Academic Guardians UK

Prevent Policy

This policy summarises Academic Guardians UK current working practices in relation to context of The Counter-Terrorism and Security Act (July 2015), which requires the organisations support "to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism". This is known as the 'Prevent Duty'.

The policy is linked to the Safeguarding & Child Protection Policy. Prevent Duty should be seen as part of our existing safeguarding framework and responsibilities.

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Policy owner	Updated	Review date
Andrew Kettle	August 2024	August 2025

Academic Guardians UK Ltd – Prevent Policy

Policy:	Prevent Policy
Summary:	This policy summarises Academic Guardians UK current working practices in relation to context of The Counter-Terrorism and Security Act (July 2015), which requires the organisations support “to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism". This is known as the 'Prevent Duty'. The policy is linked to the Safeguarding & Child Protection Policy. Prevent Duty should be seen as part of our existing safeguarding framework and responsibilities.
Policy Owner:	Andrew Kettle (Designated Safeguarding & Prevent Lead) Update: August 2024
Next Review Date:	August 2025

Academic Guardians UK Ltd – Prevent Policy

1. Principles

1.1. Prevent Duty should be part of our existing safeguarding framework

1.2. This policy focuses on the measures in place for students of any age who are under the care of AGUK.

1.3. This policy has been developed in accordance with the principles established by the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act July (2015) and also the Children Acts 1989 and 2004; the Education Act 2002, and in line with government publications "Prevent Duty Guidance: for England and Wales" (March 2016), "The Prevent Duty: Departmental Advice for schools and childminders" (June 2015), "The Use of Social Media for on-line radicalisation" (July 2015), "Working Together to Safeguard Children" (2018), "Keeping Children Safe in Education" (2022).

1.4. AGUK is aware of how to access local agency contacts. This includes referrals to Multi Agency Safeguarding Hubs (MASH) and the locality's Safeguarding Partners throughout the country' how to access locally agreed inter-agency procedures, guidance and contact with Safeguarding Partners. In addition, the company is aware of the non-emergency reporting procedures via the Local Authority's Children's Services relevant to the area or MASH (via web published telephone numbers), or by telephoning 101 to report a non-emergency. For emergency situations, the company is aware of the need to contact the relevant police force for the area by dialling 999.

1.5. AGUK Safeguarding & Prevent Contacts – The contact information below is provided via the company website, policies, handbooks, guides and publications, to all those who come into contact with AGUK including, staff, parents, students, schools, homestay host families, drivers, local coordinators, agents and volunteers. All local agency contacts for students are located in the student profile and provided to the student and homestay host when hosting. Students prior to arrival in the UK receive an electronic copy of the student handbook which refers to the policies as well as highlighting how to access help and support. This is also discussed in the student first visit which takes place in the first 5 weeks of school with a member of the AGUK team.

Designated Safeguarding Lead & Prevent Lead – Director Andrew Kettle who can be contacted on 0203 515 8880, 07823 321 993 or andrew@academic-guardians.co.uk

Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead – Director Dawn Kettle who can be contacted on 0203 515 8880, 07931 954 106 or dawn@academic-guardians.co.uk

Concerns in relation to the Managing Directors should be addressed to the Director of Safeguarding, Andrew Kettle, Concerns in relation to the Designated Safeguarding Lead should be addressed to Dawn Kettle and vice versa, on a confidential basis without disclosing to the safeguarding officer the matter relates to. As the DDL & DDSL are connected parties, then concerns about either can also be addressed with the Safeguarding Partners as detailed below. Concerns about all Directors should be directed to Crimestoppers, which will remain confidential.

Safeguarding Partners - Academic Guardians UK registered office is within the borough of Islington whose current safeguarding contact details are as follows:

Website: https://www.islingtonscp.org.uk/are-you-worried-about-a-child

Children's Services Contact Team - +44 20 7527 7400

Tim Djavit - Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) - +44 20 7527 8102

Information about services for children can be found on the Islington Family Directory https://www.islingtonscp.org.uk/

Police Referrals - Child Abuse Investigation Team (CAIT) +44 20 8733 6495 or +44 20 8733 6500

For Emergencies - 999

All Local Safeguarding Partnerships & MASH (Multi Agency Safeguarding Hubs) contact details are provided to Homestay Host families, attached to the student profile on confirmation of booking.

A link to the list of Local Safeguarding Partnerships can be found here.

2. Definition

2.1. For the purposes of this policy the definition of radical or extreme ideology is "a set of ideas which could justify vilification or violence against individuals, groups or self."

3. Aims

3.1. To ensure all staff, volunteers, homestay host families & drivers understand the risks of radicalisation within our operational functions and how this risk may change from time to time. Recognising that all involved play a vital role in keeping children safe from harm, including from the risks of extremism and radicalisation, and in promoting the welfare of children in our care.

3.2. To ensure all staff, volunteers, homestay host families & drivers are aware of the Prevent Strategy and can protect children and young people who are vulnerable or may be at risk of being radicalised.

3.3. Whilst following the Prevent Strategy, AGUK also maintains its mission for diversity to be a core part of all that it does. AGUK places a strong emphasis on the common values that all communities share, such as, self-respect, understanding, tolerance and the value of life. All persons involved with AGUK embrace the importance to respect and value diversity, as well as understanding how to make safe, well-considered decisions.

4. Vulnerability to radicalisation or extreme views from the internet

4.1. AGUK recognises the need to assist with educating pupils on the appropriate use of social media and the dangers of downloading and sharing inappropriate material, including that which is illegal under the CounterTerrorism Act.

4.2. Support and educate host families in ensuring that the children in their care do not access any inappropriate internet sites whilst at the homestay host family home. To further educate and encourage the use of appropriate filtering, firewalls and security settings where possible.

4.3. To encourage the host families to familiarise themselves with the child's school polices relating to safeguarding and safe IT use prior to arrival at the homestay host family home. A copy of the school E Safety Policy and LCSB contact details are provided with each homestay confirmation.

5. Stakeholder training & support

5.1. Ensure the Designated Safeguarding & Prevent Lead (DSL) undertakes Prevent awareness training and can provide advice and support to other members of staff, local coordinators and drivers on protecting children from the risk of radicalisation. The recommended course to complete is the Channel e learning module - https://www.elearning.prevent.homeoffice.gov.uk/channel_awareness/01-welcome.html#

5.2. Further guidance can be obtained by visiting the government website at https://www.elearning.prevent.homeoffice.gov.uk and all stakeholders will be made aware of this free government resource via email. AGUK staff will be expected to complete the e-learning package.

5.3. AGUK will support all staff, homestay host families & drivers in accessing training to be vigilant in spotting signs of extremist views and behaviours and that they always report anything to the DSL which may suggest a student, another staff member or a visitor is expressing opinions which may cause concern. Staff, homestay host families, local coordinators & drivers should follow the usual reporting procedures as for any other safeguarding concern as laid out in Academic Guardians UK Safeguarding & Child Protection Policy. Copies of the reporting forms are available on all the AGUK portals and as appendix documents in the Safeguarding & Child Protection Policy which is also available in the portals and online. In addition, copies may be requested from the office team by emailing office@academic-guardians.co.uk.

5.4. The Designated Safeguarding & Prevent Lead will monitor records to check patterns and any build-up of concerns on individuals. These concerns will be documented in the 'APlus' portal / student record.

5.5. Where there are clear Safeguarding concerns the organisation must refer to the Safeguarding and Child protection policy and follow the procedures within.

5.6. A copy of this policy along with the all the AGUK polices are made available to the homestay hosts, local coordinators, drivers, students and parents in the AGUK SharePoint sites and portals. Reference to these policies are also made within the School, Student, Parent and Homestay host handbooks. All stakeholders are expected to familiarise themselves with the policy and understand their role in supporting AGUK in preventing children from being drawn into terrorism. Prevent awarenss is also raised during Homestay Host annual update visits and signposting to additional training is included in email updates to stakeholders.

5.7. All stakeholders will be notified, by email and where applicable face to face, of future updates to the policy as well as improvements in training resurces and pertinent legislative changes.

6. Managing referrals & working in partnership

6.1. Any child who is deemed to be at risk of being radicalised or subjected to extremism will be referred by the DSL as appropriate, through the Local Authority Channel Referral and Intervention processes. Academic Guardians UK will then work in partnership with the relevant agencies to seek advice, support and guidance, drawing on multi-agency expertise, to support children at risk of harm.

6.2. If there is a reason to believe that the child, young person or adult associates with those known to be involved in extremism either because they associate directly with known individuals or because they frequent key locations where these individuals are known to operate, there is a need to refer in to the Channel Panel process.

6.3. Information is to be reported and to CSCTreferrals@islington.gov.uk to obtain Early Help Assessment particularly in the absence of other vulnerabilities. As prevent is pre-crime / Early Help, this enables the undertaking of preliminary investigations and assesing risk.

6.4. Not all cases will require further action however; there are occasions that risk may be perceived to be immediate, where the information must be reported immediately to the police who will then coordinate with the local authority in taking the most appropriate action to ensure the safety of the child/adult at risk.

6.5. However, If there are additional safeguarding concerns which meet the threshold for a Safer Referral Form to be sent to Children's Safeguarding Service, or meet the requirements for an Adult Safeguarding Alert to be sent to Adult Social Care, this should be done so by the referring organisation at the same time as a referral is made to the Channel Panel. The local authority should make contact with the Police Special Branch in all cases referred.

7. Resources

7.1. The websites links provided offer additional support and guidance:

Report Extremism in Education - https://report-extremism.education.gov.uk/

HM Government Prevent Strategy

HM Government Prevent Duty for Schools & Childcare Providers

Helpline Email counter.extremism@education.gsi.gov.uk / Telephone 020 7340 7264

E-learning https://www.elearning.prevent.homeoffice.gov.uk/channel_awareness/01-welcome.html#

http://www.educateagainsthate.com

http://preventforfeandtraining.org.uk

https://www.elearning.prevent.homeoffice.gov.uk