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**Portsdown Primary School and Early Years and the Prevent Duty**

**What is Prevent?**

The aim of Prevent is to reduce the threat of the UK from terrorism by stopping people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism. Delivery of Prevent is grounded in early intervention and safeguarding. Prevent tackles all forms of terrorism and extremism.

**What is Channel?**

The Channel process, including the Channel Panel, is part of the Prevent strategy. The Channel process is a multi-agency safeguarding approach to identify and provide support to individuals who are at risk of being drawn into terrorism or violent extremism. Channel focuses on providing support at an early stage to people who are identified as being vulnerable to being drawn into terrorism. Channel works by partners jointly assessing the nature and the extent of the risk and where necessary, providing an appropriate support package tailored to the individual’s needs.

The three key stages of Channel are:

♣ Identify individuals at risk of being drawn into terrorism or violent extremism.

♣ Assess the nature and extent of that risk; and

♣ Develop the most appropriate support plan for the individuals concerned.

The Channel Panel is chaired by the local authority and meets monthly to oversee all Channel cases in their area where there are live cases for discussion, referrals for decision or case reviews to be undertaken. Support may be undertaken through the Channel process or an individual may be signposted to another agency for support. Channel is a confidential and voluntary programme. It is up to the child’s parents to decide whether to take advantage of the support it offers. It is not any form of criminal or civil sanction.

**Why is the Prevent Duty important?**

The threat from terrorism is very real. To reduce the risk from terrorism, there is a need to:

• stop terrorist attacks

AND • prevent young people and adults from being drawn or groomed into terrorism or supporting violent extremism, including extreme right wing/left wing, Islamist inspired extremism and single issue extremism among others.

**What does the school do with regards to radicalisation and extremism concerns?**

Concerns about radicalisation and extremism are treated in the same way as other safeguarding issues, including physical, emotional and sexual abuse and should always be shared with the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH).

For advice on referrals, a member of staff can contact the nominated representatives in (MASH) and will need to share as much information as they can. Consent to share information is **not necessary** at this point. To make a Prevent referral, the Prevent National Referral Form will need to be completed. This can be downloaded from https://www.saferportsmouth.org.uk/extremism/.

Once the form has been received, the information will be sent jointly to the MASH and police for further assessment and information gathering. Both the Children's and Adult MASH alongside partner agencies may determine support could be offered whilst police colleagues undertake assessment. This could be under Early Help, Child in Need or for Adults this could be a Section 42 Safeguarding Enquiry or a Care Act assessment. The Channel representative in the MASH will be contacted by the police with all known information to jointly determine whether a Channel panel should be convened to consider the case. This process can be facilitated in addition to on-going support by early help services, children's social care or adult's social care.

After consideration at the Channel Panel, if support is deemed necessary, a joint visit will be made by the lead professional (e.g. a social worker) and the Prevent officer. At this point, consent to facilitate the Channel support and to share information through this process will be obtained. Where the case meets the Channel threshold and the parents or the adult give consent for discussion, the case will be adopted and discussed at panel. Intervention and support will be agreed where necessary. The panel provides a range of support, including mentoring, counselling, assistance with employment and training. Where a case meets threshold for a Channel offer, but consent is refused, consideration will be given to other types of interventions which may be offered, or initiated, based upon the perceived safeguarding concerns.

Whilst consent is required for intervention to be provided through the Channel process, lack of consent should not prohibit the sharing of concerns regarding radicalisation due to the risk of involvement in criminal behaviour or serious harm.

**Portsdown Primary School and Early Years’ Response**

In order to support staff, Portsdown Primary School and Early Years have created a Prevent flow chart. This is shared with staff at induction. Staff also complete part 1 of the Prevent duty training available on the government’s website: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/prevent-duty-training>

Additional literature has been provided to the staff and posters are on display in staff areas to remind people of their responsibilities.

The parents have been provided with literature to support them at home with potential early signs of extremism, terrorism or radicalisation.

The designated safeguarding lead (DSL) and the deputy DSLs have also completed part 2 of the training and would complete part 3 were they required to attend a Channel Panel.

A self-assessment as recommended and provided by the Government was completed by the school as part of the school’s response to the Prevent duty. A risk assessment has also been completed.

The school ethos, vision and values are closely linked to the Fundamental British Values. Fundamental British Values underpin what it is to be a citizen in a modern and diverse Great Britain valuing our community and celebrating diversity of the UK. These values are **Democracy, Rule of Law, Respect and Tolerance, Individual Liberty**. The children explore these as part of assemblies, the PSHE curriculum and the wider curriculum.

In addition, the school ensures that the children are taught and reminded about e-safety when they are completing activities online as the school recognises that the internet is a key place for radicalisation, terrorism and extremism to be fostered.