

Preventing Extremism and Radicalisation Policy

In all its dealings with international students and their families and UK schools, Oxford Guardians (OG) will follow the general standards laid out by The Association for the Education and Guardianship of International Students (AEGIS) in their Code of Practice, which are as follows:

- To promote and provide best and legal practice in the guardianship and hosting of all international students at schools, colleges and universities, particularly those under 18 years of age.
- To respect and support the rights, religions and customs of the international student.
- To uphold the stated ethos and values of the school attended by students in our guardianship.
- To comply with the Children Acts 1989 and 2004 and the Education Act (2002) and adhere to the guidance of the Keeping Children Safe in Education 2024 (KCSIE) updated September 2024.
- To ensure all international students have 24 hour emergency contact with a responsible adult in the UK.
- To put in place arrangements which maintain appropriate contact with the international student, the overseas parents and guardianship family and to ensure all appropriate records are up to date.
- To provide both pastoral and educational support as outlined in any literature and agreements.
- To adhere to the AEGIS grievance procedures.
- To have appropriate insurance for guardianship arrangements and to comply with UK legislation.

Designated Safeguarding Lead – Kevin Bacon, Director kevin@oxfordguardians.com 01604 859331 (24-hour emergency number) 07947601409

Deputy Safeguarding Lead – Lexi Dyer, Guardian Manager lexi@oxfordguardians.com 07437195385 or 07800804041 (24-hour emergency number)

Introduction

Under section 26 of the Counterterrorism and Security Act (2015) all Oxford Guardians' staff have "due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism". This duty is known as the Prevent Duty. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/prevent-duty-guidance/prevent-duty-guidance-for-england-and-wales-accessible>, updated 2023. The duty will apply to all bodies which have significant interaction with people who could be vulnerable to radicalisation. This ensures that the duty is proportionate

This policy is an extension of the OG Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy and should be read in conjunction with it.

The DSL and the DDSL have completed all of the government training required and are the Prevent Leads in the company. They will provide advice and address concerns raised.

Oxford Guardians contributes to building children and young people's resilience to radicalisation by promoting fundamental British values and by enabling children and young people to challenge extremist views.

Definition

Radicalisation is a process by which an individual or group comes to adopt increasingly extreme political, social or religious ideals and aspirations that reject or undermine the status quo or reject and/or undermine contemporary ideas and expressions of freedom of choice. These extreme views could come from religious terrorism, extreme right wing terrorism or themes such as misogyny, anti semitism, anti LGBT grievances, and single issue grievances.

Risk Factors

Guardians and homestay families must be able to identify the factors that can be present to increase the risk of radicalisation of the vulnerable . There are a number of factors which can put young people at risk such as, inter alia:

- Peer pressure.
- Bullying.
- Lack of self-esteem.
- A need to belong to a group or cause.
- A desire for status.
- Personal grievance.
- Ideological indoctrination.
- Race or hate crime.
- Internet trolling or influence

Signs of radicalisation and identification of the vulnerable

To aid Guardians and Homestay families to assess whether a child is experiencing radicalisation some possible signs are listed below . This list is not exhaustive and a degree of

common sense and knowledge of the student is essential. A key word in these assessments is proportionality. For instance, is this normal teenage behaviour. What is the context of the actions or remarks that have caused concern?

- Carrying out internet searches into areas regarding terrorism, extreme views or other concerning areas.
- Showing support for extreme religious views and/or organisations.
- Showing support, either vocal or active, for extreme political ideologies and/or organisations.
- Expressing resentment at being educated about and required to practise British values.
- Using language which distances the pupil from another pupil, indicative of an 'us and them' mentality.
- Using racist language about individuals or groups.
- Showing or expressing hatred towards others.
- Withdrawing from the host family or normal social life.
- Expressing or exploring extreme views.

It is important that the guardian or homestay host use commonsense and professional judgement in identifying concerns.

Procedures if a concern is raised

Concerns may be raised in school, during a guardian visit or in the homestay and should be raised to the DSL or DDSL in the first instance unless immediate harm to the student or others is envisaged when the Police should be called.

The standard procedure is defined as Notice, Check, Share. That means on noting something unusual or of concern the person reporting should check with someone else (the DSL or a trusted colleague) to establish this is a concern or simply normal teenage behaviour and if it is sharing with the appropriate LA Prevent Officer.

The DSL will consider the facts presented, the context in which they occurred and with the reporting Guardian/HS and School DSL assess the incident and whether it should be referred to the Local Authority Prevent team. On receipt of the concern a police 'Gateway' assessment will be made on the same basis to decide whether to progress the case to 'Channel', the support and deradicalisation programme.

Prevent intervenes early by identifying people who are susceptible to radicalisation and provides support to those suitable for intervention. Where the police assess a radicalisation risk following a Prevent referral, a Channel panel will meet to discuss the referral, assess the risk and decide whether the person should be accepted into Channel. Once accepted, the panel agree a tailored package of support to be offered to the person. The panel is chaired by the local authority and attended by multi-agency partners such as police, education professionals, health services, housing and social services. Channel is a voluntary process, and people must give their consent before they receive support. In cases where the person is under 18 years of age, consent is provided by a parent who will be kept informed at all stages of the process by the school and Oxford Guardians reporting in the normal way.



Should a case be referred to the full Channel panel it may be that the DSL, guardian or homestay host reporting the initial incident is called to inform the panel and may later become involved in the support plan, particularly if a PFA homestay who knows the child well and on a daily basis.

All incidents of concern are logged by the DSL/DDSL and stored securely in the Dropbox safeguarding folder, which is access restricted and password protected.

This Policy is to be reviewed on an annual basis or more often if legislative changes require.

KT Bacon

Designated Safeguarding Lead

Oxford Guardians

19 February 2025