

# 2023/2024 Community Risk Assessment (taking account of Prevent duties)



**School name:** Breaside Preparatory School  
**Date:** 10/08/2023 (updated 04/09/2023)  
**Completed by:** Nicola Ridgway

## Introduction

The Education (Independent Schools Standards) Regulations require schools to undertake a risk assessment linked to the demography of the school and also to identify risks linked to extremism and radicalisation. This document outlines the school's analysis.

Since 2010, when the Government published the Prevent Strategy, there has been an awareness of the specific need 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.

Our school values freedom of speech and the expression of beliefs/ideology as fundamental rights underpinning our society's values. Both students and teachers 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.

Our school is committed to providing a secure environment for pupils, where children and young people feel safe and are kept safe. All adults at the school recognise that safeguarding is everyone's responsibility irrespective of the role they undertake or whether their role has direct contact or responsibility for children or not.

This policy is one element within our overall school arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children in line with our statutory duties set out at S157/S175 of the Education Act 2002.

Our school's approach to preventing extremism and radicalisation also draws upon the guidance produced in 'Keeping Children Safe in Education', HM government document 'Prevent strategy: A guide for local partners in England' and the 'Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015'.

The Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 contains a duty on specified authorities, which includes all schools to have due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism. The new legislation will be measured through school inspection.

The Department for Education has set up a helpline for teachers who have questions and/or concerns about extremism.

Teachers can call: 0207 340 7264 or email: [counter.extremism@education.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:counter.extremism@education.gsi.gov.uk)

What are the distinctive features of your school community?	Are there any risks or concerns linked to this?	As a result, what do you put in place?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• High expectations for behaviour</li> <li>• Strong Academic success</li> <li>• Comprehensive Extra-curricular provision</li> <li>• High quality Pastoral Care</li> <li>• Effective safeguarding procedures for students and staff.</li> <li>• Multi-cultural student and parental body</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Multi-cultural sub-urban location could be considered to be a potential risk for Breaside but this is addressed through a number of whole school strategies and procedures.</li> <li>• Comprehensive extra-curricular provision includes a wide range of national and international trips, which could be considered a risk to children.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All staff in school have completed Prevent training and are confident in spotting signs of radicalisation or extremist behaviours.</li> <li>• School covers fundamental British Values in a variety of settings within the school including PSHE, form time, assemblies and themes of the week.</li> <li>• Parents have been provided with documentation on extremism and radicalisation and how Breaside addresses this issue.</li> <li>• Safeguarding of children is a weekly agenda item in staff meetings whereby staff can raise concerns about children or parents should they need to.</li> <li>• RE and ethics are taught to all children within the curriculum and this includes trips to religious places of worship like local mosques.</li> <li>• All trips and residentials are carefully planned, risk assessed and externally approved by trained advisors.</li> </ul>

**Date information obtained from local Prevent Officer: September 4<sup>th</sup> 2023**

**Name of Officer: Rob Vale**

Information provided: Bromley remains a non-priority borough. UK National threat level remains at substantial. Drawing on national trends and intelligence Islamist Extremism continues to be the predominant threat and risk in London. The greatest risk emanates from self-initiated radicalisation online as it provides a multitude of different inspirational pathways, therefore Islamist extremism will continue to be a threat. The threat and risk from Extreme Right-Wing Terrorism (ERWT) has not significantly increased in the last 12 months. Vast amounts of ERW activity takes place online, specifically on messaging apps like Telegram. The ease in which extremist material can reach vulnerable individuals remains a cause for concern. Engagement with material online is self-directed based on a persons specific fixation or grievance. Increased availability of online content gives individuals access to an abundance of violent and/or radicalising material. Messaging apps and chats provide a degree of anonymity that almost certainly emboldens individuals to share extremist material and ideas online.

Moreover, mainstream social media sites provide radicalisers an accessible platform to share concerning narratives to vulnerable audiences in 'easy to digest' formats. The use of such apps, chat sites, and online media platforms is more appealing to younger people. As a result, it is likely that individuals are becoming involved in concerning, and potentially extremist, behaviours from a younger age.

Not able to evidence	Evidence of some but not all	Evidence of all and more

1. LEADERSHIP: structures are in place and visible throughout the school		
Evidence	RAG	Next steps (and target date)
The Senior Leadership Team are aware of the Prevent Strategy and its objectives.		
The Head and DSL understands their duties if concerns were raised.		
Supporting young people vulnerable to radicalisation is embedded within Safeguarding Policies and Procedures.		
The Head and DSL know who to contact if radical or extremist concerns are raised (including making a referral to the Channel programme).		
Staff understand to report concerns immediately.		

2. CAPABILITIES: staff and governors adequately trained on Prevent Duty		
Evidence	RAG	Next steps (and target date)
Staff have been trained/briefed on their responsibilities linked to the Prevent Duty and know how to recognise and refer children who may be vulnerable.		
There is appropriate staff guidance and literature available to staff on the Prevent agenda.		

3. RISK ASSESSMENT: risks around extremism are understood and appropriate referral process is in place		
Evidence	RAG	Next steps (and target date)
Key staff show understanding of risks affecting children and how to support individual children who may be at risk.		
An audit trail for notification reports/referrals exists.		
A process is in place to identify and develop 'lessons learnt'.		

4. WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP: develop multi-agency approaches to address safeguarding issues and deliver quality curriculums		
Evidence	RAG	Next steps (and target date)
Partner agency communication channels have been developed – Local Authority and Police are first port of call when outside agencies need to be consulted or for making a Channel referral.		

The single point of contact is identified in Children's Services to liaise on a range of safeguarding issues.

Prevent Lead R.Vale has been contacted every year since 2017 and consulted to discuss local area risks with regards to radicalisation and extremism.

**Feedback from R.Vale (October 2017):**

*Bromley is a non-priority borough with minimal extremist activity when compared to other south London boroughs and the radicalisation pathways are similar to other boroughs, with online posing the biggest threat.*

*There are no specific vulnerable groups identified in Bromley outside of those generally expected to be more susceptible to radicalisation, eg criminal gangs, those with mental health conditions.*

*The risk assessment you have supplied looks to be very thorough and proportionate for your service area.*

**Feedback from R.Vale (November 2019):**

*Bromley remains a non-priority borough with no extremist activity reported in the last year and there is no notable support for particular groups or organisations in LB Bromley. There is no evidence of any sections of the community of particular interest to those within our caseload.*

*The risk assessment you have supplied looks to be very thorough and proportionate for your service area.*

**Feedback from R. Vale (October 2020):** All of the recent cases are linked to right wing ideologies; subjects were under 18 and open to CAHMS or had an ASD diagnosis; or adults with ill mental health concerns. The XRW mindsets appear to have been influenced by social media and online forums; there appears also to be an influence from some of the political unrest in the USA and the somewhat incendiary language used by politicians around race and immigration; Brexit appears also to have been an influence in establishing the opinions of one subject. All referrals have been male. All subjects were under the age of 25, and most were under 20. I don't feel there is any evidence that intelligence gaps are the cause for the relatively

	low numbers of referrals and intel being received, as there is a lot of work being undertaken by Prevent police with regards to raising the profile of prevent locally, both within police ranks, within the community and the local authority through WRAP deliver. We remain a non-priority borough due to number of Prevent referrals.
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**Feedback from Rob Vale (September 2021):** We remain a non-priority borough due to low number of Prevent referrals. It is too soon to assess the full impact of Covid-19, but over time it is possible that the increased demand on all services will also increase the amount of referrals into Prevent nationally. Covid 19 lockdown restrictions has seen a decline in the use of public venues in favour of more secure online spaces and this may have created opportunity for radicalisation and propaganda purposes. It is highly likely that online platforms will continue to be utilised more than public venues in the future. Lockdown will have limited exposure to positive influences outside of the household, especially in the education space, and will also limit contact to partners and services trained to spot the signs of radicalisation. It is important to increase awareness of Prevent in homes, the ACT Early campaigns, reporting platforms such as the iREPORTit app<sup>48</sup> and support charities.

**Nov 21:** UK threat level raised to severe in light of terrorist attack in Liverpool, DSL to seek guidance from Prevent Officer following this development. EVCs received further guidance on trips from J.Wiid (Educational Visits Consultant for Cognita). Dec 21: DSL received guidance from R Vale, whilst Bromley still remains low threat, it is recommended to highlight roles at staff meetings and communicate to children/parents - in particular the Junior children.

**Feedback from Rob Vale (September 2022):** We continue to remain a non-priority borough due to low number of Prevent referrals. UK threat level in 2022 = Moderate UK threat level in Bromley = Low. Online platforms/conferences will still be the preferred method of communication and meetings as Covid is more apparent in schools and workplaces in the 'September Spike' period. It is important to increase awareness of Prevent in homes, the ACT Early campaigns, reporting platforms such as the iREPORTit app<sup>48</sup> and support charities.

**Feedback from Rob Vale (October 2023): Heightened Risk** - due to Israel-Hamas conflict. The police report states there have been significant increase in hate crimes in London, predominantly antisemitic incidents, since the Hamas attacks on Israel. However, there has been no evidence or information of any local borough attacks or crime. Bromley area was not affected too much by the 'September Spike' - with only a few schools informing of children and staff with Covid.

**Feedback from Rob Vale (November 2023):** The UK (England, Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland) threat stated by Counter Terrorism is now **Substantial**, which means an attack is likely. Bromley Borough remains a low-risk area. No extremist activity has been reported. Bromley networking and external agencies have support HUBs for adults/staff to attend.

*Threat levels do not have an expiry date. They can change at any time as different information becomes available.*