

Prevent Duty

Concern & Escalation Process

Roman Hill Primary School

Updated September 2026

Purpose

To provide staff with a clear, proportionate and safeguarding-led process for recognising, recording, escalating and reviewing concerns that a child may be susceptible to radicalisation or may be at risk of being drawn into terrorism.

1. Statutory and safeguarding framework

This process should be read alongside the school's Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy, local safeguarding arrangements and current local Prevent procedures. The key current framework for England is:

- Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 – section 26 places specified authorities, including schools, under a duty to have due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism.
- Prevent Duty Guidance: England and Wales (2023) – statutory guidance in force from 31 December 2023. Schools must have regard to this guidance.
- Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE) 2026 – statutory safeguarding guidance in force from 1 September 2026. Prevent and protection from radicalisation form part of the school's wider safeguarding responsibilities.
- Working Together to Safeguard Children 2026 – current statutory multi-agency safeguarding guidance in England, published March 2026.
- Channel Duty Guidance: protecting people susceptible to radicalisation – current guidance updated October 2025 for Channel panel members and partners.
- Information Sharing to Safeguard Children and Young People – updated statutory guidance published 10 September 2026. The new information-sharing duty under section 16LA of the Children Act 2004 comes into force on 30 September 2026.
- Terrorism Act 2000 – provides the statutory definition of terrorism relevant to the Prevent framework.
- Equality Act 2010 and data protection legislation – Prevent activity must be proportionate, lawful and consistent with equality and information-governance duties.

Important 2026 update

From 30 September 2026, the new statutory information-sharing duty under section 16LA of the Children Act 2004 applies. Staff and DSLs should follow the school's information-sharing procedures and the new statutory guidance when sharing relevant safeguarding information with appropriate partners.

2. What may constitute a Prevent concern?

A concern may arise from one or more indicators. No single behaviour should automatically be treated as evidence of radicalisation.

- Expressions or communications suggesting support for terrorism or terrorist violence.
- Significant changes in behaviour, language, relationships or online activity that cause safeguarding concern.

- Accessing, sharing or promoting material associated with terrorism or extremist activity.
- Fixation on grievances, violence, mass-casualty attacks or extremist narratives.
- Increasing isolation, vulnerability or susceptibility to manipulation or exploitation.
- A disclosure from the child, parent/carer, peer or another professional.
- Concerns identified through online safety, filtering/monitoring, behaviour, attendance, peer relationships or other safeguarding information.
- Fascination with extreme violence or mass-casualty attacks, even where there is no clear or fixed ideology.

Assessment must be contextual and child-centred. A clear, identifiable ideology is not a prerequisite for making or considering a Prevent referral; concerns should be shared where there is a reasonable safeguarding basis to do so.

3. Immediate staff response

Step 1 – Identify and respond to the concern

- Listen calmly and take the concern seriously.
- Do not promise confidentiality.
- Do not investigate, interview or test the child's beliefs independently.
- Do not attempt to determine whether the child is 'extremist' or 'radicalised'.
- If there is an immediate danger, threat of violence or suspected criminal/terrorist activity, follow the emergency safeguarding and police procedures without delay.

Step 2 – Record and report immediately

- Make a factual, timely record on the school's safeguarding recording system (for example, CPOMS).
- Record what was seen, heard or disclosed, using the child's words where appropriate.
- Avoid assumptions, labels or unsupported interpretations.
- Inform the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) or deputy DSL without delay.
- Include relevant online, behavioural, attendance, family or contextual information where it is known and appropriate.

4. DSL assessment and escalation

The DSL should:

- Review the concern alongside existing safeguarding information and the child's wider circumstances.
- Consider vulnerability, protective factors, contextual risks and any cumulative concerns.
- Consider local Prevent risk information and current local procedures.
- Consult the Local Authority Prevent Lead/Prevent Team, Prevent Education Officer or Counter Terrorism Policing as appropriate.
- Consider whether the concern is better addressed through universal safeguarding, pastoral support, Early Help, another safeguarding pathway, Prevent or a combination of these.
- Record the rationale for decisions, advice received, referrals made and actions taken.

5. Escalation levels

A. Low-level / emerging safeguarding concern

- Monitor and record.
- Provide appropriate pastoral, educational or safeguarding support.
- Consider discussion with parents/carers where this is appropriate and does not increase risk.
- Consider Early Help or other support where wider needs are identified.
- Review the concern and escalate if new information increases risk.

B. Prevent concern requiring specialist advice

- Seek advice from the Local Authority Prevent Lead/Prevent Team, Prevent Education Officer or Counter Terrorism Policing through local arrangements.
- Consider whether a Prevent referral is appropriate.
- Continue safeguarding support and monitoring.
- Do not delay necessary safeguarding action while awaiting Prevent advice.

C. Significant concern / suspected vulnerability to radicalisation

- Make a Prevent referral using the current local referral route where the threshold is met.
- Consider Channel where vulnerability to being drawn into terrorism is identified.
- Continue to consider other safeguarding referrals and support pathways.
- Record the decision-making and actions taken.

D. Immediate risk / emergency

- If there is an immediate threat to life or serious harm, call 999.
- Where there is suspected terrorism-related offending or other criminal activity, contact the police through the appropriate route.
- Notify the DSL/senior safeguarding lead as soon as practicable.
- Preserve relevant safeguarding information and follow police/local safeguarding instructions.

6. Prevent referral and Channel

A Prevent referral is a safeguarding referral for consideration by the relevant Prevent professionals. A referral does not mean that a child has committed an offence or that they will automatically enter Channel.

Channel is a multi-agency safeguarding programme for people assessed as susceptible to radicalisation and at risk of being drawn into terrorism. It is voluntary and consent-based; for a child under 18, consent is provided by a parent/guardian in accordance with the current Channel arrangements.

The school should continue to provide appropriate safeguarding support while a referral is being considered or assessed. Channel does not replace the school's ordinary safeguarding duties.

7. Information sharing and recording

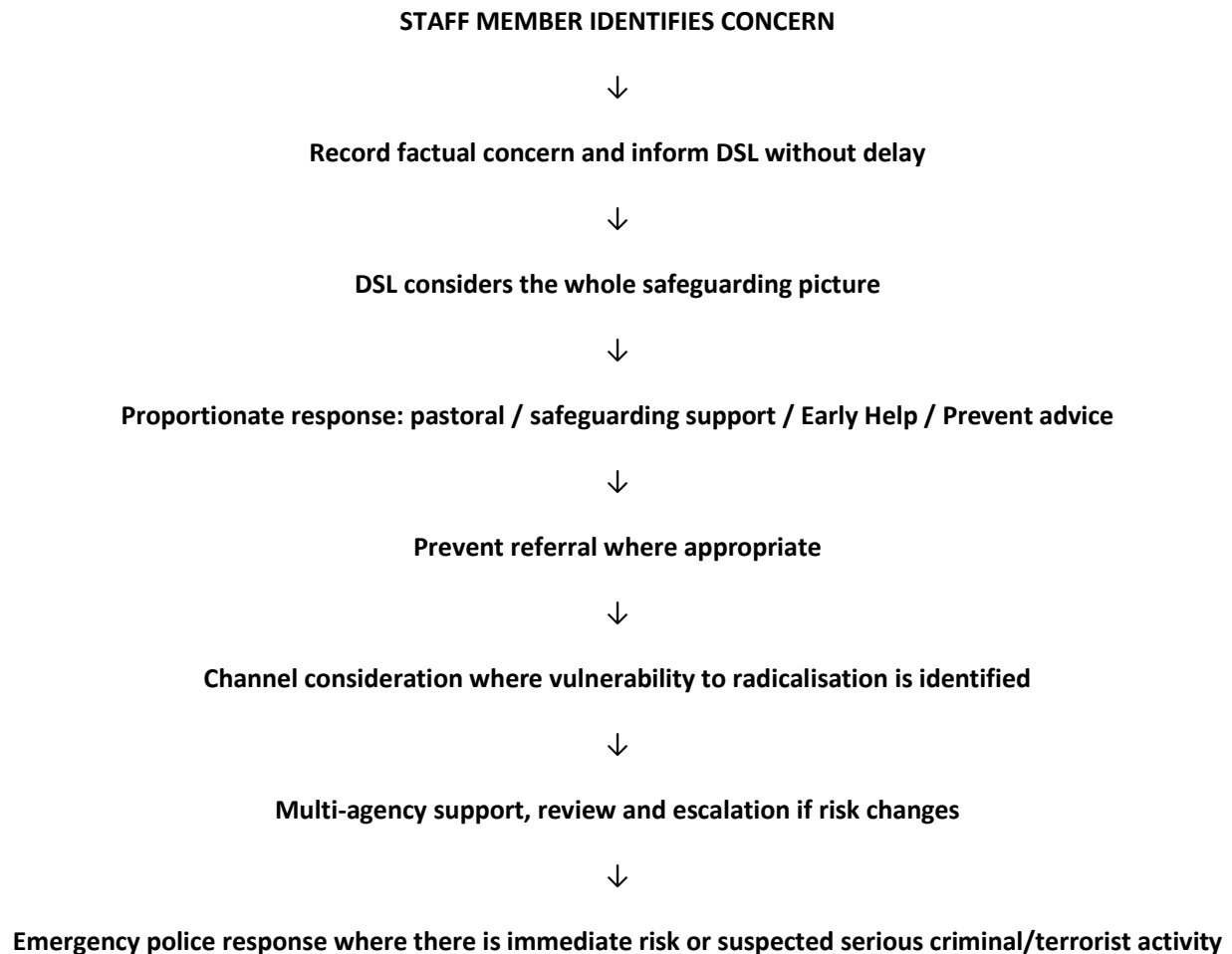
- Share information lawfully, proportionately and on a need-to-know basis, while recognising that safeguarding may require information to be shared without consent.
- From 30 September 2026, consider the new statutory information-sharing duty under section 16LA of the Children Act 2004 alongside data protection requirements and the current DfE statutory guidance.

- Do not allow uncertainty about consent or data protection to prevent appropriate safeguarding information being shared where the legal conditions for sharing are met.
- Keep a clear audit trail of the concern, assessment, advice sought, referral decision, information shared and outcome.
- Use the school's safeguarding recording system and retain records in accordance with the school's retention and data-protection arrangements.

8. Ongoing review

- Review the child's risk and protective factors regularly.
- Attend or contribute to multi-agency meetings where required.
- Implement agreed support plans and monitor their effectiveness.
- Update the safeguarding record when significant information or decisions arise.
- Escalate again if risk increases, new information emerges or existing support is not reducing the concern.

9. Escalation flow



10. Policy statement

Roman Hill Primary School

All concerns relating to radicalisation, terrorism, extremist influence or vulnerability to being drawn into terrorism must be treated as safeguarding concerns and reported promptly to the Designated Safeguarding Lead. The DSL will assess the concern in line with the school's safeguarding procedures, current Prevent Duty Guidance, KCSIE and local safeguarding/Prevent arrangements. Where appropriate, the school will seek specialist Prevent advice or make a Prevent referral and will consider Channel where vulnerability to radicalisation is identified. Concerns presenting an immediate risk of harm or suspected criminal activity will be referred to the police without delay. Decisions, actions, advice and information-sharing will be clearly recorded and reviewed.

11. Key documents to check annually

Home Office – Prevent Duty Guidance: England and Wales (2023): Statutory guidance; in force from 31 December 2023.

DfE – Keeping Children Safe in Education 2026: Current statutory safeguarding guidance from 1 September 2026.

DfE – Working Together to Safeguard Children 2026: Current statutory multi-agency safeguarding guidance from March 2026.

Home Office – Channel Duty Guidance: Current version updated 14 October 2025.

DfE – Information Sharing to Safeguard Children and Young People: Updated 10 September 2026; new statutory information-sharing duty begins 30 September 2026.

Local authority / Suffolk Prevent arrangements: Check current local referral route, Prevent contacts, safeguarding threshold documents and escalation arrangements before each academic year.