



Little Acorns Forest Schools Ltd

Prevent Duty Policy

1. Policy Statement

[Forest School / Organisation Name] is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all children and young people. As part of our safeguarding responsibilities, we recognise our duty under the **Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015** to have due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism.

This policy outlines how our Forest School will comply with the **Prevent Strategy** and the **Prevent Duty Guidance for England and Wales**, ensuring children are protected from the risk of radicalisation and extremism.

We recognise that protecting children from radicalisation is part of our wider safeguarding duties and should be approached in the same way as protecting children from other forms of harm.

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2. Aims of the Policy

This policy aims to:

- Safeguard children and young people from exposure to extremism or radicalisation.
- Provide guidance for staff to identify and respond to concerns.
- Ensure staff understand their safeguarding responsibilities under Prevent.

- Promote an environment that encourages respect, tolerance and critical thinking.
 - Ensure concerns are reported appropriately and in line with safeguarding procedures.
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3. Definitions

Extremism

Extremism is defined as vocal or active opposition to fundamental British values, including:

- democracy
- the rule of law
- individual liberty
- mutual respect
- tolerance of different faiths and beliefs

Radicalisation

Radicalisation refers to the process by which a person comes to support extremist ideologies or terrorism.

4. Forest School Ethos

Forest School environments promote:

- respect for others
- inclusion and equality
- resilience and critical thinking
- open discussion and questioning

Through outdoor learning experiences, we aim to build children's confidence, independence, and ability to challenge prejudice and discrimination.

Promoting these values supports the development of resilience against extremist narratives.

5. Roles and Responsibilities

Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)

The DSL is responsible for:

- ensuring Prevent is embedded within safeguarding practice
- receiving concerns regarding radicalisation
- making referrals to relevant agencies where necessary
- maintaining records of concerns and actions taken
- ensuring staff receive appropriate training

Staff and Volunteers

All staff and volunteers must:

- understand this policy
- undertake safeguarding and Prevent awareness training
- report any concerns immediately to the DSL
- avoid investigating concerns themselves

Staff should be alert to behavioural changes that could indicate safeguarding concerns.

6. Identifying Concerns

While radicalisation is rare, staff should be aware of possible indicators including:

- sudden changes in behaviour or beliefs
- increased isolation or withdrawal
- expression of extremist views
- accessing extremist content online
- intolerance of different views or beliefs

These indicators do not necessarily mean radicalisation is occurring but may indicate vulnerability.

7. Procedures for Reporting Concerns

If a member of staff has concerns that a child may be vulnerable to radicalisation they must:

1. Record the concern.
2. Report it immediately to the **Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)**.
3. The DSL will assess the concern in line with safeguarding procedures.
4. Where appropriate, the DSL may refer to:
 - o Local safeguarding partnerships
 - o Children's services
 - o the **Channel Programme**

The Channel programme provides support for individuals identified as vulnerable to being drawn into terrorism.

Leicestershire further contact information:

For further information locally please contact- [Prevent | Leicestershire Police](#)

You can contact the Prevent Team on [101](#) extension 2541.

You can call the national police Prevent advice line [0800 011 3764](#), in confidence, to share your concerns with our specially trained officers.

If it's an emergency, please call [999](#).

If you see online material promoting terrorism or extremism, you can [report it online](#).

8. Staff Training

All staff and volunteers will:

- receive safeguarding and Prevent awareness training
- understand signs of radicalisation and extremism
- know how to report concerns
- refresh training periodically

Training may include the government Prevent awareness course.

9. Online Safety

Although Forest School activities are primarily outdoor-based, we recognise that online spaces can be used to spread extremist content.

Where digital devices are used:

- appropriate filtering and monitoring procedures will be followed
 - staff will supervise internet use where relevant
 - concerns regarding online activity will be reported to the DSL
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10. Partnership Working

The Forest School will work with:

- parents and carers
- local safeguarding partnerships
- local authorities
- Prevent and Channel coordinators where appropriate

Partnership working ensures concerns are managed effectively and children receive appropriate support.

11. Equality and Inclusion

We recognise that safeguarding must be balanced with equality and respect.

This policy:

- does not target any specific community or group
 - promotes respect for all cultures, beliefs and backgrounds
 - ensures children can discuss controversial topics safely and respectfully.
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12. Monitoring and Review

This policy will be:

- reviewed annually
 - updated in line with national safeguarding guidance
 - approved by the organisation's leadership team
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13. Related Policies

This policy should be read alongside:

- Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy
- Behaviour Policy
- Equality and Diversity Policy
- Staff Code of Conduct

- Policy Reviewed Jan 2026-Kate Morison (Lead Practitioner) - no alterations made.