



The Counter Terrorism and Security Policy

Policy Statement

Enya's Childcare is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all children in our care.

We recognise that safeguarding children includes protecting them from the risk of being drawn into terrorism or extremist activity. We therefore take seriously our responsibility to identify concerns at the earliest opportunity and to respond appropriately in accordance with our safeguarding procedures.

This policy should be read alongside Enya's Childcare Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy and other relevant safeguarding policies.

Our approach is child-centred, proportionate and focused on the welfare and individual needs of each child.

Legal and Statutory Framework

This policy has been developed with regard to current legislation and government guidance applicable to early years providers in England, including:

- The **Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015**, including the Prevent duty under section 26.
- The **Prevent Duty Guidance: England and Wales (2023)**, which came into force on 31 December 2023 and replaced the previous 2015 Prevent guidance.
- The current **Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) statutory framework**, which came into force on 1 September 2026.
- The **government's 2024 definition of extremism**, where relevant.
- Relevant local safeguarding partnership procedures and local Prevent arrangements.

The Prevent duty requires specified authorities to have due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism. The current Prevent guidance explains that the purpose of Prevent is to stop people from becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism for people who may be susceptible to radicalisation

What is Radicalisation?

Radicalisation is the process by which a person comes to support terrorism or terrorist violence.

Children and young people can be influenced by a range of factors, including people they know, their circumstances, online material and wider social influences.

There is no single profile of a child who may be vulnerable to radicalisation. Staff must therefore avoid making assumptions based on a child's religion, culture, ethnicity, family background, political views or any other personal characteristic.

A concern should be based on observable behaviour, information or circumstances and considered within the child's wider safeguarding context.

What is Extremism?

The government's current definition describes extremism as:

“The promotion or advancement of an ideology based on violence, hatred or intolerance” which has one of the specified aims set out in the government's definition, including undermining or overturning the UK's system of liberal parliamentary democracy and democratic rights, or creating a permissive environment for others to achieve such aims.

The government's 2024 definition replaced the previous definitions contained in the 2011 Prevent Strategy and the 2015 Counter-Extremism Strategy.

Enya's Childcare recognises that holding or expressing a lawful belief, participating in lawful debate or protest, or disagreeing with government policy does not, by itself, constitute extremism.

Our staff will not treat a child or family as a safeguarding concern simply because of their religion, ethnicity, political views or lawful beliefs.

Our Safeguarding Approach

Prevent forms part of our wider safeguarding responsibilities.

Staff should remain alert to concerns that a child may be experiencing harm, exploitation or inappropriate influence. Concerns relating to radicalisation should be considered alongside other safeguarding concerns and not treated in isolation.

We recognise that children may encounter potentially harmful material or influences outside the childcare setting, including through:

- family or social relationships;
- online content;
- social media or other digital platforms;
- community influences;
- individuals seeking to exploit or influence vulnerable people; and
- exposure to extremist or terrorist narratives.

The fact that children have limited or supervised access to technology within Enya's Childcare does not remove the possibility of children encountering harmful material elsewhere.

Recognising Vulnerability

There is no single indicator that means a child is being radicalised.

Staff should use their professional judgement and consider whether there are significant or concerning changes in a child's behaviour, presentation or circumstances.

Possible concerns may include:

- significant and unexplained changes in behaviour;
- becoming increasingly isolated or withdrawn;
- expressing ideas involving violence or harm;
- repeated exposure to or sharing of extremist or terrorist material;
- behaviour suggesting that a child is being influenced or exploited by others;
- concerns raised by parents, carers or other professionals; or
- information suggesting that someone may be attempting to influence or exploit the child.

These indicators do **not** mean that a child has been radicalised. They should be considered in the context of the child's individual circumstances and alongside other safeguarding information.

Staff must not attempt to investigate or question a child about suspected radicalisation beyond what is appropriate as part of normal safeguarding practice.

Promoting Resilience and Positive Development

Enya's Childcare supports children to develop positive relationships, confidence, communication skills, respect for others and an understanding of the world around them.

Age-appropriate learning opportunities may support children's development through:

- Personal, Social and Emotional Development (PSED);
- learning to respect others;
- developing positive relationships;
- understanding that people may have different beliefs, backgrounds and experiences;
- learning to listen to others;
- developing confidence to express themselves appropriately;
- understanding simple concepts of fairness, rules and responsibility;
- developing positive relationships within the local community; and
- celebrating appropriate cultural and community events.

We recognise that young children learn primarily through relationships, play and everyday experiences. Prevent-related learning will therefore be age-appropriate and will not involve exposing children to inappropriate or distressing material.

Community Engagement

Enya's Childcare values positive relationships with the local community.

Where appropriate and safe, children may participate in community activities such as visits to local facilities, libraries, care homes, community organisations and charitable activities.

Such experiences can support children's understanding of community, kindness, respect, diversity and positive relationships.

Any community activity will be risk assessed and undertaken in accordance with our safeguarding procedures.

Staff Responsibilities

All staff have a responsibility to safeguard children.

Staff are expected to:

- complete safeguarding training appropriate to their role;
- understand this policy and the setting's safeguarding procedures;
- know who the DSL and deputy DSL are;
- remain alert to signs that a child may need help or protection;
- report concerns promptly;
- record concerns accurately and objectively;
- avoid making assumptions about individuals or communities;
- maintain professional curiosity where appropriate; and
- follow the advice and procedures of the DSL and relevant safeguarding partners.

All staff must understand that safeguarding concerns should be acted upon without unnecessary delay.

Designated Safeguarding Lead

The DSL has responsibility for managing safeguarding concerns within the setting, including concerns relating to radicalisation.

Where appropriate, the DSL will:

- consider the information available;
- discuss concerns with relevant staff;
- record the concern and actions taken;
- consider whether early help or another safeguarding response is appropriate;
- seek advice from relevant safeguarding professionals;
- contact children's social care or the police where appropriate;
- consider whether a Prevent referral is appropriate;
- cooperate with relevant agencies; and
- ensure that appropriate follow-up takes place.

The DSL will maintain confidentiality and share information only where there is a lawful and appropriate safeguarding reason to do so.

Reporting a Concern

If a member of staff has a concern that a child may be at risk of radicalisation or being drawn into terrorism, they must follow Enya's Childcare's normal safeguarding procedure.

The member of staff should:

1. Report the concern to the DSL or deputy DSL as soon as possible.
2. Make a clear and factual record of the concern.
3. Record what was observed or disclosed rather than making assumptions or stating conclusions.
4. Follow any instructions given by the DSL.
5. Contact emergency services if a child is in immediate danger.

Staff should **not** attempt to deal with a Prevent concern independently.

Where appropriate, the DSL will seek advice or make a referral to the relevant local safeguarding services, police or Prevent arrangements.

You can also contact your local police force.

The Department for Education has dedicated a telephone helpline (020 7340 7264) to enable staff and governors to raise concerns relating to extremism directly.

Concerns can also be raised by email to counter.extremism@education.gsi.gov.uk.

Information Sharing and Confidentiality

Enya's Childcare understands that appropriate information sharing is an important part of safeguarding children.

Information will be shared with relevant professionals where this is necessary to safeguard a child and where there is a lawful basis for doing so.

Staff should not promise a child or family that information will remain completely confidential where there is a safeguarding concern.

Records will be kept securely and handled in accordance with the setting's safeguarding, confidentiality and data protection procedures.

Staff Training

All staff will receive safeguarding training appropriate to their role.

Staff will be made aware of:

- the Prevent duty and its purpose;
- the risk of radicalisation;
- how concerns should be reported;
- the importance of professional curiosity;
- the setting's safeguarding procedures; and
- relevant local safeguarding and Prevent arrangements.

The DSL will ensure that staff receive additional guidance or training where required.

The Department for Education also provides Prevent risk assessment resources specifically for registered early years settings. These resources can assist providers in assessing the local and setting-specific risk of radicalisation.

Risk Assessment

Enya's Childcare will consider the risk of children being exposed to or becoming susceptible to radicalisation as part of its wider safeguarding risk assessment.

The setting will consider:

- the local context and known risks;
- the nature and age of the children attending;
- the setting's use of technology and digital resources;
- staff awareness and training;
- procedures for reporting concerns;
- relationships with local safeguarding partners; and
- any specific concerns identified within the setting or local community.

Prevent risk assessment will be reviewed when circumstances change and as part of the setting's regular safeguarding review.

Use of Technology

Children's use of technology within Enya's Childcare will be appropriately supervised and managed.

The setting recognises that children may have access to online content outside the setting.

Where online safety concerns arise, these will be considered within the setting's safeguarding and online safety procedures.

Equality and Non-Discrimination

Enya's Childcare is committed to treating children, families and staff fairly and with respect.

Prevent and safeguarding procedures will never be used to discriminate against a child or family because of:

- religion or belief;
- race or ethnicity;
- nationality;
- culture;
- political opinion;
- disability;
- gender; or
- any other protected or personal characteristic.

A safeguarding concern must be based on relevant information, behaviour or circumstances and should always be considered within the individual child's context.

Working with Parents and Carers

Where appropriate and where it is safe to do so, Enya's Childcare will work openly and constructively with parents and carers when safeguarding concerns arise.

However, there may be circumstances where information cannot be shared with a parent or carer immediately because doing so could increase the risk of harm to a child or interfere with safeguarding enquiries.

The DSL will seek appropriate professional advice where necessary.

Records

All Prevent-related safeguarding concerns will be recorded in accordance with Enya's Childcare's safeguarding and record-keeping procedures.

Records should include, where applicable:

- the date and time of the concern;
- the name of the child;
- the facts or information giving rise to the concern;
- any relevant disclosure;
- actions taken;
- advice sought;
- decisions made;
- the reasons for those decisions; and
- any subsequent outcome or follow-up.

Records must be factual, objective and proportionate.

Monitoring and Review

The DSL and management of Enya's Childcare will monitor the effectiveness of this policy.

The policy will be reviewed at least annually and sooner where there are:

- changes to legislation;
- changes to statutory guidance;
- changes to the EYFS framework;
- changes to local safeguarding or Prevent procedures;
- significant safeguarding incidents; or
- changes to the setting's circumstances.

This policy will be reviewed alongside the setting's Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy.

Related Policies

This policy should be read alongside:

- Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy
- Online Safety Policy
- Staff Code of Conduct
- Equality and Inclusion Policy
- Complaints Policy
- Whistleblowing Policy
- Behaviour Policy
- Health and Safety Policy
- Risk Assessment procedures
- Staff Training and Development procedures

Key Government Guidance

The setting will refer to the current versions of relevant government guidance rather than relying on historic copies.

The principal sources include:

- **Prevent Duty Guidance: England and Wales (2023)** – Home Office.
- **New Definition of Extremism (2024)** – UK Government.
- **Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) Statutory Framework** – current version effective from 1 September 2026.
- **Prevent Duty Risk Assessment Template: Early Years** – Department for Education.

This policy was adopted by: Enya's Childcare	Date: 18.01.26
To be reviewed: 18.01.27	Signed: L Redwood

Written in accordance with the *Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage (2014): Learning and Development Requirements [1.8]*