Prevent Duty

Under the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 we have a duty to refer any concerns of extremism to the police (In Prevent priority areas the local authority will have a Prevent lead who can also provide support).

This may be a cause for concern relating to a change in behaviour of a child, family member or adult working with the children in the setting, comments causing concern or actions that lead staff to be worried about the safety of a child in their care.

Alongside this we will be alert to any early signs in children and families who may be at risk of radicalisation, on which we will act, and document all concerns when reporting further.

The NSPCC states that signs of radicalisation may be: - isolating themselves from family and friends - talking as if from a scripted speech - unwillingness or inability to discuss their views - a sudden disrespectful attitude towards others - increased levels of anger - increased secretiveness, especially around internet use.

Expectations for Early Years Providers Early Years Settings have a responsibility to meet the following criteria: - Keep children safe and promote their welfare - Be alert to any safeguarding and child protection issues in the child's life at home or elsewhere (paragraph 3.4 EYFS) - Make sure that staff have sufficient training that gives them the knowledge and confidence to recognise this vulnerability (radicalisation) and be aware of what action to take in response - Demonstrate that they are protecting children and young people from being drawn into terrorism by having clear policies and procedures for protecting children at risk of radicalisation - Ensure their safeguarding arrangements take into account the policies and procedures of the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Partners - Assess the risk of children being drawn into terrorism - Understand when to make referrals into the 'Channel' process and where to get additional advice and support i.e. Local Authority Prevent Lead, Prevent Project Lead Officer and Regional Police Prevent and Channel Lead - Focus on children's personal, social and emotional development - Ensure children learn right from wrong, mix and share with other children and value others' views - Ensure children know about similarities and differences between themselves and others, and challenge negative attitudes and stereotypes (in an age appropriate way).

Little Nestlings is clear that exploitation of vulnerable children and radicalisation should be viewed as a safeguarding concern and follows the Department for Education guidance for childcare providers on preventing children and young people from being drawn into terrorism.

Definitions and Indicators

Radicalisation is defined as the act or process of making a person more radical or favouring of extreme or fundamental changes in political, economic or social conditions, institutions or habits of the mind.

Extremism is defined as the holding of extreme political or religious views. There are a number of behaviours within families or in the children themselves which may indicate a child is at risk of being radicalised or exposed to extreme views.

These include:

- Spending increasing time in the company of other suspected extremists

- Changing their style of dress or personal appearance to accord with the group

- Day-to-day behaviour becoming increasingly centred on extremist ideology/group etc

- Loss of interest in other friends and activities not associated with the extremist ideology, group or cause

- Possession of materials or symbols associated with an extremist cause

- Attempts to recruit others to the group/cause

- Communications with others that suggests identification with a group, cause etc

- Using insulting or derogatory names for another group

- Increase in prejudice-related incidents committed by that person – these may include:

  - Physical or verbal assault
  - Provocative behaviour
  - Damage to property
  - Derogatory name calling
  - Possession of prejudice-related materials
  - Prejudice related ridicule or name calling
  - Inappropriate forms of address
  - Refusal to co-operate
  - Attempts to recruit to prejudice-related organisations
  - Condoning or supporting violence towards others

At Little Nestlings, we take safeguarding very seriously, therefore to ensure that we adhere to and achieve the Prevent Duty we will tackle radicalisation by:

- Training all staff to understand what is meant by the Prevent Duty and radicalisation.

- Ensuring staff understand how to recognise early indicators of potential radicalisation and terrorism threats and act on them appropriately in line with national and local procedures
- Make any referrals relating to extremism to the police (or the Government helpline) in a timely way, sharing relevant information as appropriate
- Ensure our nursery is an inclusive environment, tackle inequalities and negative points of view and teach children about tolerance through British Values
- Using the Government document Prevent Duty Guidance for England and Wales

Practitioner's Role

- Staff will be alert to changes in children's behaviour which could indicate that they may be in need of help or protection (children at risk of radicalisation may display different signs or seek to hide their views). The key person approach means we already know our key children well and so we will notice any changes in behaviour, demeanour, or personality quickly.
- Be alert to any safeguarding and child protection issues in the child's life at home or elsewhere (paragraph 3.4 EYFS)
- Take action to protect children from harm and be alert to harmful behaviour by other adults in the child's life
- Be aware of how settings can provide support to help families and children to be resilient and able to resist involvement in radical or extreme activities
- We will be aware of the online risk of radicalisation through the use of social media and the internet
- Understand when to make referrals and where to get additional advice and support
- Work in partnership with our external teams for guidance and support
- Support children's personal, social and emotional development by helping children develop a positive sense of themselves, and others; to form positive relationships and develop respect for others; to develop social skills and learn how to manage their feelings; to understand appropriate behaviour in groups; and to have confidence in their own abilities
- Ensure 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 (in an age-appropriate way)

Prevent Risk Assessment

Childcare providers are expected to assess the risk of children being drawn into terrorism, including support for extremist ideas that are part of terrorist ideology. This means being able to demonstrate both a general understanding of the risks affecting children and young people in the area and a specific understanding of how to identify individual children who may be at risk of radicalisation and what to do to support them.

Cultivating British Values

Little Nestlings adheres to the Prevent Duty Guidance, July 2015 and actively promotes British Values within the nursery.

The best way to help children resist extremist views or challenge views such as creationism is to teach them to think critically and become independent learners, which is fundamental to the Characteristics of Effective Learning and Teaching embedded in the EYFS. We endeavour to support our children through the EYFS by providing playful learning opportunities to help them develop positive diverse and communal identities, as well as their well-being, their empathy and emotional literacy, while continuing to take action to eradicate inequalities, bullying, discrimination, exclusion, aggression and violence; all of which fosters and secures, children's pro-social behaviours and responsible citizenship and real sense of belonging.

What is not acceptable:

- Actively promoting intolerance of other faiths, cultures and races.

- Failure to challenge gender stereotypes and routinely segregating boys and girls.

- Isolating children from the wider community.

- Failure to challenge behaviours (whether this is staff, children or parents) that are not in line with the fundamental British values of democracy, rule of law, individual liberty, mutual respect and tolerance for those with different faiths and beliefs.

What to do if you suspect that children are at the risk of radicalisation:

Follow the nursery normal Safeguarding Procedures including discussing with the nursery designated safeguarding lead, and where deemed necessary, with children's social care. In Prevent priority areas, the local authority will have a Prevent lead who can also provide support. The Safeguarding Lead can also contact the local police force or dial 101 (the non-emergency number). They will then talk in confidence about the concerns and help to access support and advice. The Department for Education has dedicated a telephone helpline (020 7340 7264) to enable staff to raise concerns relating to extremism directly. Concerns can also be raised by email to counter.extremism@education.gsi.gov.uk. Please note that the helpline is not intended for use in emergency situations, such as a child being at immediate risk of harm or a security incident, in which case the normal emergency procedures should be followed.

This policy was reviewed in	Signed on behalf of the nursery	Date for review
September 2026	*Elizabeth Ross-Whittall*	*September 2027*