



Rotherham Opportunities College

Prevent Policy



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1	September 2023	Principal	New policy
2	September 2024	Safeguarding Manager	Policy review / update
3	September 2025	Safeguarding Manager	Policy review / update
4	September 2026	Principal	Updated for KCSIE 2026; strengthened staff guidance, SEND/online risks, Channel information sharing and training expectations



1. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to explain, in clear practical terms, how Rotherham Opportunities College (ROC) meets the Prevent duty and how staff should respond if they are concerned that a student may be susceptible to radicalisation into terrorism. Prevent is part of safeguarding and is not a separate disciplinary process.

ROC supports students aged 16–25 with a range of Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND). The College will respond to Prevent concerns on the basis of behaviour, context and safeguarding need. Staff must not make assumptions because of a student's disability, faith, ethnicity, culture, political views or any other protected characteristic.

2. Scope

This policy applies to staff, trustees, volunteers, agency workers, contractors, consultants, trainees and others working on behalf of ROC. It applies across all College premises and activities, including community learning, work placements, supported internships, educational visits, transport and online activity.

Students under 18 are children for safeguarding purposes and KCSIE 2026 applies to them. Students aged 18 and over may also require safeguarding support under adult safeguarding arrangements. Prevent can apply to either age group.

3. What Staff Need to Know

Prevent is about safeguarding people from becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism. Staff are not expected to diagnose radicalisation or investigate concerns. Their role is to notice, respond calmly and share concerns through ROC's safeguarding arrangements.

- Prevent is part of ROC's normal safeguarding approach.
- There is no single profile or checklist that proves someone is being radicalised.
- Changes in behaviour, relationships, language or online activity may be relevant, but must always be considered in context.
- A lawful belief, faith, political opinion or disagreement is not, by itself, a Prevent concern.
- If something causes concern, staff should record the facts on CPOMS and speak promptly to the DSL, a Deputy DSL or the Prevent lead.
- If there is an immediate danger or suspected terrorist incident, call 999 and then inform the safeguarding team as soon as it is safe to do so.

From 1 September 2026, all staff are expected to follow the same KCSIE safeguarding expectations and should read Part One of KCSIE 2026. ROC will provide Part One and relevant safeguarding policies at induction and through ongoing safeguarding updates.

4. The Prevent Duty

Section 26 of the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 requires specified authorities, including relevant education providers, to have due regard to the need to prevent people from becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism. The Prevent Duty Guidance: England and Wales (2023) remains the principal statutory Prevent guidance.

The three Prevent objectives are to:

- tackle the ideological causes of terrorism;



- intervene early to support people who are susceptible to radicalisation; and
- enable people who have already engaged in terrorism to disengage and rehabilitate where appropriate.

KCSIE 2026 confirms that the Prevent duty forms part of a school or college's wider safeguarding obligations. For ROC, this means Prevent concerns are handled through the same professional safeguarding culture as other concerns about harm, exploitation or abuse.

5. Definitions

Extremism is vocal or active opposition to fundamental British Values, including democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs.

Radicalisation is the process of a person legitimising support for, or use of, terrorist violence.

Terrorism has the meaning set out in the Terrorism Act 2000 and includes serious violence or serious damage carried out or threatened for a political, religious, racial or ideological cause and designed to influence government or intimidate the public.

Susceptibility describes the possibility that a person may be influenced or harmed by terrorist or extremist ideology. It is contextual and should never be assumed from disability or another personal characteristic.

6. Recognising a Concern

KCSIE 2026 makes clear that there is no single way of identifying whether a child may be susceptible to radicalisation. Staff should remain professionally curious and alert to changes that may indicate a need for help or protection. The same safeguarding approach should be applied sensitively to ROC's adult students.

Possible concerns might include a combination of sudden or significant changes in behaviour; repeated engagement with terrorist or extremist material; expressions of support for terrorist violence; concerning online contact or networks; attempts by others to isolate, groom, pressure or exploit a student; or information from family, professionals or other agencies. None of these automatically means a student is being radicalised.

A simple approach for staff is:

- **Notice** something that concerns you.
- **Check** the immediate context and information already available to you. Do not investigate.
- **Share** the concern promptly with the safeguarding team and record the facts on CPOMS.

7. SEND, Communication and Online Risk

ROC recognises that some students may have communication differences, cognitive needs, social vulnerability or a strong desire for belonging that can affect how they understand online content and relationships. These factors do not make a person inherently susceptible to radicalisation, but they may affect how risk presents and how support should be provided.

KCSIE 2026 specifically highlights the additional online risks that children with SEND may face, including radicalisation. Staff should therefore consider the student's communication needs, understanding, support plan and online access when responding to concerns. Information



should be explained in an accessible way and the student's voice should be sought wherever possible.

ROC's filtering, monitoring, ICT and online-safety arrangements support Prevent. Staff must not repeatedly access harmful material or ask a student to show them extremist content in order to gather evidence. Where relevant, preserve only the information needed to report the concern safely and follow College safeguarding procedures.

8. Curriculum, British Values and College Culture

ROC promotes democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs through the curriculum and wider College life. Students should be able to explore difficult or controversial issues in a safe, balanced and respectful way.

Prevent does not require staff to avoid debate or discourage lawful views. Good practice is to build critical thinking, digital literacy, respectful disagreement and resilience to manipulation, misinformation and harmful ideology. Teaching should be adapted to students' communication and learning needs.

9. Risk Assessment and Reducing Risk

ROC will maintain a proportionate Prevent risk assessment reflecting the College's student profile, local context, online risks, curriculum, external speakers and events, premises use and relevant local or national information. Identified risks will be matched with reasonable actions and reviewed when circumstances change.

Risk reduction may include staff training, curriculum activity, pastoral support, changes to supervision, online filtering and monitoring, review of visitors or external speakers, liaison with families where appropriate, and consultation with safeguarding or Prevent professionals.

10. Reporting and Internal Response

Any member of staff who has a Prevent concern must share it promptly with the DSL, a Deputy DSL, the Prevent lead or another member of the safeguarding team. The concern should be recorded factually on CPOMS, including what was seen or heard, the context, actions taken and who was informed.

The safeguarding lead will consider the concern alongside other relevant information and decide what action is proportionate. This may include support within College, discussion with the student, liaison with parents/carers where lawful and appropriate, consultation with external professionals, or a Prevent referral. A Prevent referral does not automatically mean that a person will enter Channel.

Staff should continue to pass on any significant new information that becomes known after a referral. KCSIE 2026 specifically clarifies that new information relevant to an assessed Prevent referral should be shared with police while the referral is being assessed.

11. Channel and External Referral

Channel is a voluntary and confidential multi-agency programme that provides early support to people assessed as susceptible to being drawn into terrorism. Prevent referrals are first assessed by police and may then be considered by a Channel panel. A ROC representative may be asked to contribute relevant information to that assessment.



Where an external referral may be required, the DSL/Prevent lead will use the current local referral route. Information will be shared lawfully, proportionately and on a need-to-know basis. Consent is required before support through Channel is provided, in accordance with the applicable legal framework and the person's circumstances.

If a student under 18 moves to another education setting while receiving Channel support, or where Prevent information is necessary to support ongoing safeguarding, the DSL will consider what information should be shared with the new setting so that support is not interrupted.

12. Training and Responsibilities

All staff will receive Prevent awareness as part of safeguarding induction and updates. Training should help staff understand the purpose of Prevent, recognise contextual concerns, know how to make an internal report, understand what can happen after a referral and appreciate the importance of continuing to share relevant information.

The DSL/Prevent lead and Deputy DSLs will receive training appropriate to their role and will remain familiar with current local referral procedures, Prevent Duty Guidance and Channel arrangements. KCSIE 2026 expects DSLs and deputies to understand the Prevent duty, advise staff and undertake Prevent awareness training.

The Board of Trustees has oversight of Prevent as part of safeguarding governance. Trustees should receive enough information and training to understand the College's risk assessment, staff training, referral arrangements and significant themes, while maintaining confidentiality.

13. Visitors, External Speakers and Partners

ROC will work with relevant safeguarding, local authority, police, health, education and Prevent partners. External speakers, visitors, organisations and events will be considered in line with safeguarding, security and Prevent risk where appropriate.

ROC will not knowingly permit its premises, systems or activities to be used to promote terrorism or unlawful extremist activity. Political or controversial issues may be discussed where this is educationally appropriate, balanced and consistent with safeguarding and equality duties.

14. Recording, Information Sharing and Confidentiality

Prevent records must be clear, factual and proportionate. CPOMS entries should distinguish what was observed, what was reported by someone else, and what professional decisions or actions were taken. Staff must not promise absolute confidentiality where information may need to be shared to keep someone safe.

Information will be shared only where there is a lawful basis and where sharing is necessary and proportionate for safeguarding, Prevent or law-enforcement purposes. Decisions to refer or not refer should be recorded, including the rationale.

15. Legislation and Guidance

- Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015;
- Prevent Duty Guidance: England and Wales (2023);
- Keeping Children Safe in Education 2026 (effective 1 September 2026) for students under 18;
- Channel / Prevent Multi-Agency Panel statutory guidance;



- Terrorism Act 2000;
- Working Together to Safeguard Children 2026, where relevant;
- Care Act 2014 and adult safeguarding guidance, where relevant;
- Equality Act 2010, Human Rights Act 1998 and current data protection legislation; and
- DfE guidance on safeguarding learners who may be susceptible to radicalisation and current Prevent training resources.

16. Related ROC Policies and Documents

- Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy
- Safeguarding Adults Policy
- ICT Policy and Acceptable Use Agreement
- Staff Code of Conduct
- Safer Recruitment Policy
- Low-Level Concerns Policy
- Allegations Against Staff and Other Adults Policy
- Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Policy
- Security, Site Safety and Arson Prevention Policy
- relevant risk assessments and external-speaker/event procedures

17. Monitoring and Review

The Principal, supported by the DSL/Prevent lead, is responsible for implementation of this policy. The Board of Trustees will receive appropriate assurance regarding Prevent arrangements as part of safeguarding oversight.

This policy will be reviewed annually, or sooner where KCSIE, Prevent guidance, Channel arrangements, legislation, local risk or ROC's operating arrangements change.



Appendix 1 – Staff Quick Guide

If you are worried that a student may be being influenced, groomed or drawn towards terrorist ideology:

- Stay calm and listen.
- Do not argue, challenge, investigate or search for evidence.
- Record exactly what you saw, heard or were told.
- Report the concern promptly to the DSL, a Deputy DSL, Prevent lead or another member of the safeguarding team.
- Add a factual record to CPOMS in accordance with safeguarding procedures.
- Continue to share any significant new information.
- Call 999 if there is an immediate threat or danger.

Remember: a Prevent concern is a safeguarding concern. The aim is early support and proportionate action, not punishment for lawful beliefs or opinions.



Appendix 2 – Prevent and Counter-Terrorism Information

Staff should use current official and local referral information rather than relying on named individuals or contact details printed in an older copy of this policy. Current sources include GOV.UK Prevent Duty Guidance, the current Prevent referral route, Channel guidance, Act Early, Educate Against Hate, Prevent for FE and Training, and current Rotherham/South Yorkshire Prevent arrangements.



Safeguarding Team Information

The safeguarding team photograph and name information is currently being reviewed and updated.

To ensure that staff, students, families and visitors always have access to accurate and current safeguarding contacts, the College does not rely on photographs or named staff in this policy as the definitive source of safeguarding-team information.

Current safeguarding-team information, including the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL), deputies and Prevent lead, is available through College reception, current safeguarding displays and the College's approved internal information systems.

Any concern about radicalisation, extremism or terrorism should be reported promptly to the DSL, Prevent lead or another member of the safeguarding team. If there is an immediate risk of harm or danger, contact the emergency services in accordance with College safeguarding procedures.