Prevent Policy

Adopted: January 2022
Updated: 15 January 2026
Review Date: 1 year

Introduction:

The School is required under the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 to “have due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism”.

The Prevent Duty Guidance for higher education institutions in England and Wales came into effect the same year. This document sets out how we are complying with the Duty. The Prevent Policy applies to all staff and (where relevant) students of the School.

Please note: BSA is a partner institution of Plymouth Marjon University (PMU) and as such, this policy mirrors PMU’s policies and guidance for best practice.

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Approach

Bristol School of Acting (BSA, or 'the School') welcomes the Government's intention that the Prevent Duty is implemented "in a proportionate and risk-based way" and that it should not create large new burdens on institutions. We therefore intend to implement our legal responsibilities as part of our existing policies and procedures, which we also consider to be the best way of ensuring a joined-up approach.

We take seriously our responsibility to ensure the safety and wellbeing of students, staff and the wider community and as part of this would wish to do all that we can to prevent any member of the School community from being drawn into terrorism.

We also value the principles of academic freedom and general freedom of expression and have a statutory duty to protect them. Some of the ways in which we meet these responsibilities are set out in this document.

Leadership

The School takes the need to prevent terrorism occurring in our community very seriously and our policy has been approved by the School's Senior Leadership Team (SLT).

The SLT ensures that the School complies appropriately with the Prevent Duty, in liaison with key stakeholders within and beyond the School and our partner institution, Plymouth Marjon University.

Risk Assessment and Action Plan

As required by the Prevent Duty, we carry out informal and if required, formal assessments of the risk of our students being drawn into terrorism. This process of risk assessment is reviewed at least annually by the SLT. Where any significant risk is identified we will consider what action might mitigate the impact/likelihood of that risk, and if necessary include it in a School Prevent Action Plan.

Freedom of Speech

As well as our commitment to the Prevent Duty, we ensure that we meet the legal requirements of the Education Act 1986 to foster and allow freedom of speech, as defined by law.

However, in complying with the Prevent Duty the School will not provide a platform for any prescribed terrorist organisation, terrorist or radicalisation promotional activity or encourage terrorism in any way.

Security Sensitive Research

The School recognises that, on occasion, the research, discussion and exploration of terrorism is valid and valuable as an academic exercise, and that staff and students should be able to undertake this without risk of prejudice. It is therefore acknowledged that certain staff (and, in certain carefully-supported circumstances, students) will have a need to access material which supports terrorism as part of their work. In such cases it is incumbent on the responsible member of academic staff to ensure that the material accessed is appropriate for the work being carried out and is not reappropriated to encourage terrorism in any way.

For the protection of the individual and the School, we require any individual who needs to access such material to register this in advance with the Course Leader.

Staff Training

We will carry out training on a regular basis for all relevant staff so that they can recognise those who are vulnerable of being drawn into terrorism and potential signs of radicalisation. In addition, the training will cover:

- Awareness and definition of radicalisation
- Understanding the impacts of radicalisation
- Understanding methods of radicalisation and the promotion and enactment of terrorist activities
- A toolbox to enable staff to handle, appropriately and sensitively, any Prevent Duty concern that may emerge in the School
- Being able to differentiate the risk of radicalisation from other issues such as Student conduct and behaviour
- Sources of support for students and staff

The School's approach is to support vulnerable students in whatever circumstance(s) they find themselves, recognising that radicalisation could occasionally be occurring when certain behaviour is manifest but that other explanations may also apply.

Pastoral Care

Pastoral care is available to students in a variety of ways, accessed via the Course Leader or Course Manager.

The Marjon Students Union, whilst not formally trained, also offers friendly support and advice.

In addition, you can also contact the Designated Safeguarding Lead who can signpost you to a number of internal and external sources of support, including private 1-2-1 sessions.

Faith Facilities

The School seeks to ensure that appropriate provision is made for those of any faith (or those without faith) to access appropriate facilities for pastoral care and for religious purposes.

IT Networks

We consider it unacceptable for our IT networks or hardware to be used in any way that supports, promotes or facilitates terrorism. We will continue to review how our IT policy can support our Prevent Duty and will keep it under regular review.

Social media services such as Facebook, X, TikTok and Reddit provide new avenues for the distribution and accessing of extremist material, and the School takes the challenges presented by social media very seriously. If any misuse of the School's branding on social media accounts is discovered then action will be taken in accordance with the terms and conditions of the relevant platform.

Communications

We will not permit material supporting terrorism to be displayed within School premises and will remove any such material if found. Likewise, we will seek to ensure that the School's printed and electronic communications (including website) do not contain or support terrorist material or material likely to encourage terrorism and will investigate immediately if any such instances are raised. It is acknowledged that there will be legitimate reasons to display materials relating to terrorism as part of legitimate teaching and research activities, and this should be declared under the process described above.

NB. Information sharing with relevant authorities, partners and School staff will only take place when this is consistent with the provisions of the Data Protection Act.

Future updates to the Prevent Policy

We recognised that the actions described here are not exhaustive or fixed and our adherence to our Prevent Duty should be an evolving approach in line with developments across the wider world. As such this Policy will be updated and reviewed frequently and our suite of actions expanded inline with our general approach as outlined above.

Contact us

For further clarification regarding the School's Prevent Policy, please contact the Designated Safeguarding Lead.