

**Heythrop College
University of London**

Policy on Extremism – Prevent Duty

1 Introduction

Heythrop College takes its responsibilities towards the prevention of extremism very seriously. This document codifies its approach in response to the Government's publication of its *Prevent* Duty Guidance for England and Wales in 2015ⁱ, which is based on the requirements of the Section 29 of the Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015. This guidance document should be read in conjunction with the College Policy.

This Policy has been drawn up with reference to the *Prevent* guidance, other external publications including those from the HEFCE, QAA, NUS, Universities UK and the CUC, the College's Mission statement, strategies, the College's strategic risk register and other related documents, and information from other HEIs. The document has been informed by equality law, and, most importantly by the College's duty to protect academic freedom and freedom of speech. The *Prevent* guidance recognises this explicitly in relation to HEIs:

“Universities’ commitment to freedom of speech and the rationality underpinning the advancement of knowledge means that they represent one of our most important arenas for challenging extremist views and ideologies”

2 Policy

Heythrop College has developed this Policy to combat extremism to meet the requirements of Government legislation on counter terrorism, as explained through the *Prevent* Duty Guidance while also protecting academic freedom. Through this policy it will address *Prevent*'s three strategic objectives:

- 1 *respond to the ideological challenge of terrorism and the threat that we face from those who promote it* - through the curriculum, pedagogy and ethos of the institution and through outreach and public engagement activities
- 2 *prevent people from being drawn into terrorism and ensure that they are given appropriate advice and support* – through our curriculum, ethos of respect for the views of others, policy on speakers, our welfare provision, and through reporting requirements
- 3 *work with sectors and institutions where there are risks of radicalisation that we need to address* – through our outreach and public facing research and activities, and through other engagements with wider society

The College will act cohesively to identify and address any threat of extremism within its academic community by providing training, information and a clear procedure for

reporting concerns in a confidential and effective manner to all staff and students. It will work with a range of external agencies in support of its policy.

3 Implementation

The Prevent Guidance sets out areas in which it expects a HEI to be active. These are accepted by the College and included in the listing below, but to them the College adds Mission, Ethos and Curriculum and Pedagogy due to the specialist nature of its provision. The policy will be implemented to support those individuals who may be at risk from extremist messages and to protect all members of the institution as far as possible. In line with the Prevent guidance the College will implement the policy in the following areas:

1 Mission and ethos

The College will continue to make clear in its Mission statement and other strategic documents its commitment to respect for all, academic freedom and an active opposition to extremism wherever it is located.

2 Other college policies and strategies

All college strategies polices have been reviewed to ensure they support the College's stance against extremism.

3 Risk assessment and management

The requirements of the Prevent Duty Guidance are included on the College Strategic Risk Register. A separate detailed Prevent risk register and associated action plan has been drawn up and is monitored by the College cross-institutional Prevent Group . The Director of Administration has operational responsibility in this area on behalf of the Senior Leadership Team, with responsibility for the policy residing with the Governing Body.

4 Reporting

Strategic reporting:

The College management will report any issues to the Governing Body on a regular basis, and an annual report will be provided to the Academic Board and the Governing Body.

External reporting:

The College will provide such external reports as required in law.

Reporting of concerns:

A confidential and safe mechanism is in place for staff and students to report to College management any matters of concern in relation to extremism (see Annex 1). The College will not make any assumptions on the basis of concerns being raised. Referrals will be investigated thoroughly and fairly. The College will seek to approach such concerns from the perspective of safeguarding the individual about whom such concerns have been raised. Should an individual raise concerns with

another individual (e.g. a personal tutor or another colleague or student), that person will make a report as above.

5 Curriculum and pedagogy

The nature of the College's academic specialisms in Theology and Philosophy enables the College to make a particular contribution to the issues of religious differences and dialogue. The College will continue to offer curriculum and pedagogy marked by respect for a wide range of views, which protects academic freedom, while actively introducing students to, and exploring, the moral and ethical issues surrounding otherness which can lead to extremism. The pedagogical approach will include respect for the views of others and challenge to extremist views in positive ways.

6 IT Library and Virtual Learning Environment

The Librarian carried out a review in February 2016 and concluded that there is no material within the holdings supportive of or likely to draw readers into terrorism. Procedures are in place to ensure that consideration is given to whether material requested (new books or inter library loans) is supportive of or likely to draw readers into terrorism. See Annex 2.

Procedures are in place for checking material uploaded to HELIOS (the virtual learning environment). See Annex 2.

The Head of ICT has reviewed and amended the IT regulations in the light of the Prevent Duty, and the Prevent Duty will be given due regard when making future amendments. See Annex 3

7 Outreach and public engagement

The College will continue to engage with a range of external bodies, agencies and individuals in pursuit of the Common Good

8 Welfare, chaplaincy and support

Welfare and support services will continue to offer support for all students, of all faiths and none, including those who feel concerned about the views and actions of others.

9 The Heythrop Students' Union (HSU)

Support and training will be given to student union officials to identify any concerns. An overview of the activities of Union clubs and societies will be undertaken by the HSU executive, in collaboration with the Director of Academic Policy and Student Experience. Any speakers and their topics invited to the College by student groups and societies will be notified to the Director of Academic Policy and Student Experience in good time before such a visit is planned.

The HSU Manager, in consultation with the HSU President, will provide a list of clubs and societies active in the College to the Director of Academic Policy and Student Experience every year in the Michaelmas Term, and notify the Director of any new clubs or societies or closing clubs or societies during each academic year.

10 Information and training

A programme of training relating to the Prevent Duty will be made available to staff, governors, HSU staff and Executive members and other students. The Director of Administration will maintain a record of training attended.

11 Partnership

The College will continue to work effectively with a range of external organisations. In relation to this policy these will include, but not be limited to:

HEFCE

QAA

Local authorities

BIS

The Police and security services

NUS

Training providers

Specialist external advisers

Research and outreach partners, placement and volunteer opportunities providers for students etc., whose approach to extremism will be considered before links are formalised

12 Speakers on campus, private bookings and public events

The College speaker policy pays due regard to the Prevent Duty.

13 Concerns about activities away from campus

The College policy for Society events off campus pays due regard to the Prevent duty.

Staff and students will be encouraged to inform the College of any activities away from the College which they are aware of and which give them cause for concern.

Original policy endorsed by Academic Board 17 June 2015

Original policy approved by Governing Body, 25 June 2015

Revisions endorsed by Academic Board and approved by Governing Body March 2016

ⁱ The document can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/prevent-duty-guidance>