



## Prevent Policy 2023-24

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<b>List of Related Policies:</b>			
<b>Policy No</b>	<b>Policy Title</b>		
15	Fitness to Study Policy		
16	Freedom of Speech Policy		
28	Safeguarding Policy		
34	Acceptable Use of IT and Social Media Policy		

# Prevent Policy 2023-24

## 1. Policy

- 1.1 ForMission College (hereinafter referred to as 'the College') 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'. Under section 29, it must have regard to guidance issued by the Home Secretary. The *Prevent Duty Guidance for higher education institutions in England and Wales* came into effect on 18 September 2015 following approval by Parliament. Some of the ways in which the College meets these responsibilities are set out in this document.

## 2. Scope of the Procedure

- 2.1 The Prevent Policy applies to all staff and (where relevant) students of the College, specifically:
- a) The officers and employees of ForMission.
  - b) All registered students at the College (whether full-time or part-time) except for the following:
  - c) It is noted that Prevent does not apply to overseas hubs, as per §16 of *Prevent duty monitoring in higher education in England Supplementary information note* (<https://www.officeforstudents.org.uk/publications/prevent-duty-framework-for-monitoring-in-higher-education-in-england-2018-19-onwards/>).

## 3. Roles and Responsibilities

- 3.1 All members of staff should be aware of the College's responsibilities under the Prevent Duty and of the measures set out to comply with it. Members of the College community who are concerned about a student who might be at risk of being drawn into terrorism should report this without delay to their line manager, who should make their own assessment of the situation and inform the Prevent Lead if necessary. Training is provided to support staff in their responsibilities under this Policy.
- 3.2 Where a ForMission 'hub' is active, the hub leader will play an important role in having oversight of activities and events at their hub. The relevant hub leader must also be notified if there is a concern regarding an event, speaker or student.

## 4. Approach

- 4.1 The College 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 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.
- 4.2 The College has a duty of care towards its students and is committed to providing an environment that promotes opportunities to learn and develop as individuals. We take seriously our responsibility to ensure the safety and wellbeing of students, staff

and the wider community and as part of this wish to do all that we can to prevent any member of the College community from being drawn into terrorism. We also have a responsibility to protect academic freedom and general freedom of expression.

- 4.3 The Prevent policy is regarded by the College as one of several welfare policies. The College has a Fitness to Study Policy for supporting students. The process and procedures in this policy offer guidance for staff and students if they have concerns about a student's behaviour for any reason. If there is a Prevent related incident, the Fitness to Study Policy needs to be used alongside this policy.

## **5. Leadership**

- 5.1 The College takes seriously the need to prevent terrorism or radicalisation occurring in our community. Our approach has been approved by the Principal, following consideration by the Senior Management Team, and this policy has been approved by the Board of Trustees.
- 5.2 The Principal has been identified as the 'Prevent Lead' – the member of senior management responsible for ensuring that the College complies appropriately with the Prevent Duty, in liaison with the Regional Prevent Lead for Further and Higher Education (West Midlands), contacts within the Office for Students, and other key stakeholders within and beyond the College.
- 5.3 An annual report will be made to the Board of Trustees in order that the Board can discharge its responsibilities under legislation and the Office for Students' reporting requirements. Interim reports and exceptional reports will be made if necessary.

## **6. Pastoral Care**

- 6.1 The College has a duty of care towards all of its students. Pastoral care is a key way of safeguarding student welfare, particularly those who may be drawn into terrorism. Pastoral care is delivered through Pathway Leaders, Programme Directors, and Cluster Leaders.
- 6.2 Training will be provided for Pathway Leaders, Programme Directors and Administrators, and the Senior Management Team, so that such staff are aware of their duties under Prevent and understand the processes by which they can support students. Advice and guidance are available for students should they require it from their Pathway Leader or Programme Director.
- 6.3 All staff and students should be aware that, should they have concerns regarding the wellbeing of a student, they can raise these in confidence with the relevant staff contact as outlined.

## **7. Risk Assessment and Action Plan**

- 7.1 As required by the Prevent Duty and the Office for Students' reporting requirements, we have carried out an assessment of the risk of our students being drawn into terrorism.
- 7.2 Where any significant risk is identified we will consider what action might mitigate the impact/likelihood of that risk crystallising.

## **8. External Speakers**

- 8.1 In complying with the Prevent Duty the College will not:
- a) Provide a platform for any proscribed terrorist organisation or permit the encouragement of terrorism in any way;
  - b) Allow inappropriate gender segregation at any event it organises.
- 8.2 The College underlines its commitment to protect academic freedom.

## **9. Sensitive Research**

- 9.1 In certain circumstances, some staff members and students may require access to sensitive material as part of their scholarly work. In such circumstances, the College's ethics procedure will be followed in a way that does not impact on academic freedom, in consultation with the Research Ethics Committee. It is the responsibility of academic supervisors to ensure that students follow this procedure when relevant.

## **10. Staff Training**

- 10.1 We will provide awareness training on a regular basis for all relevant staff, tailored to need.

## **11. Student Representatives**

- 11.1 The College works closely with student representatives in ensuring that we provide excellent service and support to our students. This includes the various matters covered by this document. Students are made aware of the College's welfare policies through the College's handbooks and tutorials.

## **12. IT Networks**

- 12.1 We consider it unacceptable for our IT networks to be used in any way that supports, promotes or facilitates terrorism or radicalisation. Relevant IT policies and procedures will be kept under review with reference to Prevent. The College will also keep the use of social media under review.

## **13. Communications**

- 13.1 We will seek to ensure that the College's printed and electronic communications (including its website) do not contain or support terrorist material or material likely to encourage terrorism and will investigate immediately if any such instances are raised. Any material supporting terrorism found in premises used by the College will be reported to the manager of the premises.
- 13.2 Students are not permitted to use the College's name in any way that supports, promotes or facilitates terrorism or radicalisation. This includes printed material, websites, social media, etc.

## **14. Information Sharing**

- 14.1 The College is aware of the Channel process and of the opportunities for informal and formal sharing of information with relevant authorities. We will use these when we consider it is necessary and appropriate to do so in the interests of preventing people

from being drawn into terrorism. Information sharing will only take place with external authorities when this is consistent with the provisions of the General Data Protection Regulation.

### **15. Information Sharing Related Policies and Procedure**

The following policies and procedures are related to the Prevent Policy:

- Acceptable Use of IT and Social Media Policy
- Safeguarding Policy
- Fitness to Study Policy
- Freedom of Speech Policy