



The London Interdisciplinary School

Prevent Policy

Introduction

The Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015 (CTSA) introduced a new statutory duty for higher education institutions to have “due regard to the need to prevent individuals from being drawn into terrorism”. The CTSA states that in meeting the statutory duty, higher education institutions must have *particular regard* to the duty to ensure freedom of speech and the importance of academic freedom (Section 31). The School, like the government, recognises that HEIs are special places where freedom of speech and academic freedom are vital; our commitment to these can be found in the School’s Academic Freedom and Freedom of Speech Policies.

Therefore, in carrying out its Prevent Duty under the CTSA, the School is careful to ensure that the risks of individuals being drawn into terrorism are carefully weighed against the risks of curtailing academic freedom and freedom of speech. Our approach to the Prevent Duty is proportionate to our size and context; it is risk-based; and it is underpinned by the values of equality and diversity, which are at the heart of our inclusive approach to teaching and learning. Given the relatively small size and low complexity of the School, and our commitment to enabling an inclusive and open culture, this means that in practice many of the steps the School will take to meet this duty will be light-touch, sensitive, and informal.

The School has developed these steps in line with HM Government’s *Prevent Duty Guidance: For Higher Education Institutions in England and Wales*; and in line with the relevant guidelines published by the Office for Students (OfS).

The Prevent Duty as it associates to higher education institutions is an area of strong debate, given the tension between and HEI’s duty to prevent individuals being drawn into terrorism and its duty to uphold academic freedom and freedom of speech. That is why the Board will review the School’s Prevent Policy annually, in consultation with students where appropriate, to assess the extent to which it strikes an appropriate balance between these two competing duties. The Policy will also be reviewed annually from a legal and operational perspective.

Scope

This Policy applies to all members of the School community: staff, students, contractors and visitors.

The activities of School staff and students taking place away from the School site also fall within the policy’s scope where they are, or are perceived to be, associated with



the School.

Definitions

Prevent is the Government's anti-radicalisation agenda, embedded in the Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015.

A *vulnerable individual* is an individual who is susceptible to being exploited by radical groups and subsequently drawn into terror-related activity.

Academic freedom is the expectation that staff and students shall have the freedom within the law to question and test received wisdom and to put forward new ideas and controversial or unpopular opinions, without placing themselves in jeopardy of losing their jobs or privileges.

Radicalisation is the process by which an individual comes to support terrorism and extremist ideologies associated with terrorist groups.

Extremism is defined by the government as vocal or active opposition to fundamental British values, including democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs. Also included in this definition are calls for the death of members of the British armed forces, whether in the UK or overseas.

Terrorism is an action that endangers or causes serious violence to a person or people; causes serious damage to property; or seriously interferes with or disrupts an electronic system. The use or threat must be designed to influence the government or to intimidate the public, and is made for the purpose of advancing a political, religious, or ideological cause.

Roles and Responsibilities

The Board has overall responsibility for the School's compliance with the Prevent Duty. It agrees that the Chief Executive of the School will discharge this obligation as the Prevent Lead, on whose behalf the Lead Safeguarding Officer, the Registrar, will act.

The Lead Safeguarding Officer (the Registrar) is therefore responsible for overseeing this Policy on a day-to-day basis, ensuring all staff and students are made aware of the Prevent Policy at induction, ensuring Prevent training is delivered to the appropriate staff and students, and dealing with all concerns relating to radicalization, as set out in the School's Safeguarding Policy, including coordinating with Prevent partners where appropriate.

Approach



The School's primary approach to its Prevent Duty is to place inclusivity and the welcoming of diversity at the heart of its teaching and learning model. This will mitigate against factors that can contribute to making individuals vulnerable to radicalization, such as isolation, lack of integration, inequality and discrimination. This inclusive, diverse approach will be coupled with a strong commitment to pastoral care, with one-to-one personal tutors for all students, and a range of learning, welfare, wellbeing and mental health support services provided by the School's Student Experience Department.

The Lead Safeguarding officer will ensure that all staff in student-facing roles, including academic, support and professional services, as well as Student Union elected officers, complete Prevent Duty training, which will help them to identify individuals who may be displaying signs of being at risk of radicalization and inform them of the appropriate procedures for raising concerns. The Lead Safeguarding Officer will also ensure that all staff and students who undergo Prevent training will also complete Unconscious Bias training, to ensure that they are not being led by stereotypes.

Aside from this Policy, there are a number of other policies in place that support the School's discharging of its Prevent Duty, such as:

- The *Safeguarding Policy*, which sets out the procedure by which staff and students can raise concerns about vulnerable individuals whom they believe are showing signs of radicalization;
- The *External Speaker Policy*, which sets out the School's policy and procedure for assessing and mitigating risks around external speakers, whilst maintaining the School's existing duty to promote freedom of speech;
- The *Dignity at Work and Study Policy*, which requires staff and students to challenge any prejudice, discrimination or extremist views, including derogatory language, and which provides a procedure by which these kinds of unacceptable behaviours should be dealt with;
- The *Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Policy*, which sets out the responsibilities of staff and students in relation to supporting an environment of equality, diversity and inclusion.

The School will have clear reporting channels to DfE Prevent coordinators, local authorities or the police if necessary to support the delivery of its Prevent Duty. The School's Lead Safeguarding Officer is responsible for communicating through these channels.

Raising concerns

All concerns raised by staff or students relating to radicalization and the School's Prevent Duty are investigated and handled as Safeguarding issues, according to the School's Safeguarding Policy.

Name of policy/procedure:	Prevent Policy
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1	Hannah Kohler	08/11/2018	Original draft