



## PREVENT DUTY & ANTI-RADICALISATION POLICY

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### Policy Statement

Ohana Centre has a legal and moral duty to protect children from the risk of radicalisation, extremism and exposure to extremist views. We recognise that children attending our setting, many of whom are autistic or have learning differences, may be more vulnerable because:

- They may struggle to recognise unsafe people or situations
- They may be highly trusting or literal in communication
- They may not understand manipulation, persuasion or online risks
- They may imitate behaviours without understanding context
- They may have limited ways to express fear, confusion or distress

Safeguarding children from extremist ideologies is an essential part of our wider safeguarding responsibilities.

This policy must be read alongside:

- Safeguarding & Child Protection Policy
- Online Safety Policy
- Staff Behaviour / Code of Conduct Policy
- Whistleblowing Policy
- Data Protection Policy

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### Aims

We aim to:

- Keep children safe from radicalisation and extremist influences
- Ensure staff can identify concerns early
- Promote resilience, emotional regulation and critical thinking at an appropriate level

- Provide a safe, inclusive environment
- Work closely with families and external agencies
- Ensure risks are recorded, acted upon and monitored

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## **1. Understanding the Prevent Duty**

Under the **Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015**, early years providers must:

- Have “due regard” to preventing people from being drawn into terrorism
- Identify children and families who may be at risk
- Know how to refer to safeguarding partners and Channel
- Train staff to recognise indicators of concern

We recognise that radicalisation is a safeguarding issue and is treated the same as any other safeguarding concern.

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## **2. Risk Factors in Early Years (including SEND vulnerabilities)**

Children may be at greater risk if:

- There is exposure to extremist materials or views at home
- Family members hold extremist attitudes
- There is domestic abuse, trauma, isolation or social vulnerability
- The child is influenced by older peers or adults
- The child accesses unsafe online content
- The family is experiencing stress, exclusion, or community tensions

Additional SEND-specific vulnerabilities:

- Difficulty understanding social cues or hidden intentions
- Highly trusting, or difficulty identifying unsafe adults
- Echolalia or repeating phrases heard online
- Obsessive interests that can be exploited by others
- Difficulty distinguishing fiction from fact
- Limited communication to disclose concerns

Staff must be mindful of these risks and take all concerns seriously.

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### **3. Staff Responsibilities**

All staff must:

- Complete Prevent Duty training as part of safeguarding induction
- Be vigilant and professionally curious
- Notice changes in behaviour, language or family presentation
- Challenge inappropriate comments, stereotypes or discriminatory behaviour
- Report concerns immediately to the DSL

Staff must not:

- Investigate concerns themselves
- Discuss suspicions with families before speaking to DSL
- Ignore low-level worrying patterns

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### **4. Identifying Concerns in Early Years**

Examples of concerns may include:

#### **In children:**

- Sudden changes in emotional regulation
- Repetitive extremist statements (even if not understood)
- Strong anger or fear towards particular groups of people
- Acting out violent or harmful themes
- Preoccupation with weapons, violence or harm
- Exposure to radical content online (reported by parents)

#### **In families:**

- Open support for extremist organisations
- Sharing extremist views in messages, conversations or social media
- Anti-democratic, anti-British values statements
- Sudden behaviour change, secrecy or isolation

- Attempts to influence staff or children with extreme beliefs

#### **In staff or visitors:**

- Biased or discriminatory comments
- Sharing political or ideological content with children
- Breaching professional boundaries

Any concern must be reported to the DSL immediately.

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## **5. Promoting British Values (EYFS Requirement)**

We embed British Values through everyday practice:

- **Democracy** – supporting children to make choices
- **Rule of Law** – clear boundaries and predictable routines
- **Individual Liberty** – encouraging independence and self-expression
- **Mutual Respect & Tolerance** – modelling kindness, empathy and acceptance

For SEND children, this includes:

- Using visual supports
- Modelling respectful interactions
- Teaching safe boundaries
- Supporting emotional literacy
- Providing predictable structure

British Values must never be delivered in a tokenistic way.

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## **6. Working with Parents**

We work in partnership with parents by:

- Maintaining open communication
- Being sensitive to cultural, faith and family backgrounds
- Offering support where families are isolated or struggling
- Sharing information only on a need-to-know basis
- Explaining the Prevent Duty when appropriate

We will never challenge a family's faith or cultural identity, but we will act if safeguarding risks arise.

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## **7. Referral Pathways**

If staff are concerned, the DSL will:

### **1. Assess the information**

Gather factual information only.

### **2. Consult local safeguarding partners**

This may include:

- MASH
- Prevent Duty local leads
- Channel panel representatives
- Police safeguarding officers

### **3. Make a Prevent or Channel referral when required**

Parents may or may not be informed depending on advice from safeguarding partners.

### **4. Record all actions carefully**

Every concern, action and outcome must be documented on the safeguarding system.

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## **8. Online Radicalisation Risks**

We follow the Online Safety Policy to ensure:

- Children cannot access unsupervised internet content
- Devices are filtered and monitored
- AAC devices are locked to approved applications
- Parents are advised on safe online use at home

Online radicalisation is increasingly prevalent; staff must remain alert.

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## **9. Staff Conduct & Training**

Prevent Duty training is refreshed at least every two years, or sooner if local risks change.

Staff receive:

- Prevent training
- Safeguarding training (annual)
- Updates on emerging risks in our borough
- Expectations under this policy and the law

Failure to follow Prevent Duty responsibilities may lead to disciplinary action.

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## **10. Whistleblowing**

Staff must report any concerns about colleagues immediately.

This includes:

- Biased statements
- Inappropriate political opinions shared at work
- Breaches of neutrality
- Discriminatory practice

Whistleblowing concerns are handled confidentially and sensitively.

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## **Policy Review & Sign-Off**

- Original adoption: **4<sup>th</sup> November 2022**
- Last review: **8<sup>th</sup> December 2025**
- Reviewed By: Alba Arenas Martín
- Next review due: **November 2026** or earlier if statutory guidance changes.