



Prevent Policy

Bourne Town Football Club

Implementation Date:	1st January 2026
Agreed By:	Mark Lynch
Next Review Date:	31st December 2026

Purpose

At Bourne Town Football Club we fully recognise our responsibilities for tackling extremism in all forms and our responsibilities in protecting children/young people and adults at risk from exposure to all types of radicalisation.

Football clubs hold a unique position in communities — reaching thousands of people across age, background, and belief. We must play our part in safeguarding individuals from the harms of radicalisation and extremism.

Our Prevent Policy sets out our commitment to preventing radicalisation within our Club and outlines what we will do to identify concerns, prevent it and report it to the authorities in line with Section 26 of the Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015.

Definition

Extremism is defined by UK Government:

“vocal or active opposition to fundamental values, including democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect, as well as the tolerance of different faiths and beliefs.”

There is no such thing as a ‘typical extremist’. Those who become involved in extremism do so from a wide range of backgrounds and experiences. Vulnerabilities such as personal crisis, isolation, identity issues, or social pressures can play a part. It should be borne in mind that many who hold extremist views do not go on to become involved in violent extremist activity.

Radicalisation refers to the process by which a person comes to support terrorism and extremist ideology. Radicalisation can take place in many ways, though recent emphasis has been placed on the role of the internet in the process as well as the influence of powerful direct relationships on an individual.

Our Prevent Policy runs alongside the Club’s other policies in particular

- Childrens Safeguarding Policy
- Adults at Risk policy
- Equality, Diversity & Inclusion Policy
- Anti- bullying Policy
- Whistle-blowing Policy

Background

This policy is guided by the Prevent Duty under the UK Government’s Counter-Terrorism Strategy (CONTEST). Bourne Town Football Club are committed to working with statutory partners to prevent individuals from being drawn into terrorism or supporting extremist ideologies.

The Prevent Strategy is seeking to

1. Tackle the causes of radicalisation by challenging extremist ideologies.
2. Safeguard and support vulnerable individuals through early intervention.
3. Enable those who have already engaged in terrorism to disengage and rehabilitate.

Football clubs play a supporting role in the first two objectives, particularly around safeguarding and early intervention.

What is Extremism

Extremism is **defined as** the vocal or active opposition to fundamental British values, including democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs. We also regard calls for the death of members of our armed forces as extremist.

Extremism can include

- Advocacy of violence as a means to achieve ideological goals.
- Rejection of British values and democratic principles.
- Dehumanisation of other groups, including based on race, religion, or nationality.
- Promotion of conspiracy theories used to justify hate.
- Belonging to or supporting groups banned under the Terrorism Act.

This applies to Islamist-extremism, far-right extremism, incel ideology, and other forms.

British Values

The club values freedom of speech whilst being mindful of the need to protect the vulnerable members of the club. All concerns regarding freedom of speech will be considered under Human Rights. British Values will be promoted through the behaviours, policies, and actions of the club as well as through the education and raising awareness the of staff and therefore the Young People

Promoting British values helps build resilience to radicalisation:

- Democracy
- Rule of Law
- Individual Liberty
- Mutual Respect
- Tolerance of different faiths and beliefs

These values should be reflected in club culture, communications, and behaviour standards.

Context

It is important to recognise that the Prevent Duty within the Football Club is inherently different to those of a childcare professional, however, there are areas that will overlap which are highlighted as follows;

'The general risks affecting children and young people may vary from area to area, and according to their age. Schools and childcare providers are in an important position to identify risks within a given local context. It is important that schools and childcare providers understand these risks so that they can respond in an appropriate and proportionate way.'

'There is no single way of identifying an individual who is likely to be susceptible to a terrorist ideology.'

'As with managing other safeguarding risks, staff should be alert to changes in children's behaviour which could indicate that they may be in need of help or protection. Children at risk of radicalisation may display different signs or seek to hide their views.'

'The Prevent duty does not require staff to carry out unnecessary intrusion into family life but as with any other safeguarding risk, they must take action when they observe behaviour of concern.'

Possible signs of radicalisation include

- The individual's views become increasingly extreme regarding another section of society, religion, or government policy.

The **individual** becomes increasingly intolerant of more moderate views.

- Expressing extreme views or intolerance
- Isolation from friends or usual groups
- A sudden disrespect for authority or rules
- Viewing or sharing extremist material online
- Change in appearance or behaviour
- Obsession with conspiracy theories
- Secrecy about online activity
- Expressing support for terrorist acts or groups
- These signs do not always mean radicalisation is happening — but should prompt concern and further safeguarding checks.
- The individual may change their appearance, their health may suffer (including mental health) and they may become isolated from family, friends, peers or social groups.

Procedure what to do should you be concerned about a child or adult at risk?

If you have concerns about a child or vulnerable adult possibly being radicalised:

1. Do not ignore concerns.
2. Report your concern immediately to the Club Welfare Officer (CWO).
3. The CWO will assess the information and may escalate it to:
 - Local Authority Prevent Lead
 - Police Prevent Team
 - National League DSO
 - FA Safeguarding Team
4. Record all concerns factually using your club's safeguarding reporting forms or digital platforms.
5. Maintain confidentiality – share only with appropriate professionals.

If the matter is an imminent safeguarding concern or somebody is at immediate risk, then call the police on 999.

Further Information and training

Bourne Town Football Club encourages all welfare officers and safeguarding staff to learn more about Prevent duty:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/64f8498efdc5d10014fce6d1/14.258_HO_Prevent_Duty_Guidance_v5c.pdf

Useful Resources

The FA Safeguarding Hub: <https://www.thefa.com/football-rules-governance/safeguarding>

- Educate Against Hate (DfE and Home Office): <https://educateagainsthate.com>

- NSPCC Safeguarding and Radicalisation: <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/what-is-child-abuse/types-of-abuse/radicalisation>

Free online training can be found here:

<https://www.support-people-vulnerable-to-radicalisation.service.gov.uk/portal>

Useful Contacts:

Club Welfare Officer

Mark Lynch
btjfcsec@gmail.com
07725 659800

County FA Designated Safeguarding Officer

Ben Pearce
Ben.Pearce@lincolnshirefa.com
01522 596580

National League Designated Safeguarding Officer

Martyn Cannon
Safeguarding@thenationalleague.org.uk
Tel: 0121 7142207

External Police – force.control@lincs.police.uk.

If you have concerns requiring the Police's immediate action, dial 999. Or 101 non-emergency ask for the concern to be passed the attention of the Preventing Violent Extremism team.