



**ON THE STREETS
EDUCATION**

Prevent Policy

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1. Policy Statement

On The Streets Education (OTSE) is fully committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all learners. We recognise that students accessing Alternative Provision may be at increased vulnerability to radicalisation, criminal exploitation, and extremist influence.

As part of our safeguarding responsibilities, OTSE complies with the Prevent Duty under the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 and works in partnership with local safeguarding and Prevent teams to protect learners from being drawn into extremism.

Prevent is embedded within OTSE's wider safeguarding, contextual safeguarding, and serious violence prevention framework.

2. OTSE Context and Risk Profile

OTSE supports learners who may:

- Have experienced permanent exclusion or are at risk of exclusion
- Be vulnerable to child criminal exploitation (CCE) and county lines
- Be involved in or at risk of gang-associated activity
- Have experienced trauma, adverse childhood experiences (ACEs), or instability
- Have Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) needs
- Be known to Youth Offending Services

We recognise that vulnerability to radicalisation may intersect with:

- Identity struggles
- Feelings of marginalisation
- Community tensions
- Online influence
- Criminal grooming networks

Risk assessments are reviewed termly and reflect:

- Local authority Prevent risk profiles
- Local serious violence data
- Police intelligence (where appropriate)
- Community and online risk trends

3. Trauma-Informed Approach

OTSE operates a trauma-informed model through the accredited THRIVE model and in conjunction with the Child Therapy Service.

We understand that many learners have experienced:

- Violence
- Neglect
- Bereavement
- Community trauma
- Exploitation

We recognise that extremist recruiters and criminal networks often target young people who feel:

- Disconnected
- Powerless
- Angry
- Unheard

- In need of belonging

Our approach prioritises:

- Relational practice
- Consistent key adult support
- Emotional regulation strategies
- Restorative conversations
- Strength-based interventions
- Identity-building and positive masculinity work

Behaviour is understood as communication. Safeguarding responses are supportive and proportionate.

4. Contextual Safeguarding at OTSE

OTSE recognises that harm frequently occurs beyond the home environment.

We assess risks across:

- Peer groups
- Community spaces
- Social media platforms
- Gaming environments
- Local gang networks
- Transport routes linked to county lines

We work closely with:

- Youth Offending Services
- Community Safety Partnerships
- Police Prevent Team
- Social Care

- Early Help
- Serious Violence Teams

Prevent concerns are considered alongside gang prevention, exploitation, and serious youth violence strategies.

5. Links with Gang Prevention and Exploitation Policies

This policy should be read alongside OTSE's:

- Safeguarding & Child Protection Policy
- Online Safety Policy
- Behaviour & Relational Practice Policy
- Staff Code of Conduct

OTSE recognises that:

- Radicalisation grooming techniques mirror CCE grooming tactics.
- Extremist groups exploit similar vulnerabilities as gang networks.
- Online radicalisation can occur through music culture, gaming platforms, encrypted messaging apps, or ideological influencers.

Staff are trained to identify:

- Sudden changes in ideology
- Use of extremist or coded language
- Fixation on grievance narratives
- Glorification of violence
- Increased secrecy or online isolation

All concerns are reported immediately to the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL).

6. Reintegration Support Procedures

Where learners are:

- Returning from custody
- Returning from exclusion
- Transitioning from another AP
- Known to Youth Justice
- Returning following safeguarding concerns

OTSE completes a Reintegration Risk Assessment including:

- Safeguarding history
- Exploitation risks
- Peer associations
- Online behaviour concerns
- Radicalisation indicators

Support may include:

- Allocation of a key mentor
- Targeted PSHE intervention
- Identity and resilience workshops
- Violence reduction mentoring
- Early Help assessment
- Multi-agency safeguarding meeting

The DSL reviews Prevent risk as part of every reintegration plan.

7. Online Monitoring and Filtering at OTSE

OTSE recognises that online spaces are a significant radicalisation pathway.

We ensure:

- Web filtering and firewall protection systems are in place

- Device-level controls are applied to all OTSE devices
- Secure Wi-Fi with authenticated access

Monitoring arrangements include:

- Real-time keyword flagging
- Incident logging and review
- Termly effectiveness checks
- Annual safeguarding audit

Learners are taught:

- Media literacy
- Critical thinking
- Safe online conduct
- How to report harmful or extremist content

We respond proportionately to flagged activity, ensuring supportive investigation rather than criminalisation.

8. Referral Pathway

If a Prevent concern arises:

1. Staff report immediately to the DSL.
2. DSL completes safeguarding review and risk assessment.
3. DSL consults local Prevent lead if required.
4. Referral made to Channel Panel where threshold is met.
5. Parents/carers are informed unless doing so increases risk.

All Prevent concerns are recorded on OTSE's safeguarding system.

9. Staff Training

At OTSE:

- All staff complete Prevent awareness training annually.
- DSL receives advanced Prevent and Channel training.
- Prevent is included in staff induction.
- Staff receive contextual updates relating to serious violence and extremism trends.
- Safeguarding supervision includes discussion of vulnerability indicators.

10. Governance and Oversight

OTSE leadership:

- Reviews Prevent risk assessments termly.
- Monitors safeguarding trends.
- Ensures compliance with Prevent Duty guidance.
- Embeds Prevent within serious violence and exploitation strategies.
- Reports safeguarding updates to governance structures.

11. Statement of Ethos

On The Streets Education is committed to:

- Providing belonging without exploitation
- Promoting critical thinking and respectful challenge
- Supporting positive identity development
- Preventing violence in all forms
- Protecting young people from harm

Prevent is delivered in a way that is proportionate, safeguarding-led, and rooted in relational practice.