

Policy Statement

Context

The Governments counter terrorism strategy CONTEST has four elements:

- Pursue
- Protect
- Prepare
- Prevent

Prevent aims to stop people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism. The focus is on Al-Quaeda related activity however it also adopts the approaches used with other groups including the far right.

Education, like other key sectors, has a responsibility to promote values of openness, tolerance and facilitating free debate. With the current government alert at **severe** the college needs to be aware of risks and raise awareness within its community.

This policy is to complement and supplement the College's current Safeguarding policy and as a result these documents should be utilised together.

Extremism is defined by the Home Office (2011) 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. We also include in our definition of extremism calls for the death of members of our armed forces, whether in this country or overseas.”*

Radicalisation is defined by the Home Office (2011) *“refers to the process by which a person comes to support terrorism and forms of extremism leading to terrorism”*.

Equality of opportunity and inclusivity are guiding principles in all aspects of college life. The College are committed to celebrating diversity and creating opportunities for the development of mutual understanding to foster respect for others and to support the development of rounded and reasoning individuals.

College staff should be aware (through continued CPD) of potential activities and signs of radicalisation and extremism and have the confidence to report their concerns to the designated safeguarding officer.

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- 1) The College will also promote the ethos of the ‘Prevent’ agenda by actively promoting free and open debate but challenging extreme views. It will encourage through its classroom practice, theme weeks and induction activities, and promote the fundamental British value of democracy the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs.
- 2) The College will not host or allow its premises to be used by groups that have or promote extremist views that are contrary to fundamental British values.
- 3) The College has a legal responsibility to forbid the promotion of partisan political views in the teaching of any subject in the college and must take such steps as are reasonably practicable to secure that where political issues are brought to the attention of students they are offered a balanced presentation of opposing views. Promotion of any organisations linked to violent extremism or radicalisation is contrary to the values of the college and could constitute misconduct of staff as per the College Disciplinary procedures.
- 4) The College will provide appropriate support through its own staff e.g. Head of Student Services or by referral to external agencies, e.g. local PREVENT Team, for any student in danger of radicalisation.

Any concerns should be reported to the Head of Student Services, who will then liaise with the local PREVENT Team and with the college contacts at Hanley Police Station following the Stoke on Trent joint protocol.

The PREVENT Strategy 2011: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/prevent-strategy-2011>.

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