TCAT PREVENT STATEMENT – Updated September 2026

Adopted by: Penketh High School

Purpose and Commitment

At The Challenge Academy Trust (TCAT), we are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all our pupils. As part of this commitment, we actively support the government's Prevent strategy to protect children and young people from the risk of radicalisation and extremism.

Understanding Prevent

The Prevent strategy is part of the UK's counter-terrorism strategy, CONTEST. Its aim is to stop people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism. In academies, this means safeguarding pupils from extremist ideologies and ensuring they are equipped to challenge such views.

The Role of Academies in Prevent

Academies play a vital role in Prevent. They are uniquely placed to identify children at risk of radicalisation and to intervene early. Through education, pastoral care, and safeguarding systems, academies help pupils build resilience to extremist narratives and foster a culture of respect, inclusion, and critical thinking.

Curriculum and British Values

TCAT academies embed the promotion of British values across the curriculum. These values include:

- Democracy
- The rule of law
- Individual liberty
- Mutual respect and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs

Through subjects such as PSHE, citizenship, and humanities, pupils are encouraged to explore diverse perspectives, understand the importance of human rights, and develop the skills to challenge prejudice and discrimination.

We foster a culture of safety, acceptance, and tolerance, where pupils feel valued and supported. Our curriculum is designed to promote:

- Critical thinking and respectful debate
- Understanding of different cultures and beliefs
- Empathy and emotional literacy
- Resilience against harmful ideologies

TCAT Approach

Across TCAT, we take a proactive and preventative approach to safeguarding. Our Prevent strategy is embedded within our wider safeguarding and child protection policies and practices. We ensure that:

- Staff are trained to identify signs of radicalisation and know how to respond appropriately
- Pupils are educated through a broad and balanced curriculum that promotes British values, critical thinking, and respectful debate
- Concerns are reported and acted upon using established safeguarding procedures, including referrals to the Channel programme where appropriate
- Online safety is prioritised, with appropriate filtering and monitoring systems in place to help protect pupils from extremist content, online radicalisation, harmful narratives, misinformation, disinformation, conspiracy-based material, and emerging online risks including AI-generated content

- Partnerships with external agencies, including the police, local authority, Prevent partners and local safeguarding partners, are maintained to support a coordinated safeguarding response

This statement should be read alongside TCAT's Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy, Recording and Reporting Policy, Online Safety Policy, filtering and monitoring arrangements, Staff Code of Conduct, Whistleblowing Policy, Attendance Policy, Behaviour or Relationships Policy, and curriculum/PSHE provision.

Definitions from KCSIE

To support clarity and consistency, TCAT adopts the following definitions from *Keeping Children Safe in Education*:

- **Terrorism**: An action that endangers or causes serious violence to a person/people; causes serious damage to property; or seriously interferes or disrupts an electronic system. The use or threat must be designed to influence the government or to intimidate the public and is made for the purpose of advancing a political, religious, or ideological cause.
- **Extremism**: The vocal or active opposition to our fundamental values, including democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, and mutual respect and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs. This also includes calls for the death of members of the armed forces.
- **Radicalisation**: The process by which a person comes to support terrorism and extremist ideologies associated with terrorist groups.

Key Guidance and Resources

TCAT academies operate in line with the following statutory guidance:

- Prevent Duty Guidance: England and Wales
- Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE)
- Working Together to Safeguard Children

Monitoring and Review

TCAT regularly reviews safeguarding policies, including Prevent measures, to ensure they remain effective and responsive to emerging risks. Formal Prevent training is refreshed at least every two years for all staff, with safeguarding updates provided as needed in response to local, national or emerging risks. Safeguarding audits include Prevent compliance, and the effectiveness of filtering and monitoring arrangements is reviewed at least annually by the senior leader with responsibility for filtering and monitoring, with support from the DSL and IT support.

Academies should retain evidence of these reviews, including any actions identified, timescales for completion, and confirmation that systems remain proportionate to the age, needs and vulnerability of pupils.

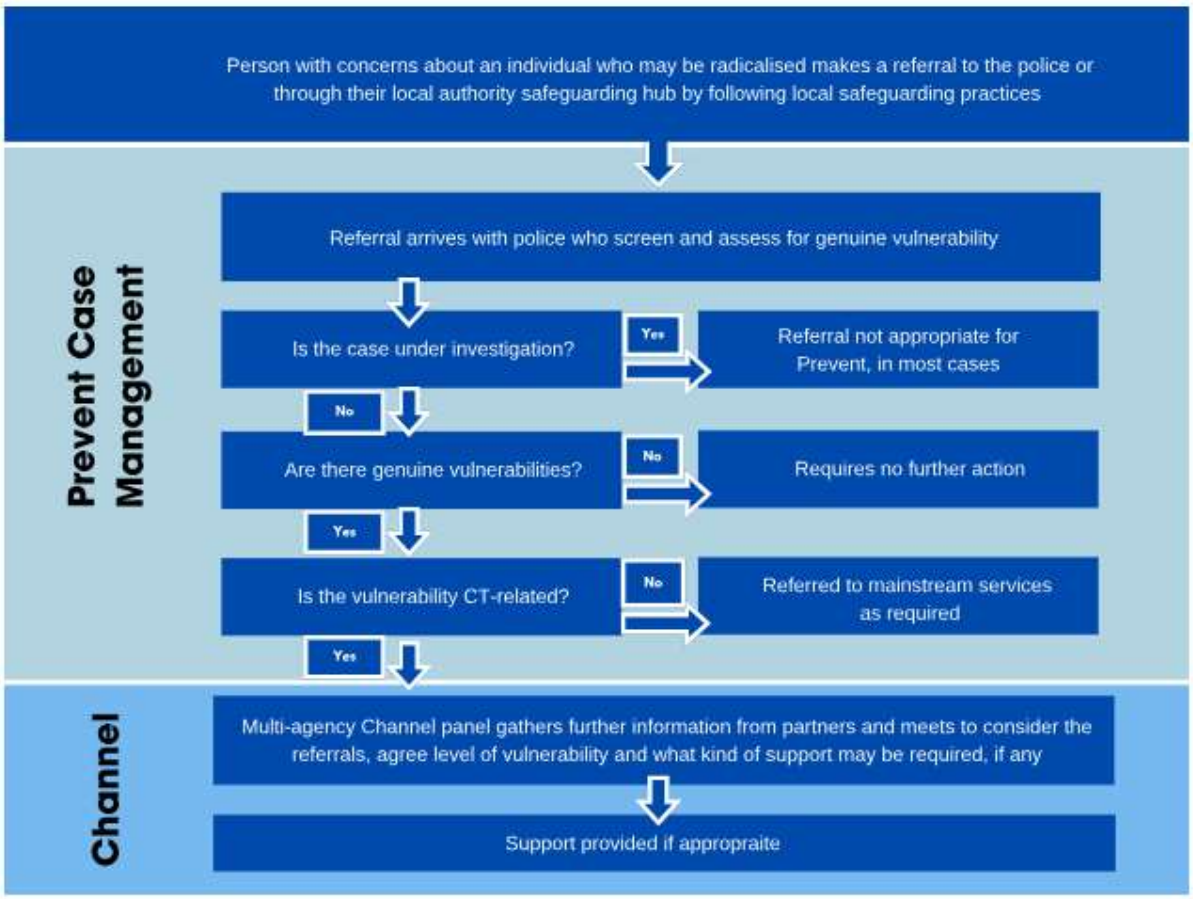
Making Referrals to Prevent

If a member of staff has a concern that a pupil may be at risk of radicalisation, they must follow the academy's safeguarding procedures and report the concern to the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL).

The DSL will assess the concern in line with local threshold guidance and consider the most appropriate response. This may include early help or family help, consultation with the Local Authority Prevent Team, referral to children's social care, or, where appropriate, a referral to the Channel programme, a multi-agency safeguarding initiative that supports individuals vulnerable to being drawn into terrorism.

Referrals may also be made directly to the Local Authority Prevent Team or via the Police Prevent Officer, depending on local arrangements. All concerns and decisions must be recorded clearly and handled sensitively in line with safeguarding, information sharing and data protection requirements.

Staff should not investigate or seek to test concerns themselves, but should listen, record, reassure and report in line with safeguarding procedures so that concerns can be considered swiftly and proportionately.



[Making a referral to Prevent - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)]