



SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN WHO ARE VULNERABLE TO EXTREMISM,

Policy Statement

The **Prevent duty** is the **duty** in the Counterterrorism and Security Act 2015, to have regard to safeguard children, young people, and families from violent extremism. There have been several occasions both locally and nationally in which extremist groups have attempted to radicalise vulnerable children and young people to hold extreme views including views justifying political, religious, sexist or racist violence, or to steer them into a rigid and narrow ideology that is intolerant of diversity and leaves them vulnerable to future radicalisation.

Katey's Nursery & Pre-School, values freedom of speech and the expression of beliefs / ideology as fundamental rights underpinning our society's values. Both children and staff have the right to speak freely and voice their opinions. However, freedom comes with responsibility and free speech that is designed to manipulate the vulnerable or that leads to violence and harm of others goes against the moral principles in which freedom of speech is valued. Free speech is not an unqualified privilege; it is subject to laws and policies governing equality, human rights, community safety and community cohesion.

The current threat from terrorism in the United Kingdom may include the exploitation of vulnerable people, to involve them in terrorism or in activity in support of terrorism. The normalisation of extreme views may also make children and young people vulnerable to future manipulation and exploitation. Katey's Nursery & Pre-School is clear that this exploitation and radicalisation should be viewed as a safeguarding concern.

Katey's Nursery & Pre-School seeks to protect children and young people against the messages of all violent extremism including, but not restricted to, those linked to Islamist ideology, or to Far Right / Neo Nazi / White Supremacist ideology, Irish Nationalist and Loyalist paramilitary groups, and extremist Animal Rights movements. The Nursery management team and the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DCPO) will assess the level of risk within the nursery and put actions in place to reduce that risk. Risk assessment may include consideration of the nursery's SEND policy, the use of the nursery premises by external agencies, integration of children by gender and SEN, and other issues specific to the nursery's profile, community, and philosophy.

Response

Our Designated Child Protection Officer (DCPO) will be the lead within the organisation for safeguarding in relation to protecting individuals from radicalisation and involvement in terrorism. The DCPO for Katey's Nursery & Pre-School is **the Nursery Branch Manager**.

When any member of staff has concerns that a child may be at risk of radicalisation or involvement in terrorism, they should speak with the DCPO.

Numerous factors can contribute to and influence the range of behaviours that are defined as violent extremism, but most young people do not become involved in extremist action. For this reason, the appropriate interventions in any case may not have any specific connection to the threat of radicalisation, for example they may address mental health, relationship or drug/alcohol issues.

All our Policies & Procedures are crafted to ensure the highest possible standards at our setting and will be reviewed every 3 years or sooner, if necessary, in light of specific events or relevant statutory changes.

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