



The Sunnywood Project

Prevent Policy

For Directors, Staff, and Volunteers

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Statement of intent

The Sunnywood Project (TSP) recognises that children and adults alike can be vulnerable to extremist ideology and radicalisation, however children and young people especially so; TSP is committed to protecting children and young people from this risk as part of our safeguarding responsibilities.

Our commitment to safeguarding children and young people against extremism, radicalisation and terrorism includes interventions and collaboration with other agencies including the police and the LA where appropriate and as required.

Although not an educational establishment in law and strict principle, TSP understands we have an important part in enabling children and young people to challenge extremist views through fundamental values; this will primarily be through the modelling and facilitation of a way of being which regards people of all faiths, races, and cultures with respect and tolerance.

This policy relates to the potential radicalisation of children and young people who come into contact with the organisation.

1. Legal framework

This policy has due regard to all relevant legislation and statutory guidance including, but not limited to, the following:

- Children Act 1989
- Education Act 1996
- Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015
- Childcare Act 2006
- Data Protection Act 2018
- UK GDPR
- DfE (2015) 'The Prevent duty'
- HM Government (2023) 'Prevent Duty guidance: for England and Wales'
- DfE (2023) 'Keeping children safe in education 2023'
- DfE (2018) 'Working Together to Safeguard Children'
- Home Office (2021) 'Channel Duty guidance: protecting people vulnerable to being drawn into terrorism'

This policy operates in conjunction with the following TSP policies:

- Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy
- Data Protection Policy

2. Definitions

For the purpose of this policy:

Extremism – is defined as vocal or active opposition to fundamental British values, including democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and the mutual respect and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs. This includes calling for the death of members of the armed forces.

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

Terrorism – is defined as violent threats or actions designed to influence government or intimidate the public with the purpose of advancing a political, religious or ideological cause. This includes endangering or causing serious violence to a person or people, serious damage to property, and seriously interfering or disrupting an electronic system.

3. Roles and Responsibilities

The **Directors** will be responsible for:

- Ensuring the appropriate measures are in place to protect children and young people from radicalisation.
- Ensuring the Prevent duty is seen as part of the organisation's wider safeguarding duties.
- The overall implementation and management of this policy.
- Ensuring every staff member and volunteer is familiar with the scope of this policy.
- Ensuring the organisation is a safe space in which children and young people can understand and discuss sensitive topics, as appropriate, including terrorism and extremism, and are able to challenge these ideas.
- Undertaking a risk assessment, where appropriate, to determine whether children and young people involved in TSP activities are at risk of being drawn into terrorism.
- Ensuring any visitors and speakers to TSP are appropriate and vetted prior to them having access to children or young people.

The **DSLs** will be responsible for:

- Identifying extremist risks in the local area according to information shared with them.
- Handling any referrals to the Channel programme and supporting staff and volunteers who make referrals to Channel.
- Following up any referrals made to the Channel programme.
- Providing advice and support to staff and volunteers on protecting children and young people from the risk of radicalisation.
- Delivering staff and volunteer training on the Prevent duty.
- Working with external agencies to support children or young people at risk of being drawn into terrorism.
- Providing guidance to other staff members or volunteers to help them support children and young people at risk of being drawn into terrorism.
- Understanding local procedures for making a Prevent referral and making Prevent referrals where appropriate.

All **staff members**, and **volunteers who come into contact with children and young people**, will be responsible for:

- Being alert to the risk factors of extremism and radicalisation and any changes in a child or young person's behaviour which could indicate that they may be in need of help or protection.
- Raising any concerns with the DSL (or any deputies, in their absence).
- Notifying the DSL (or any deputies, in their absence) when they make any referrals to the Channel programme.
- Engaging in training around the Prevent duty.

4. Safeguarding from extremism

The Sunnywood Project acknowledges and seeks to protect the right to freedom of expression. This policy is not intended or designed to restrict or prevent legitimate and lawful congregation or debate.

The organisation has a dedicated DSL who deal with any incidents of extremism and/or terrorism within the community of the organisation. Whilst we recognise that we do not share the same responsibility under law as a school, we will do our utmost to safeguard children and young people from being drawn into extremism and terrorism.

TSP has and will always seek to develop and maintain strong relationships with our local safeguarding partners, including schools, and will involve these partners at the earliest opportunity if safeguarding issues arise.

The organisation will encourage any individual, including children and young people, their parents/carers, staff, volunteer, or even part of the wider community engaged with the organisation to speak to the DSL if they have concerns about:

- Children and young people becoming radicalised.
- Any groups, clubs, or societies TSP is engaged or seeking to engage with who may hold extremist or radical views.
- Friends and/or families of staff, volunteers, or the children or young people engaged by the organisation becoming radicalised or involved in extremism.
- Children or young people engaged by the organisation planning to visit known areas of conflict.
- Members of the wider community attempting to draw children or young people into extremism.

Visitors and speakers coming to the organisation will be vetted prior to them having access to children or young people. All materials handed out, whether by staff, volunteers, or visitors and speakers, will be checked by the **Directors**.

5. Channel and Prevent

Channel, a key element of the Home Office's Prevent strategy, is a multi-agency approach to protect people at risk from radicalisation. TSP, where appropriate, will work with the LA, local law enforcement, and religious and community leaders, to identify children vulnerable to radicalisation and to challenge extremism if it arises. This includes identifying children and young people to whom any of the following criteria applies:

- Displaying feelings of grievance and injustice
- Feeling under threat
- Searching for identity, meaning, and belonging
- Displaying a desire for status amongst their peers
- Displaying a desire for excitement and adventure
- Displaying a need to dominate and control others
- Displaying a susceptibility to indoctrination
- Displaying a radical desire for political or moral change
- Appearing susceptible to opportunistic involvement
- Having family or friends involved in extremism
- Appearing susceptible to being influenced or controlled by a group
- Displaying relevant mental health issues

The organisation will cooperate with local panels involved in the Channel process. Where appropriate, a representative of TSP will attend meetings as required to aid the mitigation of identified risk and vulnerabilities. This includes contributing towards the support plan and sharing information necessary and proportionate to the effective working of the panel.

6. Preventing radicalisation

TSP will, as necessary, assess the risk of children and young people being drawn into terrorism through identifying the factors that affect children in the local area and knowing how to identify those at risk.

Allegations and concerns of radicalisation and/or terrorism will always be taken seriously and staff and volunteers will act proportionately, which may include making a Prevent referral.

Where appropriate, children and young people will be helped to channel their desire for excitement and adventure into suitable and healthy activities.

The organisation recognises that children and young people's parents/carers and families are best placed to spot signs of radicalisation and, as such, will promote effective engagement with parents and families.

All internet activity that takes place on site will be supervised, and appropriate filters will be installed to protect children from terrorist and extremist material online.

We will always aim to integrate and engage every child and young person within the organisation's activities, and, where appropriate, in the wider community.

The organisation will monitor and assess incidents which suggest children and young people are engaging, or are at risk of engaging, in extremist activity and/or radicalisation. Where a child or young person has been identified as at risk of radicalisation, TSP will take action proportionate to the incident or risk.

7. Making a judgement

Although extremist behaviour can be presented in many forms, TSP recognises the following as potential indicators of radicalisation or a susceptibility to radicalisation:

- Disclosure about extremist or radicalised behaviour by children or young people – this could include exposure to materials outside of organisation activities.
- Use of specific terms associated with certain ideological views, e.g. ‘hate’ language
- Intelligence reports from local and national agencies regarding the radicalisation of groups of people in the local area
- Focus on specific narratives that highlight extremist views
- Evidence of accessing online materials that include extremist materials
- Documented concerns raised by parents/carers or family members about the changing behaviour of the child or young person
- References to an extremist narrative expressed, verbally or in writing, during activities, projects, or events
- Disassociation from existing friendship groups
- A loss of interest in activities in which they previously engaged
- Behavioural characteristics, such as low self-esteem, isolation, and perceptions of failure and injustice
- Family tensions
- Events affecting their country or region of origin
- Alienation from UK values
- Grievance triggered by personal experience of discrimination
- Property damage
- Refusal to cooperate with the requests of staff, volunteers, or other adults

When assessing whether a child or young person is at risk of radicalisation, staff and volunteers will ask themselves the following questions:

- Does the individual have access to extremist influences through the internet?
- Does the individual possess or actively seek extremist material?
- Does the individual sympathise with, or support, extremist groups or behaviour in their speech or written work?
- Does the individual’s demeanour suggest a new social, religious or political influence, e.g. through jewellery or clothing?
- Has the child or young person previously been a victim of discrimination or a religious crime?
- Has the individual experienced any major disagreements with their peers, family, or faith groups, leading to rejection, isolation or exclusion?
- Does the child or young person display an irregular and distorted view of religion or politics?
- Does the individual display a strong objection towards specific cultures, faiths, or race?
- Is the child or young person a foreign national awaiting a decision regarding deportation or immigration?
- Is there an irregular pattern of travel within the individual’s family?

- Has the child or young person witnessed or suffered from trauma or violence in a war zone or through sectarian conflict?
- Is there evidence of a relative or family friend displaying extremist views?
- Has the individual travelled for extended periods of time to international locations?
- Does the individual have experience of poverty, disadvantage, discrimination, or social exclusion?
- Does the child or young person display a lack of affinity or understanding for others?
- Is the individual a victim of social isolation?
- Does the individual have insecure, conflicted, or absent family relationships?

Critical indicators include where a child or young person is:

- In contact with extremist recruiters.
- Articulating support for extremist causes or leaders.
- Accessing extremist websites.
- In possession of extremist literature.
- Using extremist narratives and a global ideology to explain personal disadvantage.
- Justifying the use of violence to solve societal issues.
- Joining extremist organisations.
- Making significant changes to their appearance and/or behaviour.

The DSLs will undergo Prevent awareness training **every two years** to provide advice and support to staff and volunteers on protecting children and young people from the risk of radicalisation; this should be staggered so DSL training at an organisational level remains current. Staff and volunteers working directly with CYP will undergo awareness training around Prevent, delivered by the DSLs at induction or as required, to ensure that they are able to recognise indicators of radicalisation – Updates to guidance will be disseminated as required.

The organisation encourages all staff and volunteers to engage with online government resources, including the website **Educate Against Hate**, and the **Prevent e-learning modules** provided by the Home Office in order to stay up-to-date with current guidance.

8. Making a referral

In accordance with the *Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy*, if any member of staff has any concerns about a child or young person, they will raise this with the DSL.

Parents/carers will be contacted to discuss the issue and investigate where there are any mitigating home circumstances, unless doing so would put the child or young person at further risk of harm. A decision will be made at this meeting to determine whether a referral should be made to the Channel programme. In most cases, the DSL will refer the case to the Channel programme where there is a radicalisation concern, as appropriate.

Staff members or volunteers may make referrals to the Channel programme if they deem it necessary – the DSL will be notified in all cases and will support staff members and volunteers who do so. Staff members and volunteers alike will be informed that they may be asked to attend a Channel panel to discuss the child or young person who has been referred to determine whether support is required. The LA's Channel panel will decide which support, if any, is required and arrange for this support to be implemented.

The DSL will follow up any referrals and the child or young person will be monitored for an appropriate period to determine whether there have been any changes in behaviour; this monitoring may be limited by the length of engagement with the organisation, in which case appropriate information-sharing shall take place. Parents/carers will be consulted during this period, unless doing so would put the CYP at further risk of harm.

If any concerns are raised, the DSL will contact the Channel programme to discuss further steps.

The DSL will record and retain all incidents in accordance with the Data Protection Act 2018 and the UK GDPR, as outlined in the *Data Protection Policy*.

9. Acknowledgement of fundamental British Values

TSP acknowledges the fundamental British values as outlined by the Home Office within their prevent strategy. These 4 fundamental British values are:

- Democracy
- Rule of Law
- Respect & Tolerance
- Individual Liberty

These will always be respected and reinforced within the organisation's activities.

Similarly, each of TSP's educational programmes, events and activities are carefully planned with the following aims in mind:

- To promote compassion, kindness, and a positive society
- To encourage maintaining a physically and mentally healthy lifestyle
- To support the development of social skills and self-regulation of emotions
- To enable people to participate in society as mature, independent, and responsible individuals
- To inspire challenging, but achievable personal goals

As such, all TSP activities shall seek to:

- Enable children and young people to develop their self-knowledge, self-esteem, and self-confidence.
- Enable children and young people to develop their own abilities to distinguish right from wrong and to respect the civil and criminal law of England and the UK.
- Encourage children and young people to accept responsibility for and understand their behaviour, show initiative, and to understand how they can contribute positively to the lives of those living and working in their locality and to society more widely.
- Enable children and young people to acquire a broad general knowledge of, and respect for, public institutions and services in England and, where appropriate, the rest of the UK.
- Further tolerance and harmony between different cultural traditions by enabling children and young to acquire an appreciation of, and respect for, their own and other cultures.
- Encourage respect for other people.
- Encourage respect for democracy and support for participation in the democratic processes, including respect for the basis on which the law is made and applied in England and the UK.

10. Community links

TSP will actively seek and welcome opportunities to engage in community round-table discussions with local community and religious leaders, and local law enforcement. Meetings of the Board of Trustees will include discussion about extremism and terrorism where appropriate.

The organisation will operate an open-door policy for community members to report concerns.

TSP will, where appropriate, partake in community festivals, religious celebrations and other events.

11. Monitoring and review

This policy is reviewed annually by the **DSL** and the **Directors**. The next scheduled review date for this policy is **25/08/2024**.

Signatory: Samantha Deas, Creative Director and Family Engagement Coordinator (DDSL)



Signatory: Marc Young, Director of Education and Youth Service



Signatory: Steven Ticehurst, Education and Wellbeing Coordinator (DSL)

