultures, beliefs and opinions.
- Support children to develop positive relationships and social skills.
- Encourage children to think critically and recognise misleading or harmful information.
- Help children understand online safety and the potential dangers of extremist content.
- Challenge discriminatory, hateful or intolerant behaviour appropriately.
- Encourage children to speak to a trusted adult if they feel worried, pressured or unsafe.

We recognise that some children may need additional support to understand information, recognise manipulation or communicate concerns. Staff will adapt their approach to meet individual communication, learning and developmental needs.

Staff Responsibilities and Training

All staff and volunteers have a responsibility to understand and follow the Prevent Duty and report any concerns promptly.

All staff receive Prevent awareness training as part of their induction, alongside safeguarding training and other relevant training. Prevent awareness is reinforced through regular in-house training and safeguarding updates.

Staff must:

- Understand the potential signs and indicators of radicalisation.
- Remain alert to changes in children's behaviour and presentation.
- Understand the additional vulnerabilities of children with SEND and developmental needs.
- Promote tolerance, respect and inclusion.
- Report concerns immediately to the DSL or a Deputy DSL.
- Record concerns factually and promptly on CPOMS.

Reporting Concerns and Referral Procedures

Any concerns that a child may be at risk of radicalisation must be reported immediately to the DSL or Deputy DSL.

Staff must not investigate concerns themselves or attempt to determine whether a child has been radicalised.

All concerns will be recorded on CPOMS, including relevant observations, changes in behaviour, comments made by the child and any known online or external influences.

The DSL will assess the information, consider the child's individual circumstances and decide on the appropriate safeguarding response.

Where appropriate, the DSL will:

- Seek advice from relevant safeguarding professionals and local authority services.
- Work with parents, schools and other professionals, where appropriate and safe to do so.
- Follow the relevant local Prevent referral pathway.
- Make a referral to the police using the National Prevent Referral Form where appropriate.

- Consider whether the child requires additional early help or safeguarding support.

Where there is an immediate risk of harm or danger, the police must be contacted on 999.

Online Safety

We recognise that the internet and social media can expose children to extremist content, harmful ideologies and individuals seeking to influence or exploit them.

Manor Farm promotes online safety through staff awareness, appropriate supervision and our wider E-Safety and Social Media Policy.

Staff will remain alert to concerns involving online gaming, social media, messaging platforms and exposure to extremist material.

Any concerns relating to online radicalisation must be reported to the DSL and recorded on CPOMS.

Partnership Working and Policy Review

We recognise that effective safeguarding requires partnership working. Manor Farm will work with parents, schools, local authorities, safeguarding partnerships and relevant external agencies to ensure children receive appropriate support.

We will follow the current Prevent Duty Guidance for England and Wales, local safeguarding procedures and relevant statutory guidance.

This policy will be reviewed annually, or sooner if there are changes to legislation, statutory guidance or local safeguarding procedures.

This policy will be reviewed annually or sooner if required.

Policy Last Reviewed: 12th November 2026

Next Review Due: 12th November 2027

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