

Prevent and Counter Terrorism Strategy

The College of Animal Welfare takes its responsibilities for safeguarding very seriously. In accordance with the Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015 the College has a responsibility to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism and participates fully in such work.

Prevent is a strand of the Government counter terrorism strategy – CONTEST. The UK faces a range of terrorist threats. All the terrorist groups who pose a threat seek to radicalise and recruit people to their cause. The Prevent strategy seeks to:

- respond to the ideological challenge of terrorism and aspects of extremism, and the threat faced from those who promote these views.
- provide practical help to stop people from being drawn into terrorism and ensure they are given appropriate advice and support.
- work with a wide range of sectors where there are risks of radicalisation which needs to be addressed, including education, criminal justice, faith, charities, the internet, social media and health.

A system of threat level has been created which represents the likelihood of an attack in the near future. The five levels are:

- Critical – an attack is expected imminently
- Severe – an attack is highly likely
- Substantial – an attack is a strong possibility
- Moderate – an attack is possible but not likely
- Low – an attack is unlikely

The current threat level from international terrorism in the UK and in South East is substantial which means that a terrorist attack is a strong possibility.

The College of Animal Welfare is an inclusive education provider including young people from ethnically diverse, and socially and economically disadvantaged areas. The age and profile of students make it crucial to be actively involved in the Prevent strategy. The College has a part to play in fostering shared values and promoting cohesion. Extremist ideology runs counter to the College and British values which make our community successful such as respect and tolerance for others, the rights of all to live and study free from persecution of any kind, freedom of speech, democracy, the rule of law and equality of opportunity and treatment. Extremism promotes fear and division and actively seeks to cause destructive relationships between different communities.

This strategy has five key objectives:

1. To promote and reinforce College and British values; to create space for free and open debate; listen and support the learner voice and enable students to develop their self-knowledge, self-esteem and self-confidence.
2. To promote social cohesion by supporting inter-faith and inter-cultural dialogue and understanding, and to engage all students in playing a full and active role in wider engagement in society.
3. To ensure student safety and that the College is free from bullying, harassment and discrimination.
4. To provide support for students who may be at risk and appropriate sources of advice and guidance.
5. To ensure that students and staff are aware of their roles and responsibilities in preventing an incident

In order to achieve these objectives the strategy will concentrate on four areas:

Leadership and Values

To provide an ethos which upholds core values of shared responsibility and wellbeing for all students, staff and visitors and promotes respect, equality and diversity and understanding. This will be achieved through:

- promoting College values of commitment, learning, partnership, respect, standards and trust
- building staff and student understanding of the issues and confidence to deal with them
- deepening engagement with local communities
- actively working with local schools, local authorities, police and other agencies

Learning and Teaching

To provide a curriculum which promotes knowledge, skills and understanding to build the resilience of students, by undermining extremist ideology and enabling students to acquire a broad knowledge of and respect for public institutions. This will be achieved through:

- embedding equality, diversity and inclusion, wellbeing and community cohesion
- promoting wider skills development such as social and emotional aspects of learning
- a curriculum adapted to recognise local needs, challenge extremist narratives and promote universal rights
- learning and teaching strategies which explore controversial issues in a way which promotes critical analysis and pro social values
- use of external programmes or groups to support learning while ensuring that the input supports College goals and values

- encouraging active citizenship and facilitating students to accept responsibility for their behaviour, show initiative and understand how they can contribute positively to society

Student Support

To ensure that staff are confident to take preventative and responsive steps working with partner professionals, families and communities. This will be achieved through:

- maintaining strong and effective support services for all students
- listening to what is happening in the College and the community and taking action as necessary
- implementing anti-bullying strategies and challenging any discriminatory behaviour
- helping students and staff know how to access support in College and through community partners
- supporting at risk students through safeguarding and crime prevention processes
- focusing on narrowing the attainment gap for all students

Managing Risks and Responding to Events

The College must be able to demonstrate an awareness and understanding of the risk of radicalisation, appreciating that this can change rapidly.

The College has used existing mechanisms for understanding the risk of radicalisation; ensuring that the duty is communicated and that staff understand the risk and have the capabilities to deal with any concerns.

To ensure that the College monitors risks and is ready to deal appropriately with issues which arise. It will:

- understand the nature of the threat from violent extremism and how this may impact directly or indirectly on the College
- understand and manage potential risks within the College and from external influences
- respond appropriately to events in local, national or international news that may impact on students and communities
- ensure measures are in place to minimise the potential for acts of violent extremist within the College
- ensure plans are in place to respond appropriately to a threat or incident within the College

The College will also promote the ethos of the 'Prevent' agenda by encouraging free and open debate but challenging extreme views. It will encourage through its classroom practice, theme weeks and induction activities, a belief in Equality of Opportunity and the Celebration of Diversity.

The College will not host or allow its premises to be used by any extreme groups and will seek to prevent the distribution of extremist literature.

The College has a legal responsibility to forbid the promotion of partisan political views in the teaching of any subject in the college and will take such steps that are reasonably practicable to secure that where political issues are brought to the attention of students they are offered a balanced presentation of opposing views. Promotion of any organisations linked to violent extremism is contrary to the values of the college and could constitute misconduct.

The College will provide appropriate support through its own staff or by referral to external agencies, for any student in danger of radicalisation. Any concerns should be recorded in writing by the staff member and reported to the Designated Safeguarding Representatives Barbara Cooper and/or the HR Manager Kim James.