

# University College Birmingham

## Prevent Policy 2024-2025

**Issued:** October 2024

**Updated:**

**Date of next review:** October 2025

## 1. Introduction

Prevent is part of the UK Governments Counter-terrorism strategy CONTEST. The purpose of Prevent is to safeguard and support people to stop them from becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism, as well as support the rehabilitation and disengagement of those already involved in terrorism.

The Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 places a duty on 'specified authorities' (higher education institutions, local authorities, schools, further education institutions, the health sector, prisons and probation, and the police) to have due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism. This is also known as the 'Prevent Duty'.

University College Birmingham (UCB) recognises that the Prevent duty is one element within our overall arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of all students in line with our statutory duties.

When carrying out the Prevent duty, UCB will ensure compliance with other legal obligations not least the Equality Act (2010), The Data Protection Act (2018) and our duties to protect freedom of speech and academic freedoms.

This policy is informed by Prevent duty guidance: England and Wales (2023), the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act (2015) and associated statutory prevent duty guidance for further education institutions in England and Wales and Keeping Children Safe in Education (2024) This policy should be read in conjunction with our Safeguarding Processes and Procedures policy, IT Acceptable Use Policy, General Student Regulations, Freedom of Expression: code of practice and External Speaker and Approval Policy.

## 2. UCB ethos and practice

Within this policy UCB uses the following accepted Governmental definition of extremism: '*Extremism is the promotion or advancement of an ideology based on violence, hatred, or intolerance, that aims to:*

- 1. negate or destroy the fundamental rights and freedoms of others; or*
- 2. undermine, overturn, or replace the UK's system of liberal parliamentary democracy and democratic rights; or*
- 3. intentionally create a permissive environment for others to achieve the results in (1) or (2).*

UCB does not tolerate extremist views of any kind whether from internal sources: learners, staff or governors, or external sources: college community, external agencies, or individuals. Students see UCB as a safe place where they can explore controversial issues safely and where our lecturers encourage and facilitate this. We have a duty to ensure this happens. As a university, we recognise that extremism and exposure to extremist materials and influences can lead to poor outcomes for students and so should be addressed as a safeguarding concern as set out in this policy.

We also recognise that if we fail to challenge extremist views, we are failing to protect our students. Therefore, we will provide a broad and balanced tutorial programme, delivered by skilled professionals, so that our students understand and become tolerant of difference and diversity. We will ensure that they feel valued and not marginalized. Any prejudice, discrimination, or extremist views, including derogatory language, displayed by students or staff will always be challenged and where appropriate dealt with in accordance with our general student regulations policy.

### **3. Staff**

'Keeping children safe in education – Statutory Guidance for Schools and Colleges' is issued to all staff to keep students safe. This must be observed by staff as part of our safeguarding policy. Staff also receive Radicalisation and Extremism awareness online training with a particular focus on the susceptibilities and influencing factors which lead an individual to have extremist views, support terrorist ideologies or engage in terrorist activity. Online training is complimented by face-to-face training. As such staff are able to recognise susceptibility to being drawn into terrorism. All staff are responsible for reporting concerns appropriately and are aware of the reporting mechanisms.

### **4. Students**

UCB will closely follow any locally agreed procedure as set out by the Local Authority and/or Safeguarding Children Partnership for safeguarding individuals susceptible to extremism and radicalisation. We will actively engage with the police, and regional DfE Prevent Co-ordinators. We will help support students who may be susceptible to such influences as part of our wider safeguarding responsibilities; where we believe a student is being directly affected by extremist materials or influences, we will ensure that the student is offered support. In such instances we will seek external support from the Local Authority and/or local partnership structures working to prevent extremism.

By delivering a broad and balanced tutorial programme, augmented by the use of external sources where appropriate, we will strive to ensure our students recognise risk and build resilience to manage any such risk. themselves where appropriate to their age and ability but also to help them develop the critical thinking skills needed to engage in informed debate.

Students receive training and information in order to inform them of, and raise their awareness of British values, radicalisation, and extremism. Information on the Prevent Agenda and Duty is promoted to students by inclusion in: Curriculum offer, lesson planning and schemes of work, safeguarding posters, Safeguarding Policy and Procedures, online induction information, training, and development sessions.

## **5. Raising Concerns**

Where there are concerns of extremism or radicalisation, students and staff are encouraged to discuss them with the Designated Safeguarding Lead or wider safeguarding team. Students can do this via the dedicated email, telephone, or 'drop-in' to see the team face to face. Staff can discuss concerns via telephone/email in the first instance for advice and guidance, but concerns must be followed up with a report via MyConcern. The procedure for reporting and referring safeguarding concerns will apply unless the threat is immediate and life threatening in which case the police will be contacted.

## **6. Local Partnerships**

UCB's Safeguarding Team has a well-established partnership with our local policing team and hold six weekly 'Safer Partnership' meetings with them to receive regular updates regarding local safeguarding matters that may impact on the UCB community, share pertinent information, and work collaboratively to make campus safer. The Safeguarding Team also has good links with the West Midlands Prevent Regional Coordinator from the Department for Education, which ensures we receive up to date, local and national information in regard to any changes in risks/threats, training opportunities, good practice and changes in legislation or statutory guidance.

## **7. Online Safety**

UCB recognises its responsibility to ensure safe access to online information. Therefore, regular, and stringent checks will be made on firewalls, to ensure that access to illegal and inappropriate sites is prevented. All staff are expected to make themselves aware and have a basic understanding of the approach the University has to filtering and monitoring. All staff are expected to remain vigilant to the potential risk of online harms, if staff become aware of the accessibility of a website site that presents a risk of harm, they must inform ITSU providing details of the website and harmful content. Guest log-ins will be tracked to eliminate risk of anonymised inappropriate access. Where concerns are raised regarding content that learners are attempting to access, or inappropriate internet searches action is taken on an individual basis with learners to educate them in the associated risks and/or action is taken in line with UCB Safeguarding and/or disciplinary processes if appropriate.

## **8. External/Guest Speakers**

UCB has an 'External Speaker and Approval' Policy and will pay particular attention to guest speakers and events and ensure that materials and resources do not encourage or promote radicalisation or extremism. A register of guest speakers will be maintained and vetting of both speakers and their materials will be carried out before approval is granted. Any decision about speakers and events UCB makes will be to promote and protect the right to freedom of expression whilst managing its safeguarding responsibilities.

## **9. Multi Faith Facilities**

UCB has multi-faith spaces located in our Summer Row, Moss House, and McIntyre House Campuses, where people of differing religious beliefs, or none at all, are able to spend time in contemplation or prayer. UCB positively promotes tolerance between faiths and those of no faith through its enrichment and tutorial activities.

## **10. Risk Assessment**

UCB has a Prevent risk assessment and action plan which is designed to support the university to monitor and review policy and practice around the Prevent Duty. It provides assessment of and a plan to manage Prevent vulnerabilities at the university and to have due regard to the need to prevent people being drawn into terrorism.

## **11. Role of Governing Body**

The Governing Body will undertake appropriate training to ensure that they are clear about their role and the parameters of their responsibilities as Governors, including their statutory safeguarding duties. The Governing Body will support the ethos and values of UCB and will support the university in tackling extremism and radicalisation. In line with the provisions set out in the DfE guidance 'Keeping Children Safe in Education, 2024' the Governing Body will challenge the senior management team on the delivery of this policy and monitor its effectiveness. Governors will review this policy annually and may amend and adopt it outside of this timeframe in accordance with any new legislation or guidance or in response to any quality assurance recommendations pertaining to the delivery of this policy and the overall safeguarding arrangements made.

## 12. Guild of Students

UCB expect the Guild of Students to have a robust and up-to date policy in relation to Prevent and to work closely with the University and co-operate with UCB policies. UCB also expects the guild to actively manage the risks of speakers and or literature breaking the law by-

- encouraging or glorifying terrorism
- inciting hatred on the grounds of race, religion, or sexual orientation
- inciting criminal acts or public order offences

UCB expect student union staff and elected officers to undertake online Prevent awareness training.

## 13. Important Contacts

Role	Job Title	Name
<b>Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)</b>	Safeguarding Manager - Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)	Natalie Stanley <a href="mailto:n.stanley@ucb.ac.uk">n.stanley@ucb.ac.uk</a> 0121 232 4034
<b>Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead (DDSL)</b>	Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead (DDSL)	Achma Begum <a href="mailto:a.begum1@ucb.ac.uk">a.begum1@ucb.ac.uk</a> 0121 232 4034
<b>Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead (DDSL)</b>	Pastoral Support Officer - Further Education	Deborah Scattergood <a href="mailto:d.scattergood@ucb.ac.uk">d.scattergood@ucb.ac.uk</a> 0121 232 4034
<b>Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead (DDSL)</b>	Pastoral Support Officer - Further Education	Masuma Sultana <a href="mailto:m.sultana@ucb.ac.uk">m.sultana@ucb.ac.uk</a> 0121 232 4034
<b>Executive Team Member responsible for safeguarding</b>	Vice-Chancellor & Principal	Michael Harkin <a href="mailto:m.harkin@ucb.ac.uk">m.harkin@ucb.ac.uk</a> 0121 604 1000 Ext: 2329
<b>Governor with specific responsibility for safeguarding</b>	Phil Romain - Lead Safeguarding Governor  Jenny Belza Lorraine Teague	Via PA to Executive Team

**We are committed to reviewing this policy and our practice annually.**

**Date of issue:** October 2024

**Date of Next Review:** October 2025

**Signed:** Natalie Stanley (Safeguarding Manager - Designated Safeguarding Lead)

**Date:** 14.10.2024