

# Safeguarding at Bersted Green Primary School

## Prevent Duty

### Information for parents

The UK government's Prevent duty requires primary schools to safeguard children from radicalisation and extremist views as part of their normal care and protection responsibilities.

### What the Prevent Duty Means for Primary Schools

- **Safe Environment:** Schools provide a secure, happy place where children can build positive self-identities, explore diverse cultures, and talk about worries.
- **British Values:** Staff teach core values in age-appropriate ways, including democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, and mutual respect for others.
- **Online Safety:** Schools use robust internet filters and monitoring systems to block children from viewing harmful or extremist online content.
- **Critical Thinking:** Teachers help young pupils develop basic reasoning skills so they can question unfairness, challenge prejudices, and spot unkind or extreme behaviour.

### How It Applies to Young Children

- **Not About Fear:** The strategy does not introduce frightening concepts of terrorism to young primary children.
- **Standard Safeguarding:** Protecting a child from radicalisation is treated the same way schools protect them from bullying, gang violence, or online dangers.
- **Early Support:** If a child shows vulnerability or unusual distress, staff follow standard school safeguarding procedures and talk with parents early on.

### Key vulnerabilities for Younger Children

- **Online gaming exposure:** Young children are rarely targeted directly by political extremists. However, they are increasingly exposed to inappropriate or radical views through chat functions on multi-player games like **Roblox, Minecraft or Discord**.
- **Adopting adult language:** A primary-aged child might repeat harsh, intolerant, or highly political phrases they have overheard from older siblings, family members, or online videos without understanding what the words mean.
- **Algorithmic rabbit holes:** On video platforms (like YouTube Kids or TikTok) autoplay algorithms can quickly steer a child from harmless videos toward aggressive or polarised content if left unmonitored.

### Partner with the school:

Our school has a **Designated Safeguarding Lead** who is **Mrs Kalpakiotis**. Our **Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads** are **Mr McGinley** and **Ms Hutt**. If you are worried about content your child has seen online or an interaction they had, please do come and speak to us, for non-judgemental advice.

### Useful Resources for Parents:

**Educate Against Hate** offers practical advice and government resources for parents and teachers.

**ACT Early** provides guidance on spotting early signs of radicalisation and offers a confidential advice line.