###### **Prevent policy**

From 1 July 2015 all schools and registered early years and childcare providers became subject to section 26 of the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 – also known as the ‘ [Prevent Duty](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/prevent-duty-guidance)’. This means that they must have ‘due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism’.

Ofsted’s new ‘Common Inspection Framework’ which comes into effect on 1 September 2015 requires that providers ‘actively promote British Values’.

Early years providers serve arguably the most vulnerable and impressionable members of society. The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) accordingly places clear duties on us as a provider to Keep children safe and promote their welfare. It makes clear that to protect children in their care, we must be alert to any safeguarding and child protection issues in the child’s life at home or elsewhere. We must take action to protect children from harm and should be alert to harmful behaviour by other adults in the child’s life.

Cherubs and Imps already focus on children’s personal, social and emotional development. The Early Years Foundation Stage framework supports us to do this in an age appropriate way, through ensuring children learn right from wrong, mix and share with other children and value other’s views, know about similarities and differences between themselves and others, and challenge negative attitudes and stereotypes.

We follow this guidance in conjunction with other relevant guidance, including Working Together to Safeguard Children, Keeping Children Safe in Education and Information Sharing: Her Majesty’s Government advice for professionals providing safeguarding services to children, young people, parents and carers. Https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/ working-together-to-safeguard-children; https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/ keeping-children-safe-in-education;

**The Prevent duty and what it means for childcare providers:**

In order for us as a childcare provider to fulfil the Prevent duty, it is essential that all staff are able to identify children who may be vulnerable to radicalisation and know what to do when they are identified. Protecting children from the risk of radicalisation should is part of our wider safeguarding duty and it is similar in nature to protecting children from other harms (e.g. drugs, gangs, neglect, sexual exploitation), whether these come from within their family or are the product of outside influences.

It is also our duty to ensure children’s resilience to radicalisation by promoting fundamental British values and enabling them to challenge extremists’ views. It is important to emphasis that the Prevent duty is not intended to stop pupils debating controversial issues. For us in the early years, the statutory framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage sets standards for learning, development and care for children from 0-5, thereby assisting their personal, social and emotional development and understanding of the world.

(The Prevent duty Departmental advice for schools and childcare providers

June 2015)

The authorities specify that we subject to the duty to have due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism. Being drawn into terrorism includes not just violent extremism but also non-violent extremism, which can create an atmosphere conducive to terrorism and can popularise views which terrorists exploit.

Early years settings should be safe spaces in which children and young people can understand and discuss sensitive topics, including terrorism and the extremist ideas that are part of terrorist ideology, and learn how to challenge these ideas.

The Prevent duty is not intended to limit discussion of these issues. We should, however, be mindful of their existing duties to forbid political indoctrination and secure a balanced presentation of political issues.

As a registered Early years provider it is part of the new duty to ensure that we complete the following:

**Risk assessment**

Specified authorities are expected to assess the risk of children being drawn into terrorism, including support for extremist ideas that are part of terrorist ideology. This should be based on an understanding, shared with partners, of the potential risk in the local area.

**Robust safeguarding policies**

Specified authorities will need to demonstrate that they are protecting children and young people from being drawn into terrorism by having robust safeguarding policies in place to identify children at risk and intervening as appropriate. Institutions will need to consider the level of risk to identify the most appropriate referral, which could include Channel or Children’s Social Care, for example. These policies should set out clear protocols for ensuring that any visiting speakers – whether invited by staff or by children themselves – are suitable and appropriately supervised.

**Working in partnership**

In England, governing bodies and proprietors of all schools and registered childcare providers should ensure that their safeguarding arrangements take into account the policies and procedures of the Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB).