



PREVENT POLICY

October 2023

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 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 concern.

STOP– Main aim is to stop people from becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism

PROTECT– Providing early intervention to protect and divert people away from being drawn into terrorist activity

PREVENT– Addresses all form of terrorism, but continues to ensure resources are allocated based on threats to our national security

- 1.2 Young people are vulnerable to extremist ideology and radicalisation. Similar to protecting children from other forms of harms and abuse, protecting young people from this risk is part of the MGTS safeguarding approach. MGTS recognises the vulnerability of people under and over the age of 18 and the need to prevent them from being radicalised and supporting terrorism. The Prevent objective aims to safeguard all from any form of extremist activity and to challenge terrorism and terrorist activity.
- 1.3 'Extremism' is the vocal or active opposition to our fundamental values, including democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and the mutual respect and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs. This also includes calling for the death of members of the armed forces. 'Radicalisation' refers to the process by which a person comes to support terrorism and extremist ideologies associated with terrorist groups.
- 1.4 Throughout this policy, reference is made to learners and young people. This means those under the age of 18 years and those over 18 years of age who would be considered to be particularly vulnerable for valid reasons such as disability or learning difficulties.

2. **OUR PREVENT STRATEGY AIMS TO ADDRESS THESE THREATS BY:**

- Promoting shared values, encouraging open and honest debate and listening to the learner voice
- Breaking down segregation between different learner groups, encouraging inter faith and intercultural understanding and engaging learners to play an active role in modern society
- Providing support for any learners that may be at risk
- Ensuring that MGTS is safe and free from bullying, harassment and discrimination
- Educating learners and making them aware of their responsibilities in preventing potential radicalisation and extremism
- Encouraging learners to have their say through learner voice opportunities
- Training staff and learners to understand the issues and giving them the confidence to deal with them
- Enabling learners to develop the self-knowledge, self-esteem and self-confidence.
- Implementing strong anti-bullying policies and challenging any discriminatory behaviour
- Listening to learners' views and responding quickly to concerns
- Ensuring we have strong, effective equality and diversity policies
- Supporting any at risk learners and helping them access external support where necessary
- Making staff and learners aware of safeguarding procedures especially the risks posed online
- Supporting young and vulnerable people who have made a disclosure
- Providing training for the awareness of all aspects of Prevent and e-safety by ensuring, where appropriate, the safe use of ICT. In doing so, this will equip and empower staff and young people to keep themselves and others safe

3. **OUR PREVENT POLICY HAS FIVE KEY OBJECTIVES**

- 3.1. 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.
- 3.2. To support 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.
- 3.3. To ensure learner safety and that MGTS is free from bullying, harassment and discrimination.
- 3.4. To provide support for learners who may be at risk of radicalisation, and appropriate sources of advice and guidance.
- 3.5. To ensure that learners and staff are provided with guidance on how to prevent themselves from becoming involved in extremist views and activities.

4. **DEFINITIONS**

The following are commonly agreed definitions within the Prevent agenda:

- An ideology is a set of beliefs. Promoting democracy, respect, equality and diversity
- 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

5. **PREVENT, BRITISH VALUES AND THE EQUALITY ACT 2010**

To comply with the Prevent Duty, providers are expected to exemplify British Values in their management, teaching practice & general behaviours. British Values are defined as:

- Rule of Law
- Individual Liberty
- Mutual respect & tolerance of those from other backgrounds, religions, beliefs,
- Democracy

The Equality Act 2010 protected characteristics are:

- Age
- Gender reassignment
- Disability
- Marriage & civil partnership
- Pregnancy & maternity
- Race
- Religion or belief
- Sex
- Sexual orientation

Delivery staff embeds British Values into their delivery to ensure learners are aware of them. Learners can identify and exemplify them and understand what it means to be a successful learner and take part in life in a modern, British society.

6. TERMS OF PREVENT SAFEGUARDING

- 6.1 MGTS is committed to implement the Government's CONTEST strategy. MGTS aims to pursue, prevent, protect and prepare in order to effectively respond to terrorist attacks.
- 6.2 Everyone has the right to freedom of speech and the freedom to have their own beliefs and ideas and MGTS will ensure this is not compromised. However, harmful and extremist ideologies will not be tolerated, especially to the safeguarding of vulnerable people.
- 6.3 The three main elements of the Prevent Policy are:

Prevention:

- Providing an environment in which young people and vulnerable adults feel safe, secure, valued and respected; feel confident and know how to obtain help and support
- Training and raising awareness of all staff of the need to safeguard young people and vulnerable adults of their responsibilities in identifying and reporting possible cases of abuse or radicalisation
- Ensuring that all staff within MGTS carrying out regulated activity with young people and adults, have been subject to the appropriate checks using safer recruitment procedures
- In respect of safeguarding individuals from radicalisation, implementing the Prevent Duty of the Government's Counter Terrorism Strategy, and where deemed appropriate seeks external support for learners through referrals to the Channel Programme. This programme aims to work with the individual to address their specific vulnerabilities, prevent them becoming further radicalised and possibly entering the criminal justice system because of their actions. It is recognised that radicalisation can occur to an individual from any section of society and is not particular to any racial, ethnic or social group. It is further recognised that in many instances the process of radicalisation is essentially one of grooming by others

Protection:

- Through raising awareness of learners as to how to keep themselves safe from harm, abuse or radicalisation
- Through systematic monitoring of young people and vulnerable adults, known or thought to be at risk of harm or radicalisation
- Through structured procedures within MGTS to be followed in cases of suspected abuse
- Through effective working relationships with all other agencies involved in safeguarding young people and vulnerable adults

Support:

- Ensuring that key concepts of child protection are integrated within the curriculum and offered through effective information, advice and guidance within tutorials and cross-centre service delivery where appropriate
- Enabling learners to develop critical thinking skills and discuss challenging topics in a supportive environment to help them understand and safeguard themselves from harm or extremism. All staff and visitors exemplify British values
- Promoting British values through the delivery of training

- Ensuring that children and young people are listened to and their concerns taken seriously and acted upon
- Working with others to support children and young people who may have been abused, or in care, to access the training

7. MAIN OBJECTIVES OF PREVENT WITHIN MGTS

- Develop the knowledge and understanding of Prevent to all staff and learners, highlighting the importance of the dangers associated with radicalisation, extremism and terrorism
- Ensuring that all accessible ICT equipment within MGTS has the appropriate measures in place to safeguard learners from accessing inappropriate material regarding terrorist related material
- When needs arise, to work with institutions and sectors to combat issues of radicalisation. e.g. The Channel Programme

8. DEALING WITH A PREVENT ISSUE OR DISCLOSURE AND REPORTING CONCERNS

Recognise:

- Look out for concerning factors or vulnerabilities that could make a person vulnerable to radicalisation or manipulation into terrorist activity. E.g. it has been noted that acceptance of extremism and extremist activity is at a higher number in younger people and those of lower income socio-economic backgrounds
- Staff are encouraged to look out for factors like the one above and recognise them as significant vulnerabilities that can be exploited in the name of terrorism and terrorist activities
- Further factors can also be the reason for radicalisation, staff are encouraged to read up on them more and to voice any concerns at an early stage

Reassure:

- Try to have a discussion with the individual, if it is safe and lawful to do so
- Listen to what they are saying. Ensure you do not antagonise them or the situation
- Discuss their ideologies without belittling or disregarding the individual
- Make them aware of alternative viewpoints

React:

- Do not criticise or make comment on the individual
- Make them aware, in terms that they understand clearly, the actions 'you' will take and who 'you' will contact
- Report concerns to the MGTS Designated Safeguarding Officer

Record:

- Write things down at the time and make the person aware of your intentions
- Make note of actual words used by the young person word for word
- Keep original notes

- Transfer your notes to the standard safeguarding report form
- Ensure all documents are completed and given to the Designated Safeguarding Officer
- Involve parents or guardians of individual, if appropriate, especially with those under the age of 18

9. **THE CHANNEL PROGRAMME**

- MGTS recognises the importance of Channel - a programme that is an important figure in the challenging of radicalisation in younger and more vulnerable people
- Channel works for the welfare of the young and vulnerable and helps in providing them support. It provides a platform for fair and lawful action by assessing individual circumstances and conditions
- Employees, as part of MGTS, will work alongside this multi-agency and co-operate fully with them as and when there is a serious threat of radicalisation
- Channel is made up of specific board members from the local authority, who are responsible for ensuring a panel is in place for prevent and safeguarding issues

The police of the individual local authorities are included as part of Channel and would be informed of any critical or important information.

10. **DESIGNATED SAFEGUARDING LEAD**

Our Designated Safeguarding Lead, Ruth Plane, is responsible for:

- Overseeing the referral of any case of suspected disclosure of terrorism, extremism or safeguarding
- Providing advice and support to staff on safeguarding and prevent issues
- Maintenance of records on Prevent, safeguarding referrals, complaints or concerns raised
- Ensuring that employers are aware of their responsibilities regarding the 'Prevent Strategy'
- Ensuring that staff receive training on Prevent and are aware of the company's policies and procedures
- Ensuring appropriate, continuous professional development and awareness for all staff is reviewed regularly
- Liaising with the Designated Safeguarding Trustee, responsible for Prevent and Safeguarding issues that arise
- Implementation and review of the policy and procedures to ensure they remain effective and legally compliant
- Ensure any Prevent concerns are shared immediately with the Channel Team

11. 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 the Designated Prevent Team to the relevant authorities
- E** - Embedding and demonstrating British Values
- V** - Vetting guest speakers and ensuring the removal of any posters or other materials of an extremist nature
- E** - Environment – MGTS has created a safe and secure environment for all learners and staff
- N** - News updates for staff regarding local/national threats
- T** - Train all staff to raise awareness regarding potential signs of learners becoming radicalised and forming extremist views



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