

PREVENT POLICY



M.E.A.T (Ipswich) Limited

Introduction

The threat to the UK from international terrorism is substantial. The terrorist threats that we now face is more diverse than ever before, dispersed across a wider geographical area and often in countries without effective governance. We therefore face an unpredictable situation.

The purpose of this policy is to:

- Prevent violent and non-violent extremism and radicalisation;
- Ensure an awareness of Prevent within MEAT;
- Provide a clear framework to structure and inform our response to safeguarding concerns, including a supportive referral process for those who may be susceptible to the messages of extremism;
- Embed British Values into learning;
- Recognise current practice which contributes to the Prevent agenda.



Who does this policy apply to?

The Prevent Policy applies to everyone working at or attending MEAT. It confers responsibilities on directors, staff, learners, volunteers, contractors, visitors, consultants and those working under self-employed arrangements.

This policy includes how we:

- Have a legal responsibility to fulfil the prevent duty statement;
- Will protect apprentices and employees from radicalising influences;
- Will ensure apprentices and employees are resilient to extreme narratives;
- Will identify changes in behaviour of apprentices and employees;
- Will deal with any issues raised by apprentices or employees.

Policy Statement

The aim of the Prevent Policy is to create and maintain a safe, healthy and supportive learning and working environment for our learners, staff and visitors alike. We recognise that extremism and exposure to extremist materials and influences can lead to poor outcomes for learners. We further recognise that if we fail to challenge extremist views, we are failing to protect our learners from potential harm. As such the Prevent agenda, will be addressed as a safeguarding learners concern.

MEAT has adopted the Prevent Duty in accordance with legislative requirements. However, we will endeavour to incorporate the relevant duties so as not to:

- (a) Stifle legitimate discussions, debate or learners' engagement activities in the local community; or
- (b) Stereotype, label or single out individuals based on their origins, ethnicity, faith and beliefs or any other characteristics protected under the Equality Act 2010.

Why do we need this policy?

Background information

Prevent is one of 4 strands of the Government's counter terrorism strategy – CONTEST. The UK currently faces a range of terrorist threats. Terrorist groups who pose a threat to the UK seek to radicalise and recruit people to their cause. Therefore, early intervention is at the heart of Prevent which aims to divert people away from being drawn into terrorist activity.

The national Prevent Duty confers mandatory duties and responsibilities on a range of public organisations, including Further Education Colleges, and seeks to:

- Respond to the ideological challenge of terrorism and aspects of extremism, and the threat we face from those who promote these views;
- Provide practical help to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism and violent extremism and ensure they are given appropriate advice and support;



- Work with a wide range of sectors where there are risks of radicalisation which needs to be addressed, including education, criminal justice, faith, the internet and health.

The Government has created a system of ‘threat level’ which represents the likelihood of a terrorist attack in the near future. The current threat level from international terrorism in the UK is severe (at time of issue), which means that a terrorist attack is highly likely.

Our Prevent Policy has five key objectives:

1. To promote and reinforce shared values, including British Values; to create space for free and open debate; and to listen and support the learner voice.
2. To breakdown segregation among different learners’ communities including by supporting inter-faith and inter-cultural dialogue and understanding; and to engage all learners in playing a full and active role in wider engagement in society.
3. To ensure learner safety and that MEAT is free from bullying, harassment and discrimination.
4. To provide support for learners who may be at risk of radicalisation, and appropriate sources of advice and guidance.
5. To ensure that learners and staff are aware of their roles and responsibilities in preventing violent and non-violent extremism.

British Values are detailed within the Prevent Duty and include democracy, the rule of law, Individual and mutual respect and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs.

Definitions

The following are commonly agreed definitions within the Prevent agenda:

An **ideology** is a set of beliefs.

Radicalisation is the process by which a person comes to support terrorism and forms of extremism that may lead to terrorism.

Safeguarding is the process of protecting vulnerable people, whether from crime, other forms of abuse or from being drawn into terrorism-related activity.

Terrorism is an action that endangers or causes serious violence, damage or disruption and is intended to influence the government or to intimidate the public and is made with the intention of advancing a political, religious or ideological.

Vulnerability describes factors and characteristics associated with being susceptible to radicalisation.

Extremism is vocal or active opposition to fundamental **British Values**, including democracy, the rule of law, Individual and mutual respect and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs.



Aims

Leadership and Values

To create and maintain MEAT's ethos that upholds core values of shared responsibility and wellbeing for all learners, staff and visitors whilst promoting respect, equality and diversity and understanding.

This will be achieved through:

- Promoting core values of respect, equality and diversity, democratic society, learner voice and participation;
- Building staff and learner understanding of the issues and confidence to deal with them through mandatory staff training, specialist tutorials, awareness campaigns and community engagement activities;
- Deepening engagement with local communities and faith groups;
- Actively working with representation from Police, Local Authorities, Health, Education, Probation, and Fire & Rescue services.

Teaching and Learning

To provide learning that promotes British Values, knowledge, skills and understanding, to build the resilience of learners by undermining extremist ideology and supporting the learner voice.

This will be achieved through:

- Embedding British Values, equality, diversity and inclusion, wellbeing and community cohesion throughout their learning;
- Promoting wider skills development such as social and emotional aspects of learning;
- Learning adapted to recognise local needs, challenge extremist narratives and promote universal rights;
- Teaching, learning and assessment strategies that explore controversial issues in a way that promotes critical analysis and pro-social values;
- Encourage learner voice.

Learners Support

To ensure that staff take preventative and responsive steps, working with partner professionals, families and communities.

This will be achieved through:

- Strong, effective and responsive learner support services;
- Developing strong community links and being aware of what is happening in the locality, including within our own community;
- Implementing anti-bullying strategies and challenging discriminatory behaviour;



- Recognising factors that may increase risk to a learner i.e. vulnerability, disadvantage or hardship, and implementing early risk management strategies;
- Ensuring that learners and staff know how to access support at MEAT and/or via community partners;
- Supporting learners with problem solving and repair of harm;
- Supporting 'at risk' learners through safeguarding and crime prevention processes;
- Focusing on narrowing the attainment gap between the different groups of learners;
- Working collaboratively to promote support for learners across all areas, including those learners in off-site provision.

Roles and Responsibilities

Whilst this is a standalone policy, it is integral to our Safeguarding Policy and should be applied as an extension to the MEAT's current and established safeguarding procedures.

Managing Director

The Managing Director have a legal responsibility under the Prevent Duty to make sure they have undertaken training in the Prevent Duty. Additionally, they must ensure that:

- All MEAT staff have undertaken training in the Prevent Duty;
- All MEAT staff are aware of when it is appropriate to refer concerns about learners, learners or colleagues to the Safeguarding Officer;
- All MEAT staff exemplify British Values into their values;
- policies and procedures to implement the Prevent Duty are in place and acted on where appropriate.

Prevent Lead for MEAT

The Managing Director and General Manager are the Prevent Leads and Designated Safeguarding Leads, with responsibility for ensuring that MEATs Prevent Strategy is implemented and that any concerns are shared with the relevant organisations, in order to minimise the risk of our learners becoming involved with terrorism.

A risk assessment is carried out in order to have an awareness and understanding of the risk of radicalisation in our area and organisation.

MEAT Safeguarding

The Safeguarding and Prevent personnel meets regularly and any concerns raised under the Prevent agenda or changes to the Duty that affect MEAT are discussed.



All staff at MEAT have a responsibility to:

- Create and support an ethos that upholds the MEATs mission, vision and values including British Values, to create an environment of respect, equality and diversity and inclusion;
- Attend Prevent training in order to have the skills to recognise those who may be vulnerable to radicalisation, involved in violent or non-violent extremism, and to know the appropriate action to take if they have concerns;
- Report any concerns around extremism or radicalisation via the safeguarding reporting channels;
- Report and remove any literature displayed around MEAT that could cause offense or promote extremist views;
- Support the development of staff and learners understanding of the issues around extremism and radicalisation through activities such as training, awareness campaigns and tutorials;
- Participate in engagement with local communities, schools and external organisations as appropriate.

Managing Risks and Responding to Events

MEAT will ensure that it monitors risks and is ready to deal appropriately with issues which arise through the following:

- Understanding the nature of threat from violent extremism and how this may impact directly and indirectly on MEAT;
- Identifying, understanding and managing potential risks within MEAT from external influences;
- Responding appropriately to events reported via local, national or international news that may impact on learners and communities;
- Ensuring plans are in place to minimise the potential for acts of violent or non-violent extremism within MEAT;
- Ensuring measures are in place to respond appropriately to a threat or incident within MEAT;
- Continuously developing effective ICT security and responsible user policies;
- Ensuring compliance with related policies.

Links to MEATs values and other policies

This policy should be used in conjunction with the following policies and procedures:

- Safeguarding & Child Protection Policy;
- Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Statement;
- Health and Safety Policy;
- Anti-Bullying and Harassment Policy;
- E-Safety Policy;
- Managing Learners Behaviour & Performance Policy;
- MEATs Mission, Vision and Values;
- Whistleblowing Policy;
- Freedom of Information Policy;



- Data Protection Policy;
- IT Policy.

Policy Summary

Our commitment to meeting the Prevent Duty can be summarised as follows:

P – Promotion of Equality and Diversity and positive relationships between staff and learners

R – Referral of any concerns via Safeguarding staff to relevant authorities

E – Embedding British Values and education for learners on all courses

V – Vetting guest speakers and removal of any posters or other materials of an extremist nature

E – Environment – a safe and secure site with CCTV, sufficient security procedures and online filters

N – News monitoring for any concerns in the locality

T – Training of staff to raise awareness of the signs and risks

Signed:

JANE DALE

Managing Director

Reviewed: June 2023

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