

PREVENT POLICY

Policy Statement

Exeter Homestay UK / Exeter City Language Academy understands its responsibilities under the Counter Terrorism & Security Act 2015 to prevent people of all ages being radicalized or drawn into terrorism and seeks to meet its obligations in the ways shown below, after setting the context.

Context

- **Exeter Homestay UK / Exeter City Language Academy** accepts students aged 12 to 90 from all around the world
- In our busiest weeks we may have 60 students, 6 staff and work with 30 homestay providers
- Our establishment has always promoted a multi-cultural environment where respect for, and tolerance of other beliefs is required
- **Exeter Homestay UK / Exeter City Language Academy** is located in the city of Exeter in Devon, with a multicultural local population.

Leadership & Risk Assessment Action Plan

- Responsibility for ensuring Prevent Duty is met lies with the Director.
- Responsibility for the Prevent risk assessment / action plan (see point 4 below) and policy lies with the DSL and DSP. Their duties are to ensure delivery of an effective risk assessment/ action plan and policy as outlined here.
- A risk assessment / action plan will be produced, and it will be reviewed and updated at least annually.

Working with Local Partners

- We will make and maintain contact with the local police/ local authority Prevent coordinator to understand their role and the support available, (e.g., via the Channel process) the local Exeter Prevent Officer can be contacted on this number 01392 225130.
- We will make contact with local authority to ascertain other useful local agencies and develop local area Prevent links with other similar organisations, so to share information with all local organisations as appropriate, i.e., local churches, mosques.

Understanding Terminology

- Radicalisation: act or process of making a person more radical or favouring of extreme or fundamental changes in political, economic or social conditions, institutions or habits of mind
- Extremism*: holding extreme political or religious views which may deny right to any group or individual. Can be expressed in vocal or active opposition to
- Core British values: including (i) democracy (ii) the rule of law (iii) individual liberty (iv) respectful tolerance of different faiths or beliefs. *NB: extremism can refer to a range

Understanding Risk of Extremism

- Staff, students and other adults (group leaders, homestays etc.) may arrive at our centres already holding extremist views. Or, whilst attending their placements, they may be influenced by a range of factors: global events, peer pressure, media, family views, extremist materials (hardcopy or online), inspirational speakers, friends or relatives being harmed, social networks, and more.
- People who are vulnerable are more likely to be influenced

- Their vulnerability could stem from a range of causes, including loss of identity or sense of belonging, isolation, exclusion, mental health problems, sense of injustice, personal crisis, victim of hate crime or discrimination, and bereavement

Ways to Counteract Risks

- Promote a safe and supportive international environment via clear expectations of accepted behaviours and those, including radicalisation and extremism, that will not be tolerated. These are set out further in our policies, available on our website, such as Equality Policy, Safeguarding Policy, Welfare Policy, Online Safety Policy and Abusive Behaviour Policy.
- Promote core British values through documents given to students, notices around our centres, via stand-alone classes on British culture and traditions on arrival and via curriculum. Approach is to educate that this is how things are in UK, although it may be different to the student's home country
- Where possible, develop critical awareness and thought to counter accepting extremism without question, especially of online material.
- Challenge radical or extremist views in any context (formal or informal). In most situations this would require an immediate response, referring to international environment of the school, and tolerance expected. These are set out further in our policies, available on our website, such as Equality Policy, Safeguarding Policy, Welfare Policy, Online Safety Policy and Abusive Behaviour Policy. Any concerns should be reported to a member of staff.
- Be ready to react when world or local events cause upset, and the likelihood of conflicting feelings being expressed. The director or manager in charge will take the initiative in these situations.
- We will have strong filters on IT equipment and clear rules on accessing extremist/ terrorist websites/ uses of social networks to exchange extremist/ terrorist views. Some of this is already instructed in our Internet Use Policies.
- We will ensure that extremist speakers do not use premises to distribute material or expound views; have a system for vetting any visiting speakers/ presenters
- Staff and homestays get to know students, their home circumstances and friendship groups, making it easier to spot changes in behaviour. Staff and homestays need to be observant and vigilant in noticing any signs of radical or extremist behaviour.
- All staff and homestays to work hard supporting any students identified as vulnerable, particularly those under 18.

Training

- We will provide documents and face-to-face training (when possible) to ensure staff understand this policy:

- a) Context and expectations of Prevent
- b) Their duty to implement the policy
- c) Terminology and risks associated with radicalisation and extremism
- d) How to identify and support vulnerable students
- e) Ways the school will counteract the risks
- f) Signs to notice that may cause concern
- g) Know the lead Prevent person and procedures for communicating concerns
- h) Know the importance of their own behaviour and professionalism in
- i) Being exemplars of British values, and
- ii) Not discussing inflammatory subjects with students

Training materials are adapted to ensure that homestay hosts understand the sections of the policy they need to be aware of.

- Students and group leaders must be made aware of key parts of the policy:
- a) Understanding terminology

- b) Importance of maintaining a supportive and tolerant society in the school
- c) What core British values are and why they are considered important
- d) Any changes to rules, particularly those regarding IT
- e) That they must report concerns/ incidents and understand the procedure to do so

Signs That May Cause Concern

- Students talking about exposure to extremist materials or views outside the school (in this event, information must be shared with relevant local authorities)
- Changes in behaviour, e.g., becoming isolated
- Fall in standard of work, poor attendance, disengagement
- Changes in attitude, e.g., intolerant of differences/ having closed mind
- Asking questions about certain topics (e.g., connected to extremism)
- Offering opinions that appear to have come from extremist ideologies
- Attempts to impose own views/ beliefs on others
- Use of extremist vocabulary to exclude others or incite violence
- Accessing extremist material online or via social network sites
- Overt new religious practices
- Drawings or posters (e.g., in accommodation) showing extremist ideology/ views/ symbols
- Students voicing concerns about anyone
- NB: Any concerns relating to a person under 18 are safeguarding issues and should be dealt with by safeguarding staff (if different from Prevent staff) and, where necessary, the LSCB contacted

How and When to React to Concerns

The person to contact with a concern is Carol the Designated Safeguard Lead or Danny Harris the Designated Safeguarding Lead. Confidentiality is assured for any person reporting a concern. If you are concerned, you should report your concern so it can be evaluated. It will be dealt with sensitively and carefully. For informal discussion with the Prevent Team about your concerns, email Carol on exeterhomestay@yahoo.co.uk

Any specific concerns about individuals at risk can be reported on the following:

Call the national police Prevent advice line 0800 011 3764, in confidence, to share your concerns with our specially trained Prevent officers. The advice line is open 9:00am – 5:00pm every day. Members of the public can call 101 to report any concerns. Or the local Exeter prevent officer can be contacted on 01392 225130.

Policy reviewed Annually (Dec 2020)