



Prevent Policy

This is a B&FC Group policy

Date approved: 6 July 2026
Approved by: Corporation Board
Responsible Manager (s): Director of Student Services, Director of Student Journey, Head of Student Support Wellbeing and Incusion
Executive Lead: Executive Principal

Applicable to employees:	Yes
Applicable to students and apprentices:	Yes
Accessible to students and apprentices:	Yes
Accessible to general public: (including clients)	Yes

Consultation

Consultation undertaken with:
Safeguarding Board

Date:
19 June 2026

Policy review frequency, normally: annually

Contents

1. Scope and purpose of the policy
2. Policy statement
3. Statutory Requirements
4. Accountability
5. Roles and Responsibilities
6. Definitions
7. Prevent
8. Online Safety
9. Guest Speakers

10. Prevent Risk Assessments and Action Plans
 11. Training
 12. Reporting Arrangements
 13. Linked Policies and Procedures
- Equality Impact Assessment

Appendices

- 3 Safeguarding Contacts
- 3 Local Prevent Partners
- 3 Indicators of Risk

1. Scope and purpose of policy

This policy applies to all Blackpool and The Fylde College Group students, apprentices, employees, governors, volunteers, agency employees, contractors, subcontractors, visitors, external speakers, employers and partners involved in College Group activity on site, off site, online or in the workplace. It sets out the College Group's overarching approach to meeting the Prevent Duty and to reducing the risk of learners or other members of the College Group community becoming involved in, or supporting, terrorism.

The College Group has a responsibility, under the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 and the statutory Prevent Duty guidance for England and Wales, to have due regard to the need to prevent people from becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism. This policy reflects the Government's CONTEST Strategy, in which Prevent is the strand focused on stopping people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism, and the updated Prevent Duty guidance issued in September 2023 and in force from December 2023. Its purpose is to provide a clear Group-wide Prevent framework that sets out governance, accountability, risk assessment, training, referral, partnership and assurance expectations across the College Group. Each member of the Group will maintain local Prevent risk assessments and action plans, contacts, referral routes and operational arrangements that reflect its provision, learner profile, local partnerships and site-specific risks.

2. Policy statement

Blackpool and The Fylde College Group is committed to maintaining a safe, respectful, inclusive and lawful learning and working environment in which terrorism, extremist ideology and radicalising influences are not permitted to take hold. The College Group recognises that Prevent is part of its wider safeguarding responsibilities and that concerns about susceptibility to radicalisation must be identified early, responded to proportionately and managed through local safeguarding procedures. In doing so, the College Group will:

- respond to the ideological causes of terrorism and the risks posed by those who promote extremist or terrorism-related views;
- provide practical help, advice and support to prevent learners or other members of the College Group community from being drawn into terrorism or supporting terrorism;
- provide clear guidance for employees, governors, students, apprentices, employers and partners on the processes in place to identify, report, assess and respond to concerns about radicalisation, extremism or terrorism-related influence;

- raise awareness of Prevent, the Government's CONTEST Strategy and the role of Channel as a multi-agency support process for individuals who may be susceptible to radicalisation;
- equip employees with the knowledge and confidence to recognise indicators of susceptibility to radicalisation, understand local reporting routes and take timely action;
- support students and apprentices to develop critical thinking, digital resilience, respect for others, confidence to seek help and the ability to challenge extremist narratives safely and lawfully;
- reduce permissive environments for terrorism by managing risks linked to visiting speakers, events, use of premises, online activity, partnerships and curriculum or enrichment activity through Group expectations and local risk assessment arrangements;
- protect freedom of speech and academic discussion within the law while challenging extremist narratives, discrimination, harassment, hatred and abuse.

3. Statutory Requirements

This policy is informed by the following legislation, statutory guidance and sector expectations relevant to the Prevent Duty:

- Prevent Duty guidance for England and Wales, issued under section 29 of the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015, issued in September 2023 and in force from 31 December 2023.
- The Government's CONTEST Strategy, including the Prevent strand, which aims to stop people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism.
- Channel Duty Guidance and local Channel panel arrangements, where concerns indicate that an individual may be susceptible to radicalisation and would benefit from multi-agency support.
- Keeping Children Safe in Education and wider safeguarding guidance, insofar as Prevent concerns form part of the College Group's safeguarding responsibilities.
- Education and Training (Welfare of Children) Act 2021, where relevant to safeguarding responsibilities in further education.
- Education Act 2002, section 175, where applicable to arrangements for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children.
- Equality Act 2010 and the Public Sector Equality Duty, including the need to prevent discrimination, harassment and victimisation while advancing equality of opportunity and fostering good relations.
- Human Rights Act 1998 and freedom of expression requirements, including the need to protect lawful discussion, debate and academic freedom while challenging terrorism-related or extremist narratives.
- Data Protection Act 2018 and UK GDPR, including lawful, proportionate and necessary information sharing where Prevent or safeguarding concerns arise.
- Ofsted education inspection framework and safeguarding expectations for further education and skills providers, including scrutiny of how providers protect learners from the risks of radicalisation and extremism.

- Office for Students regulatory expectations where relevant to higher education provision, including governance, student protection, freedom of speech and the management of harassment or misconduct risks.
- Local safeguarding partnership, local authority, police and regional Prevent arrangements, including referral routes, risk assessment processes and local Channel arrangements for each member of the Group.

4. Accountability

- The Corporation Board holds ultimate accountability for ensuring that the College Group and each member of the Group have effective Prevent governance, policies, risk assessment, training, referral, Channel and assurance arrangements in place.
- The Chief Executive Officer is responsible for ensuring this policy is implemented across the College Group and that sufficient resources, leadership capacity and local arrangements are available to meet Prevent Duty requirements within each member of the Group.
- The Director of Student Services is the Group strategic Prevent lead and single point of contact for the purpose of this policy framework, providing strategic oversight of Prevent policy, assurance, risk assessment, training expectations, reporting and liaison with relevant external Prevent partners.
- The Head of Student Support, Wellbeing and Inclusion works with the Safeguarding and Wellbeing Manager, safeguarding practitioners, curriculum and support teams to maintain effective day-to-day Prevent practice across Blackpool and The Fylde College, in line with this Group policy and local Prevent procedures.
- The Director of Student Journey and relevant Furness Senior Safeguarding and Student Support Leads are responsible for maintaining effective day-to-day Prevent practice across Furness College and Barrow Sixth Form, in line with this Group policy and local Prevent procedures.
- All employees, governors, volunteers, contractors and those working on behalf of the College Group are accountable for completing relevant Prevent training, remaining alert to concerns, acting with professional curiosity and reporting concerns immediately in line with local Prevent and safeguarding procedures.

5. Roles and responsibilities

Corporation Board

- Ensure the College Group and each member of the Group have due regard to the Prevent Duty and comply with relevant statutory guidance;
- Receive regular assurance on Prevent governance, risk assessment, training completion, referral activity, partnership working and the management of local Prevent risks;
- Ensure an appropriate senior and empowered Group strategic Prevent Lead and single point of contact is identified;
- Ensure appropriate Prevent training, local reporting arrangements, Channel referral routes and risk management procedures are in place;

- Ensure Prevent responsibilities are considered alongside safeguarding, equality, freedom of speech, curriculum, online safety, external speaker and use of premises arrangements;
- Ensure this policy is reviewed at least annually and remains publicly available.

CEO/Principal and Executive Members

- Promote a whole-group Prevent culture in which risks of radicalisation, extremism and terrorism-related influence are understood, discussed appropriately and acted on without delay;
- Ensure Prevent is embedded within Group strategy and within each member's curriculum, personal development, safeguarding, online safety, IT, estates, HR, quality and partnership arrangements;
- Ensure each member of the Group maintains an up-to-date local Prevent risk assessment and action plan that reflects its learner profile, provision, geography, partnerships and site-specific risks;
- Ensure local leaders have sufficient capacity, authority and access to information to implement Prevent arrangements effectively;
- Enable effective liaison with local authorities, police, regional Prevent partners, Channel panels and other relevant agencies.

Group Strategic Prevent Lead / Single Point of Contact and Local Safeguarding/Prevent Leads

- Provide strategic and operational leadership, advice and decision-making on Prevent matters across the College Group and within local procedures;
- Manage or oversee Prevent concerns, information sharing, referrals to Channel, police or other agencies, and related safeguarding action in line with local procedures;
- Support employees who identify concerns and ensure that decisions, rationale, actions and outcomes are recorded appropriately;
- Work with curriculum, personal development, learner support, apprenticeships, employer-facing teams, IT, estates and external partners to identify and manage Prevent-related risks;
- Maintain oversight of local Prevent risk assessments, action plans, referral pathways, visiting speaker arrangements, events, use of premises, online safety and partnership activity;
- Raise awareness, deliver or commission Prevent training, and ensure students and apprentices know how to seek help or report concerns.
- Provide assurance information to senior leaders and governance bodies, including themes, emerging risks, training compliance, referral activity and progress against Prevent action plans.

All employees, governors, volunteers and contractors

- Complete Prevent training appropriate to their role and keep their knowledge up to date;

- Understand that Prevent is part of safeguarding and know the indicators that a learner or other person may be susceptible to radicalisation or terrorism-related influence;
- Understand local Prevent and safeguarding reporting routes and act without delay if they identify a concern, receive information or observe behaviour that may indicate risk;
- Maintain professional curiosity, avoid assumptions and respond proportionately, recognising that concern must be based on risk, behaviour, context and vulnerability rather than stereotypes or protected characteristics;
- Contribute to a safe, inclusive and lawful learning and working environment, including online and in work-based settings, in which extremist narratives, hatred, harassment and terrorism-related influence are challenged appropriately;
- Support students and apprentices to develop critical thinking, digital resilience, respect for others and confidence to seek help;
- Follow relevant local procedures, employee codes of conduct, IT acceptable use, visiting speakers, events, use of premises, whistleblowing and information sharing arrangements.

6. Definitions

- **Radicalisation:** the process by which a person comes to support terrorism or extremist ideologies associated with terrorism and, in some cases, may go on to participate in terrorist activity or support terrorist groups.
- **Extremism:** 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. For the purposes of this policy, Prevent concerns relate to extremism where it is reasonably linked to terrorism or may draw people into terrorism.
- **Terrorism:** the use or threat of action designed to influence the government, intimidate the public or a section of the public, or advance a political, religious, racial or ideological cause, where the action involves serious violence, serious damage to property, serious risk to public safety or health, or serious disruption to an electronic system.
- **Susceptibility to radicalisation:** a person's vulnerability to being drawn into terrorism or supporting terrorism. Susceptibility may be influenced by personal, social, online, ideological or contextual factors and should be considered carefully and proportionately, without making assumptions based on stereotypes or protected characteristics.
- **CONTEST:** the Government's counter-terrorism strategy. Its aim is to reduce the risk to the UK, its citizens and interests overseas from terrorism. CONTEST has four strands: Prevent, Pursue, Protect and Prepare.
- **Prevent:** a key strand of the Government's CONTEST strategy. The aim of Prevent is to stop people from becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism by tackling the ideological causes of terrorism, intervening early to support people who may be susceptible to radicalisation, and enabling people who have already engaged in terrorism to disengage and rehabilitate.

- Channel: a multi-agency support process that forms part of Prevent. It is designed to protect and support people who may be susceptible to radicalisation. Referrals will be made through the relevant local Prevent and safeguarding procedures for each member of the Group, including liaison with the appropriate police, local authority and Channel arrangements.
- Prevent referral: a referral made where there is a concern that an individual may be susceptible to radicalisation or may be at risk of being drawn into terrorism or supporting terrorism. Referrals should be made in line with local Prevent and safeguarding procedures.
- Permissive environment: an environment, including online spaces, in which extremist narratives, terrorism-related content or radicalising influences are allowed to spread unchallenged or are not managed through appropriate policy, supervision, risk assessment or intervention.
- Fundamental British values: democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, and mutual respect and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs.
- Local Prevent procedures: the local operational arrangements maintained by each member of the Group for identifying, reporting, assessing, recording and escalating Prevent concerns, including local contacts, referral routes and partnership arrangements.

7. Online Safety

Online safety is a core part of the College Group's Prevent arrangements. The College Group recognises that online spaces can expose students and apprentices, and other members of the College Group community to extremist narratives, terrorism-related content, misinformation, disinformation, conspiracy narratives and other material that may contribute to radicalisation or create a permissive environment for terrorism. The College Group will manage this risk through Group expectations and local arrangements, including the following:

- Each member of the Group will maintain proportionate filtering and monitoring arrangements, including appropriate firewall, web-filtering and monitoring systems, to reduce the risk of learners or others accessing online material that may draw people into terrorism or support extremist narratives linked to terrorism;
- Students and apprentices will be supported to keep themselves safe online, including through education on critical evaluation of online material, misinformation, disinformation, conspiracy narratives, digital resilience, reporting concerns and seeking help;
- Employees will understand how online safety links to Prevent, safeguarding, radicalisation, extremism, harassment, coercion, exploitation, fraud, online misogyny, harmful narratives and wellbeing;
- Concerns involving online radicalisation, extremist or terrorism-related content, grooming, coercion, harmful digital behaviour, AI-enabled manipulation, deepfakes, impersonation or attempts to influence a learner online will be reported through local Prevent and safeguarding procedures;
- Where a student or an apprentice, is identified as being at risk of radicalisation or is referred through local Prevent, safeguarding or Channel arrangements, IT use may be reviewed or monitored where lawful, necessary, proportionate and consistent with

local IT acceptable use, safeguarding, data protection and information-sharing procedures;

- Inappropriate use of College Group systems, including access to or sharing of terrorism-related or extremist material, may be escalated through local safeguarding, conduct, disciplinary, IT, police or Channel arrangements where appropriate;
- The College Group will work within linked Group and local IT acceptable use, cyber security, data protection, safeguarding, behaviour, disciplinary and information-sharing policies and procedures.

8. Guest Speakers

The College Group recognises that guest speakers, external organisations, events and use of premises can enrich the curriculum and wider learner experience, while also requiring appropriate controls to meet safeguarding, Prevent and freedom of speech responsibilities. Each member of the Group will maintain a local Guest Speakers Policy and Procedure, including local approval routes, risk assessment arrangements, responsibilities and escalation processes.

Local procedures will operate alongside local Freedom of Speech Policies and any relevant local premises, safeguarding, visitor, events and IT acceptable use arrangements. The College Group supports freedom of expression within the law, but reserves the right, through each member's local procedures, to determine who is permitted to enter or use its premises, facilities, systems or branded events.

The College Group will not knowingly permit external speakers, organisations or events that promote terrorism, encourage support for terrorism, create a risk of drawing people into terrorism, unlawfully incite hatred or violence, or otherwise breach the law. Where there is insufficient lead time, incomplete information, unresolved concern about the credibility of an individual or organisation, or concern about the nature of an event or activity, the relevant member of the Group may decline, postpone or place conditions on the request.

Local Guest Speakers Policies and Procedures will ensure that:

- requests for external speakers, external organisations, events or use of premises are submitted through the relevant local approval route with sufficient notice for proportionate checks and risk assessment;
- the College Group may request information in advance about the speaker or organisation, event purpose, topics to be covered, materials or resources to be used, proposed attendees, publicity and any online or hybrid delivery arrangements;
- where necessary, local teams will consult the Group strategic Prevent Lead, local Safeguarding or Prevent Leads, Senior Leaders, Estates, IT, HR, Legal, Communications or external partners before approving an event or request;
- events, speakers and organisations will be risk assessed where there is concern that they may expose members of the College Group or wider community to terrorism-related or extremist influence, unlawful activity, harassment, intimidation, discrimination, hatred or serious disruption;
- appropriate conditions may be applied to manage risk, including changes to format, chairing, moderation, security, supervision, audience arrangements, recording, materials, publicity, online access or post-event review;

- all visitors, including approved speakers and representatives of external organisations, must follow local visitor registration, identification, safeguarding and site-access arrangements on arrival;
- concerns arising before, during or after an event will be reported and managed through the relevant local Guest Speakers Policy and Procedure, safeguarding, Prevent, conduct, security or police escalation routes as appropriate.

9. Prevent Risk Assessments and Action Plans

Each member of the College Group will maintain an up-to-date local Prevent risk assessment and action plan. These documents will consider all relevant aspects of College activity and the controls in place to mitigate the risk of terrorism, radicalisation and extremism linked to terrorism, taking account of the national threat picture, local risk and threat information, learner profile, provision type, partnerships, online activity, use of premises and site-specific risks.

Local Prevent risk assessments and action plans will be proportionate to the size, complexity, geography and operating context of each member of the Group. They will identify the risks, existing controls, additional actions required, named leads for each action, target completion dates and arrangements for monitoring progress. Actions should be clear, realistic and capable of providing assurance that Prevent risks are being actively managed. Risk assessments and action plans will be reviewed at least annually and updated sooner where there are significant changes in local or national risk, provision, learner profile, partnership activity, site use, online risk, referral themes, external speaker or events activity, or relevant statutory guidance. Local leads will ensure that actions are progressed, and that evidence of completion is retained.

The Group strategic Prevent Lead will maintain oversight of local Prevent risk assessments and action plans and will use them to support Group-level assurance, reporting and continuous improvement. Themes, emerging risks, overdue actions, and significant issues will be escalated through the appropriate local and Group governance arrangements.

10. Training

Each member of the College Group is responsible for ensuring that governors, leaders, employees, volunteers and relevant contractors receive Prevent training appropriate to their role, level of responsibility and contact with students, apprentices or members of the public.

Training will support the College Group to meet the Prevent Duty by ensuring that employees understand Prevent, recognise concerns, know how to seek advice and report concerns, and contribute to a safe, inclusive and lawful learning and working environment. Training will be proportionate to local risk, role, and responsibility. It will ensure that relevant members of the College Group community understand what is meant by radicalisation, extremism and terrorism; the relationship between extremist ideologies and terrorism; why some people may be susceptible to radicalisation; and how Prevent forms part of wider safeguarding responsibilities.

Each member of the Group will ensure that employees are able to recognise indicators that a student, apprentice or other person may be susceptible to radicalisation or terrorism-related influence; know how to obtain advice and support; understand local Prevent and safeguarding reporting routes; and know how concerns may be referred to Channel, police or other relevant agencies where appropriate.

Local Prevent leads will work with local authorities, police, regional Prevent partners and other relevant agencies to ensure training remains current, proportionate and informed by national and local risk. Employees with designated Prevent, safeguarding, leadership, curriculum, learner support, apprenticeships, IT, estates, events, guest speakers or employer-facing responsibilities may receive additional or more detailed training relevant to their role.

Each member of the Group will maintain records of Prevent training completion, monitor compliance and act where training is overdue. Training completion, role-specific training activity, emerging learning needs and any significant gaps will be reported through local assurance arrangements and, where appropriate, to the Group strategic Prevent lead for inclusion in Group-level reporting.

11. Reporting Arrangements

Prevent concerns must be reported in accordance with the local safeguarding and Prevent arrangements for the relevant member of the College Group. Internal reporting routes for concerns about susceptibility to radicalisation, extremist influence or terrorism-related risk are the same as wider safeguarding reporting routes, unless a local procedure states otherwise.

Employees, governors, volunteers, contractors and others working on behalf of the College Group must act without delay where they identify a concern, receive information or observe behaviour that may indicate a person is susceptible to radicalisation or being exploited by radicalising influences. Concerns should be shared with the appropriate local safeguarding or Prevent lead, who will consider the information, seek advice where necessary and determine the next steps in line with local procedures.

Where a concern requires external advice or escalation, the relevant local safeguarding or Prevent lead will liaise with the appropriate local authority, police Prevent team, regional Prevent partner, Channel coordinator or other agency. Any referral to Channel, police or another external agency will be made through the local referral route for that member of the Group and recorded in accordance with local safeguarding, Prevent, information-sharing and data protection procedures.

Each member of the Group will maintain local Prevent contact details, reporting routes and Channel referral arrangements within its local procedures, operational guidance or appendices. These arrangements should reflect the relevant local authority, police force area and regional Prevent structures, including arrangements for Blackpool, Lancashire, Westmorland and Furness, Cumberland and any other area in which College Group activity takes place.

If there is an immediate risk of serious harm, a risk to life, or concern that a criminal offence may be taking place, emergency services must be contacted without delay. Reporting a Prevent concern does not replace wider safeguarding action, support for the individual, or any urgent steps required to keep people safe.

The Group strategic Prevent lead will maintain oversight of Prevent reporting themes, referral activity and any significant issues arising across the Group. Local leads will ensure that decisions, rationale, actions, referrals and outcomes are recorded appropriately, and that relevant learning is used to strengthen local risk assessments, action plans, training and assurance reporting.

12. Linked Policies and Procedures

Group:

- Safeguarding Policy

Blackpool and The Fylde:

- Positive Student Behaviour Policy
- Anti-Bullying and Anti-Harassment Policy (Student)
- Appropriateness of Study Policy
- Health and Safety Policy
- Data Protection Policy
- IT Systems Acceptable Use Policy
- Security policy
- Employee professional boundaries policy

Furness:

- Esafety Policy
- Acceptable use of IT policy
- Freedom of Speech Policy

Equality Impact Assessment

Impact Assessment for the 4 strands of Equality, Safeguarding, Health and safety and Sustainability					
Initial Form to be completed with Risk Assessments or as part of a proposal or change to a policy, plan or new way of working					
Title of Activity: Prevent Policy Name and title of proposer: Matt Dillon, Director of Student Services				Revision or New New	
Equality and Diversity. Are there students, apprentices, other customers, community/stakeholders, and/or colleague concerns that the proposed policy, project or change may be discriminatory or have an adverse impact on people with protected characteristics?					
A	Students/Apps/Customer	Yes	If so, how many individuals / which groups of are likely to be affected?		
B	Community/stakeholders	No			
C	Colleague	No			
Equality group		Positive impact High Low None	Negative impact High Low None	Reason / comments for positive impact why it could benefit any /all of the equality groups	Reason /comments for negative impact /what could disadvantage any/all of the equality groups
Gender (Men/women/Non-binary/Transgender)		N	N		
Age		N	N		
Race or ethnicity		N	N		
Learning difference		N	N		
Physical and/or sensory disability		N	N		
Mental health need		N	N		
Sexual Orientation		N	N		
Religion and Belief		N	N		
Marriage and civil partnership		N	N		
Pregnancy and maternity		N	N		
Carers/care experienced		N	N		
Socio Economic deprivation indicators		N	N		
Applies to ALL groups		N	N		
What changes or actions do you recommend to improve the service, project, policy, or change to eradicate or minimise the negative impacts identified? Who will be responsible for monitoring these actions?					
Have students, apprentices/other customers, communities and/or colleagues been consulted in the review / proposed change?					
A	Students/Apps/Customers	Non			
B	Community	No			
C	Colleague	Yes			
	If yes, who and how many have you involved and how have they been involved?	Members of CLT, Members of Safeguarding Board Members of Exec and Directors, AMT, Students Union Representative			
Safeguarding: Are there any aspects of this proposal which could cause a Student/member of staff/visitor to feel unsafe? If yes, how has this been considered? What are the risks? What are the benefits?				No	
Health and Safety: Have any risks been identified? If yes, how has this been considered? What are the risks? What are the benefits?				No	
Sustainability: Are there expected benefits or impacts on sustainability issues? If yes, how have these been considered?				No	
Evidence: What evidence do you have for your conclusions and expectations for these conclusions? How will this impact be monitored for all these considerations?					
Is this policy of a high/medium or low risk?:				Low	