



**British International School  
of Timisoara**

*We Provide the Foundation on Which Our Children Can Flourish*

**School Policies**

**Prevent Duty Policy**

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# Prevent Duty policy

## General

The British International School of Timisoara (BIST) is an international coeducational private school following a British-based curriculum and accepting children aged between 4 and 18.

The British International School of Timisoara offers its students an international experience through a British-based curriculum adhering to the guidelines of the Council of British International Schools, Cambridge Assessment International Education and IB World Schools organization. Our qualified, internationally-experienced and dynamic educators will teach all subjects in English, with the exception of the lessons of Romanian, which are taught by qualified and engaging local teachers.

### Our Vision

*We provide the Foundation on which our Children can Flourish  
Inspiring our students to Learn and Live with Purpose*

### Our Mission

*Building a community of learners where students are given meaningful opportunities to learn, experience, grow, succeed and excel in all areas of their academic and personal development*

### Our Core Values

*We Think, We Explore and We Learn  
We Listen, We Respect and We Care  
We Speak Up, We Participate and We Strive*

At BIST we want to ensure that all members of our community understand and adhere to our school ethos and values. Rules and regulations will be in place to protect all members of the community and to give everyone equal opportunities for development and progress.

## Introduction

BIST is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all its pupils. Every member of staff recognises that safeguarding against radicalisation and extremism is no different to safeguarding against any other vulnerability in today's society. The Prevent Duty Policy sets out our beliefs, strategies and procedures to protect vulnerable individuals from being radicalised or exposed to extremist views, by identifying who they are and promptly providing them with support.

This policy refers to the following DfE guidance:

- PREVENT Strategy HM Gov
- Keeping Children Safe in Education DfE 2018
- Working Together to Safeguard Children HM Gov 2018

## Aims

BIST's Prevent Duty Policy is intended to provide a framework for dealing with issues relating to vulnerability, radicalisation and exposure to extreme views. We recognise that we are well placed to be able to identify safeguarding issues and this policy clearly sets out how the school will deal with such incidents and identifies how the curriculum and ethos underpins our actions.

## Prevent Duty policy

The main aims of this policy are to ensure that staff are fully engaged in being vigilant about radicalisation; that they overcome professional disbelief that such issues will happen here and ensure that we work alongside other professional bodies and agencies to ensure that our pupils are safe from harm.

Specific objectives are that:

- All teaching and non-teaching staff will have an understanding of what radicalisation and extremism are and why we need to be vigilant in school;
- All teaching and non-teaching staff will know what the school policy is on tackling extremism and radicalisation and will follow the policy guidance swiftly when issues arise;
- All pupils will understand the dangers of radicalisation and exposure to extremist views; building resilience against these and knowing what to do if they experience them.
- All parents/carers and pupils will know that the school has policies in place to keep pupils safe from harm and that the school regularly reviews its systems to ensure they are appropriate and effective.

### Definitions & Indicators

Radicalisation is defined as the act or process of making a person more radical or favouring of extreme or fundamental changes in political, economic or social conditions, institutions or habits of the mind.

Extremism is defined as the holding of extreme political or religious views.

There are a few behaviours which may indicate a child is at risk of being radicalised or exposed to extreme views. These include:

- Spending increasing time in the company of other suspected extremists;
- Changing their style of dress or personal appearance to accord with the group;
- Day-to-day behaviour becoming increasingly centred on an extremist ideology, group or cause;
- Loss of interest in other friends and activities not associated with the extremist ideology, group or cause;
- Possession of materials or symbols associated with an extremist cause;
- Attempts to recruit others to the group/cause;
- Communications with others that suggests identification with a group, cause or ideology;
- Using insulting and/or derogatory names for another group.

In addition, there may be an increase in prejudice-related incidents committed by that person – these may include:

- physical or verbal assault or provocative behaviour;
- damage to property;
- derogatory / prejudice related ridicule or name calling;
- possession of prejudice-related materials;
- inappropriate forms of address;
- refusal to co-operate;
- attempts to recruit to prejudice-related organisations;
- condoning or supporting violence towards others.

### Procedures for Referrals

Although serious incidents involving radicalisation are not likely to happen at BIST, it is important for us to be constantly vigilant and remain fully informed about the issues which affect the city, country and society in which we teach.

## **Prevent Duty policy**

Staff are reminded to suspend any 'professional disbelief' e.g. "radicalisation 'could not happen here'", and to be 'professionally inquisitive' where concerns arise, referring any concerns to a member of the SLT.

We believe that it is possible to intervene to protect people who are vulnerable. Early intervention is vital and staff must be aware of the established processes for front line School professionals to refer concerns about individuals and/or groups. We must have the confidence to challenge, the confidence to intervene and ensure that we have strong safeguarding practices based on the most up-to-date guidance and best practise.

Members of the SLT are trained as Designated Senior Leaders for Child Protection and Safeguarding and will deal swiftly with any referrals made by staff or with concerns reported by staff. The SLT will discuss the most appropriate course of action on a case-by-case basis and will decide when a referral to external agencies is needed.

As with any child protection referral, staff must be made aware that if they do not agree with a decision not to refer, they can make the referral themselves.

### **The Role of Staff**

Members of the SLT are the leaders for referrals relating to extremism and radicalisation. In the unlikely event that no SLT members are present, referrals should be made to the school's DSL or Deputy DSL.

Staff will be fully briefed about what to do if they are concerned about the possibility of radicalisation relating to a pupil, or if they need to discuss specific children whom they consider to be vulnerable to radicalisation or extremist views.

The SLT will work in conjunction with the Pastoral Care Team and external agencies, if deemed necessary, to decide the best course of action to address concerns which arise.

### **The Role of the Curriculum**

Our curriculum promotes respect, tolerance and diversity. Children are encouraged to share their views and recognise that they are entitled to have their own different beliefs which should not be used to influence others. BIST values freedom of speech and the expression of beliefs / ideology as fundamental rights underpinning both British and international community values. Pupils regularly participate in discussion and debate, with speaking and listening being embedded in all subjects. Pupils and teachers speak freely and voice their opinions. However, there is an understanding that freedom comes with responsibility and free speech that is designed to manipulate the vulnerable or that leads to violence and harm of others goes against the moral principles in which freedom of speech is valued.

Our PSHEE provision is embedded across the curriculum. It directs our assemblies and underpins the ethos of the school. It is recognised that children may be vulnerable to radicalisation and therefore we strive to equip our pupils with confidence, self-belief, respect and tolerance as well as setting high standards and expectations for themselves.

Children are regularly taught about how to stay safe when using the internet and are encouraged to recognise that people are not always who they say they are online. They are taught to seek adult help if they are upset or concerned about anything they read or see on the internet. We aim to educate our pupils on the appropriate use of social media and the dangers of downloading and sharing inappropriate material including that which is illegal under the Counter-Terrorism Act. We ensure that pupils are unable to access any inappropriate internet sites whilst using the school computers / tablets through the use of appropriate filtering, firewalls and security settings. Furthermore, we educate pupils through lessons and assemblies on the concepts of radicalisation and extreme ideology.

## **Prevent Duty policy**

### **Staff Training**

All teaching staff will be trained o Safeguarding and Child Protection during the induction period, using various channels and platforms, so that:

- they are fully aware of the threats, risks and vulnerabilities that are linked to radicalisation;
- they are aware of the process of radicalisation and how this might be identified early on;
- they are aware of how we can provide support as a school to ensure that our children are resilient and able to resist involvement in radical or extreme activities.

### **Visitors to School**

In order to safeguard pupils from visitors to the School who may have extreme or radical views the School will:

- ensure all visitors to BIST are vetted and take immediate action if any individual or group is perceived to be attempting to influence members of the School community, either physically or electronically;
- supervise visitors to school at all times in line with our Visitor's Policy.
- BIST will check any organisations which wish to have relationships with the School.

### **Annual Review**

This policy is subject to an annual review