

Prevent Policy

Date: 10 June 2026

Last amended by: Tim Johnson

1 Introduction

- 1.1 ThinkSpace Education (TSE) is committed to fulfilling its statutory duty under the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 (CTSA 2015) to have due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism (the Prevent duty). TSE is registered with the Office for Students (OfS) in the Approved (Fee Cap) category and, as a registered higher education provider, is subject to the Prevent duty.
- 1.2 Prevent is part of CONTEST, the UK Government's counter-terrorism strategy. It aims to stop people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism and violent extremism. It addresses all forms of terrorism and extremism, including far-right, far-left, Islamist extremism, and other ideologically motivated violence.
- 1.3 TSE is an exclusively online postgraduate provider. We do not have a physical campus. Our students are predominantly professional adults, studying part-time from the UK and over 40 countries worldwide. This shapes our approach to the Prevent duty, which reflects the specific context and risks of online, distance provision.
- 1.4 TSE's response to the Prevent duty is monitored by the Office for Students.

2 Scope

- 2.1 This policy applies to all TSE staff (permanent, contracted, and freelance tutors) and to all students enrolled on TSE's postgraduate programmes.
- 2.2 The policy covers all forms of digital communication and interaction within TSE's learning environment, including the VLE, Discord, one-to-one tutorial sessions, webinars, and any other TSE-managed online spaces.

3 Legal Framework

- 3.1 TSE's obligations under the Prevent duty are set out in:
 - Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015
 - Revised Prevent Duty Guidance for England and Wales (HM Government, 2023)
 - Prevent Duty Guidance for Higher Education Institutions in England and Wales (OfS)
- 3.2 This policy should be read alongside TSE's Freedom of Speech Code of Practice, Online Safety Policy, Safeguarding Policy, and Student Code of Conduct.

4 Risk Assessment

- 4.1 TSE maintains a Prevent Risk Assessment, reviewed annually by the Prevent Lead and approved by the Board of Directors. The risk assessment considers:
 - The online nature of TSE's delivery and the specific risks this creates
 - The diversity of TSE's student body (students from over 40 countries)

- The subject matter of TSE's courses (music composition, sound design, game audio — no course content presents a particular radicalisation risk)
 - The relatively low overall risk profile of a small specialist provider delivering postgraduate creative arts courses
- 4.2 As an exclusively online institution, TSE does not face the same exposure risks as campus-based providers in areas such as student societies, on-campus events, or physical meeting spaces. However, the online environment presents its own specific risks, including:
- Students or staff encountering radicalising content online
 - Extremist contact or grooming occurring via social media or other digital channels
 - Isolated individuals being targeted by extremist recruiters
 - Content sharing or creation that promotes or glorifies extremism
- 4.3 TSE's relatively small size and the close relationships between staff, tutors, and students mean that early identification of at-risk individuals is more achievable than in a larger institution. This places a corresponding responsibility on all staff to remain vigilant and to report concerns promptly.

5 The Prevent Lead

- 5.1 TSE's Prevent Lead is Bradley Jordan, who has operational responsibility for the implementation of this policy and for coordinating TSE's response to the Prevent duty. Bradley Jordan can be contacted at bradley@thinkspace.ac.uk.
- 5.2 The Prevent Lead's responsibilities include:
- Maintaining and reviewing the Prevent Risk Assessment annually
 - Ensuring all relevant staff complete Prevent training and maintaining training records
 - Receiving and assessing referrals from staff and tutors
 - Making referrals to the Channel programme where appropriate
 - Liaising with the OfS, the DfE Prevent coordinator, and Arts University Bournemouth (AUB) as required
 - Reporting on Prevent activity to the Board of Directors
- 5.3 In the absence of the Prevent Lead, concerns should be directed to the Head of Postgraduate Education or the CEO.

6 Training

- 6.1 All staff and tutors who have direct contact with students are required to complete the Home Office Prevent duty training (available at <https://www.support-people-susceptible-to-radicalisation.service.gov.uk>). Evidence of completion must be submitted to the Prevent Lead.
- 6.2 Prevent training is included in TSE's tutor induction programme. All new staff and tutors must complete training before commencing student-facing activity.
- 6.3 Refresher training is required every three years, or sooner if there is a significant change to the threat landscape or to TSE's delivery model.
- 6.4 The Prevent Lead has received Channel referral training from the DfE Prevent coordinator and is authorised to make referrals to the Channel programme.
- 6.5 Student representatives and Discord moderators are also offered Prevent awareness training as part of their role induction.

7 Recognising Signs of Concern

- 7.1 Radicalisation is rarely sudden. It is usually a gradual process in which a person is exposed to and influenced by extremist ideas over time. Staff and tutors should be alert to possible indicators, noting that no single indicator is conclusive and must be considered in context.
- 7.2 Possible indicators include:
- Expressions of support for terrorism, extremist groups, or acts of political or ideological violence
 - Accessing, sharing, or producing extremist content in any TSE online space
 - Withdrawal from usual engagement or unexplained changes in online behaviour
 - Expressions of grievance combined with sympathy for extremist responses
 - References to extreme ideologies or a desire to travel to conflict zones
 - Sudden or marked changes in attitude, communication style, or online conduct
- 7.3 In the online environment, such changes may manifest in tutorial interactions, webinar contributions, Discord conversations, VLE activity, or submitted coursework.
- 7.4 Staff should be aware that individuals at risk of radicalisation may simultaneously be experiencing mental health difficulties, personal crises, or other vulnerabilities. Prevent concerns should be considered as part of a holistic approach to student welfare, not in isolation.

8 Reporting a Concern

- 8.1 Any member of staff or tutor who has a concern about a student or colleague should report it promptly to the Prevent Lead, Bradley Jordan (bradley@thinkspace.ac.uk). If the Prevent Lead is unavailable, concerns should be raised with the Head of Postgraduate Education or the CEO.
- 8.2 Staff should not:
- Attempt to handle Prevent concerns independently or without support
 - Challenge or engage with extremist views directly without appropriate training
 - Delay reporting out of uncertainty — if in doubt, report
 - Promise confidentiality to someone who discloses information that may give rise to a Prevent concern
- 8.3 Early intervention is more effective than late intervention. A concern does not need to meet a high threshold before being reported internally. The Prevent Lead will assess the appropriate response.

9 The Channel Programme

- 9.1 Channel is a voluntary, multi-agency programme that provides support to individuals assessed to be at risk of radicalisation. It is coordinated by the local authority and police in each area.
- 9.2 Where the Prevent Lead assesses that a referral to Channel is appropriate, TSE will make contact with the DfE Prevent coordinator. The referral process involves:
- A written referral submitted to the relevant Channel panel
 - An assessment of the individual's vulnerability and level of risk by the Channel panel
 - A support plan agreed with the individual and relevant agencies
- 9.3 Referral to Channel is not a criminal process. It is a support mechanism. The individual's consent is normally required for the Channel process to proceed. A Channel referral does not automatically result in police involvement.
- 9.4 TSE will cooperate fully with Channel panels and any multi-agency processes that result from a referral.

10 International Students

- 10.1 Approximately half of TSE's students are based outside the United Kingdom. For international students, the Channel programme referral route may not be directly applicable.
- 10.2 Where a Prevent concern arises regarding an international student, the Prevent Lead will assess the most appropriate course of action. This may include seeking guidance from the OfS or DfE, or liaising with relevant authorities or support services in the student's country of residence where this is proportionate and lawful.
- 10.3 TSE will work with AUB as appropriate where concerns relate to an enrolled student's welfare, regardless of their country of residence.

11 Confidentiality and Information Sharing

- 11.1 Information about Prevent concerns will be handled in accordance with TSE's Privacy Notice and UK GDPR requirements.
- 11.2 Prevent concerns are not subject to the normal expectations of confidentiality that apply in other student welfare contexts. Staff should not promise confidentiality to a student or colleague who discloses information that may give rise to a Prevent concern.
- 11.3 Where it is necessary to share information externally — for example, with a Channel panel, the OfS, or AUB — TSE will do so in a proportionate and lawful manner, with appropriate regard to data protection obligations.
- 11.4 TSE will notify AUB via aubpartnerships@aub.ac.uk of any significant Prevent incidents or referrals, in accordance with the TSE-AUB Partnership Agreement.

12 Freedom of Speech and Academic Freedom

- 12.1 TSE is committed to protecting freedom of speech and academic freedom. The Prevent duty does not override these commitments. TSE's Freedom of Speech Code of Practice sets out how TSE balances its Prevent obligations with its commitment to free expression.
- 12.2 The Prevent duty is concerned with protecting individuals from being drawn into terrorism. It is not a mechanism for suppressing lawful expression of controversial, minority, or unpopular views. Legitimate academic debate, critical inquiry, and the exploration of difficult or sensitive topics are encouraged and protected.
- 12.3 Any action taken under this policy must be proportionate, evidence-based, and consistent with TSE's commitment to academic freedom.

13 External Speakers

- 13.1 As an exclusively online provider, TSE does not host public events on a physical campus. Webinars and online events involving external speakers are arranged and approved by the Head of Postgraduate Education, who ensures that invited speakers are appropriate for the institution's academic and professional context.
- 13.2 TSE maintains an External Speaker Policy and approval procedure, which is reviewed annually as part of the Prevent Risk Assessment cycle.

14 Monitoring and Review

- 14.1 This policy is reviewed annually by the Prevent Lead and approved by the Board of Directors.
- 14.2 The Prevent Lead will report to the Board of Directors on Prevent activity, training compliance, and any referrals made during the year, as part of TSE's annual governance cycle.
- 14.3 This policy will be updated in response to changes in legislation, Government guidance, or OfS requirements.

15 Related Documents and Legislation

15.1 Legislation and statutory guidance:

- Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015
- Revised Prevent Duty Guidance for England and Wales (HM Government, 2023)
- Prevent Duty Guidance for Higher Education Institutions in England and Wales (OfS)

15.2 TSE policies:

- TSE Freedom of Speech Code of Practice
- TSE Safeguarding Policy
- TSE Online Safety Policy
- TSE Student Code of Conduct
- TSE Student Contract
- TSE Privacy Notice
- TSE Bullying and Harassment Policy (Students)

15.3 AUB policies:

- AUB Safeguarding Policy