



Prevent Policy

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Charity Number: SCO 36198

Table of Contents

1. Introduction 3

2. Purpose and Aims 3

3. Scope 3

4. Policy Statement 3

5. Definitions 4

6. Responsibilities 5

7. References 6

8. Document Control and Review 7

9. Revision Log 7

Prevent Policy

1. Introduction

- 1.1. Section 26 of the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 (the Act) places a statutory duty on certain bodies, listed in Schedule 6 of the Act, to have, in the exercise of their functions, “due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism”.
- 1.2. The Prevent Strategy was published by the UK Government in 2011 as part of its overall counter-terrorism strategy. The CONTEST strategy consists of four elements:
 - **Pursue:** to stop terrorist attacks.
 - **Prevent:** to stop people becoming terrorists or supporting violent extremism.
 - **Protect:** to strengthen our overall protection against terrorist attack.
 - **Prepare:** where we cannot stop an attack, to mitigate its impact.

2. Purpose and Aims

- 2.1. This policy is designed to set out the College’s position and approach with regard to the Prevent duty, and aligns the College’s aims in respect of the key strategic objectives of the Prevent strategy with those of the Scottish Government as set out in the Prevent duty guidance for further education institutions in Scotland:
 - Respond to the ideological challenge of terrorism and the threat we face from those who promote it;
 - Prevent people from being drawn into terrorism and ensure that they are given appropriate advice and support;
 - Work with sectors and institutions where there are risks of radicalisation that we need to address; and
 - Balance the need to ensure compliance with legislative directives whilst respecting and valuing the diversity of the individual.

3. Scope

- 3.1. This policy applies to all students, staff and stakeholders of the College.

4. Policy Statement

- 4.1. All children and young people have the right to be cared for and protected from harm, and to grow up in a safe environment in which their rights and needs are respected.
- 4.2. The College recognises its duty to protect our students from indoctrination into any form of extreme ideology which may lead to the harm of self or others.
- 4.3. The College is committed to maintaining a safe, welcoming and inclusive environment for all members of our community.
- 4.4. The College also commits to encouraging debate and discussion, preserving freedom of expression and academic freedom within the law (i.e not inciting violence, hatred or glorifying acts of terrorism), whilst seeking to safeguard those that are vulnerable.

- 4.5.** The College respects and values the diversity of its community and is sensitive to the concerns expressed by some of the potential misinterpretations of the Prevent duty leading to counter-productive actions. It is within this context that the College seeks to balance the legal obligations placed upon us, recognising that terrorism takes many forms.
- 4.6.** The College takes a risk-based approach to balancing the Prevent Duty with its other legal obligations. It seeks to put in place appropriate measures to identify, understand and minimise the risk of members of the College community being radicalised or drawn into terrorism. For the purposes of the College's policies and procedures, this will mean that every reasonable step will be taken to prevent extremist views of any nature aimed at the radicalisation or exploitation of students.
- 4.7.** The College seeks to ensure that all staff are aware of the risks to students of being exposed to radicalisation influences, and the signs of such exposure, through the provision of training, including practical workshops. This training will include raising awareness among staff of appropriate actions should they be concerned that a student is becoming drawn into violent extremism, and the potential pitfalls of failing to fully appreciate the consequences of misguided or inappropriate intervention.
- 4.8.** The College will adopt a collaborative multi-agency approach to its Prevent duty, ensuring a shared awareness and understanding of the risk of radicalisation, and the consequences of a failure to respond appropriately to the vulnerability of students.
- 4.9.** It is recognised that the effective and appropriate delivery of Prevent contributes to several of the Scottish Government's national outcomes:
- Our young people are successful learners, confident individuals, effective contributors and responsible citizens;
 - We live our lives safe from crime, disorder and danger;
 - We have strong, resilient and supportive communities where people take responsibility for their own actions and how they affect others;
 - We take pride in a strong, fair and inclusive national identity; and
 - Our public services are high quality, continually improving, efficient and responsive to local people's needs.

5. Definitions

- 5.1.** In the UK, the current definition of terrorism is outlined in the Terrorism Act 2006. It is defined as a violent action that:
- Endangers a person's life, other than that of the person committing the action;
 - Involves serious violence against a person;
 - Causes serious damage to property;
 - Creates a serious risk to the public's health and safety; and/or
 - Interferes with or seriously disrupts an electronic system.
- 5.2.** Radicalisation refers to the process by which a person comes to support terrorism and extremist ideologies associated with terrorist groups. During this process, it is possible

to intervene to prevent vulnerable people from being drawn into terrorist-related activity. This concept is central to the Prevent strategy.

- 5.3. The term “due regard” as used in the Act means that the authorities (the College) should place an appropriate amount of weight on the need to prevent people being exploited when they consider all the other factors relevant to how they carry out their usual functions.
- 5.4. A child is anyone under the age of 18.
- 5.5. An adult at risk is those aged 16 or over who are:
 - Unable to safeguard their own well-being, property, rights or other interests;
 - Are at risk of harm; and
 - Are affected by disability, mental condition, illness, physical or mental infirmity such individuals are more vulnerable to potential harm compared to adults who are not so affected.
- 5.6. All three elements of the above definition must be met, and the presence of a particular condition does not automatically mean that an adult is “at risk”.

6. Responsibilities

- 6.1. All members of staff have a duty of care to protect and safeguard children and adults at risk from any situation where they may suffer verbal, physical or psychological abuse, bullying, harassment, ill-treatment, discrimination, exploitation or radicalisation.
- 6.2. Senior staff have specific responsibilities under the College’s Prevent Policy.

Associate Director of Governance and Risk

- 6.3. The Associate Director of Governance and Risk, who is the College’s Prevent Lead, is responsible for managing the College’s responsibilities under Prevent, and maintaining collaborative links with appropriate external agencies, sectors and institutions.

Executive Leadership Team and Senior Management Team

- 6.4. The Director of Student Experience, who is the College’s Safeguarding Lead, is responsible for the implementation and monitoring of the College’s Safeguarding Policy and Procedure.
- 6.5. The College’s leads for Prevent, Safeguarding and Corporate Parenting will work with the Vice Principal People and Corporate Support to develop and maintain an induction and training plan to support the College’s implementation of these duties.
- 6.6. The Vice Principal Corporate Development and Innovation will ensure that an appropriate procedure is in place for the management of events held on the College’s premises, including a procedure for identifying any speakers at such events who are likely to express extremist views that risk drawing people into terrorism, or are shared by terrorist groups. Any such process will be in line with the revised statutory guidance, to ensure risk mitigation. If such mitigation is not possible, cancellation of such an event would be a last resort.

- 6.7. The Director of IT is responsible for ensuring the responsible use of digital technologies.
- 6.8. The Director of Corporate Support will provide legal advice through the College solicitors as appropriate.

Board of Management

- 6.9. The Board of Management is responsible for ensuring the College complies with its statutory obligations in terms of the Safeguarding of Children and Vulnerable Adults, Corporate Parenting and Prevent Duties.

7. References

7.1. Policy Framework

Associated Policies and Procedures	Title
National Guidance and Framework	Revised Prevent Duty Guidance for Further Education Institutions in Scotland (2019)
National Guidance and Framework	National Guidance for Child Protection in Scotland
Policy	College Safeguarding Policy
Procedure	College Safeguarding of Children and Vulnerable Adults (Incorporating Prevent Duty) Procedure

7.2. Other College Policies and Procedures

Policy / Procedure	Title
Procedure	College Staff Protection of Vulnerable Groups Scheme (PVG) Procedures
Procedure	College Students on Work Placement (PVG) Scheme
Procedure	Student Disciplinary Procedure
Procedure	External Speaker (Events) Procedure

7.3. External References

Source	Title
UK Government	Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015
UK Government	Prevent Duty Guidance: for specified authorities in Scotland
UK Government	Revised Prevent Duty Guidance: for Further Education institutions in Scotland
Scottish Government	National Guidance for Child Protection in Scotland

8. Document Control and Review

Approval Status	Approved	
Approved by	Students, Staff & Equalities Committee	
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Lead Department	Executive Office	
Lead Officer(s)	Associate Director of Governance and Risk	
Board Committee	Learning, Teaching & Student Experience Committee	
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9. Revision Log

Version Date	Section of Document	Description of Revision
Version 1 May 2018	All	First Version of the City of Glasgow College Prevent Policy.
Version 2 January 2020	Section 1	Reference to the Revised Prevent Duty Guidance for Scotland (April 2019).
	Section 4	Additional information added on collaborative approach, consequences of inappropriate actions and Scottish Government national outcomes. Amendment to clarify legal advice from solicitors.
	Section 6	New paragraph added in line with revised guidance on external speakers at hosted events.
Version 3 October 2023	All	Lead changed from 'College Secretary /Planning' to 'College Secretary' throughout the document. Dates and version updated.
	Section 6	Post titles changed.
	Section 8	Students, Staffing & Equalities Committee changed to Learning, Teaching & Student Experience Committee.

Version 3.1 October 2024	All	Transferred policy to new template. "Associate Director of Governance and Risk" was inserted to replace "College Secretary".
	Section 7.3	Links updated.