



PREVENT RISK ASSESSMENT May 2026

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This risk assessment has been devised based on research by the PHT of Bristol local context. Post Bristol DSL training this risk assessment will be reviewed by the PHT.

PREVENT Risk Assessment Overview

Manor Wood School – Bristol Context (2025–2026)

Purpose

This PREVENT risk assessment forms part of the school's wider safeguarding responsibilities under the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 and should be read alongside safeguarding, behaviour, online safety, attendance, SEND, trauma-informed practice, and child protection policies. The aim is to identify and mitigate risks associated with radicalisation, extremism, and vulnerability to exploitation within a specialist SEMH environment.

The school recognises that vulnerability to radicalisation can arise through unmet social, emotional, mental health, relational, identity, or belonging needs. Prevent safeguarding must therefore remain proportionate, trauma-informed, evidence-based, and consistent with the school's therapeutic ethos.

Local Context – Bristol

The Bristol context requires consideration of:

- A diverse urban population with wide socioeconomic inequality across communities.
- Increased online exposure to extremist, conspiratorial, misogynistic, and grievance-based content.
- Risks linked to social isolation, exclusion, poor attendance, exploitation, county lines, anti-authority narratives, and identity-based harm.

- Community tensions linked to national and international political events, including conflict-related polarisation and misinformation.
- Presence of both far-right and mixed-ideology online radicalising narratives affecting vulnerable young people nationally and locally.
- Concerns regarding young males being drawn into misogynistic, incel, anti-establishment, or violence-glorifying online spaces.
- The need to avoid inappropriate or discriminatory referrals, particularly where neurodivergence, SEMH presentation, trauma, autism, communication differences, or emotional dysregulation may be misunderstood as ideological risk.

Bristol City Council identifies Prevent locally as an early intervention safeguarding approach focused on supporting vulnerable individuals before harm escalates.

The local “Notice, Check, Share” approach aligns with existing safeguarding systems and multi-agency working:

1) Notice changes in behaviour, language, or other warning signs. Signs could be:

- Accessing extremist content online
- Expressing hateful or divisive views
- Using extremist symbols or language
- Promoting ideologies or attending related meetings
- Travelling to, or stating a desire to travel to areas of conflict

2) Check your concern with your line manager or Designated Safeguarding Lead, who may decide to make a referral and can support you with this

3) Share your concern through the appropriate referral pathway

What to do if you have a concern

If you're worried about someone or notice suspicious activity, you can report it:

- Online: [Act Campaign \(GOV.UK\)](#)
- Anonymous online reporting: iREPORTit app which you can download free on Apple or [Android](#) devices
- True Vision: [Reporting terrorist activity \(True Vision\)](#)
- Phone (Confidential): 0800 789 321

- Email: Complete the [docxNational Prevent referral form \(docx, 60 KB\)](#) and send it to PreventSW@avonandsomerset.police.uk

In an emergency: Call 999

School-Specific Risk Factors in relation to SEMH Context:

Children attending Manor Wood School may present with increased vulnerability due to:

Risk Factor	Potential Impact
Trauma and attachment difficulties	Increased susceptibility to belonging-based narratives
Social exclusion or repeated school failure	Attraction to anti-system or grievance-based ideologies
Mental health difficulties	Heightened vulnerability to manipulation or coercion
Autism / neurodivergence	Literal thinking, social isolation, online fixation risks
Persistent absence or disengagement	Reduced protective oversight
Online dysregulation	Exposure to extremist influencers or harmful algorithms
Family instability or exploitation	Increased safeguarding complexity
Peer group influence	Reinforcement of harmful narratives
Identity confusion or unmet belonging needs	Search for certainty, status, or community

Manor Wood School recognises that these vulnerabilities alone do not indicate radicalisation risk and must never be treated as evidence of extremism. Professional curiosity, contextual safeguarding, and proportionality are essential.

Current Risk Themes

1. Online Radicalisation

Risk Level: High

Young people increasingly access:

- violent extremist content
- misogynistic influencers
- conspiracy narratives
- anti-government messaging
- harmful gaming or chat forums
- identity-based hate content

Particular concern exists regarding algorithm-driven escalation for isolated or emotionally dysregulated children.

Mitigation

- Robust filtering and monitoring systems
- Digital literacy curriculum
- Adult training on online harms
- Supervised device use where appropriate
- Therapeutic discussion rather than punitive response
- Clear escalation pathways to DSL

2. Far-Right / Identity-Based Extremism

Risk Level: Medium

Risks include:

- racist or antisemitic language
- fascination with violence or authoritarianism
- grievance narratives
- anti-immigration rhetoric
- online meme culture normalising hate

Some children may repeat language without ideological understanding due to SEMH needs, peer imitation, trauma responses, or emotional dysregulation.

Mitigation

- Restorative and educative responses
- Contextual assessment before referral
- Protected curriculum around diversity and critical thinking
- Strong relational practice
- Adults confidence in difficult conversations

3. Mixed, Unclear, or Grievance-Based Extremism

Risk Level: Medium

Some vulnerable children may present:

- fixation on violence
- school-shooting narratives
- incel content
- anti-authority beliefs
- obsessive online engagement
- emotionally driven threats without coherent ideology

Assessment requires careful differentiation between SEMH presentation, unmet need, fantasy/fantastical thinking, and genuine risk escalation.

Mitigation

- Multi-agency review
- Mental health-informed assessment
- Regular safeguarding supervision
- Consultation with Prevent professionals where necessary
- Dynamic risk recording

Protective Factors Within Manor Wood School

Our school reduces vulnerability through:

- Therapeutic and relational practice
- Strong safeguarding culture
- Trusted adult relationships
- Trauma-informed practice
- Multi-agency collaboration
- Speech, language, and emotional literacy interventions
- Structured routines and co-regulation
- Family engagement
- Clear boundaries and consistent expectations
- Adult training and reflective supervision
- Opportunities for belonging, achievement, and child led voice

The school explicitly promotes:

- respect
- dignity
- critical thinking
- emotional regulation
- safe debate
- democratic participation
- inclusion and diversity

Adult Training and Safeguarding Culture

All adults receive:

- Prevent awareness training
- safeguarding updates
- online safety training
- trauma-informed practice training and development
- guidance on proportionality and unconscious bias

Adults are reminded:

- Prevent is safeguarding, not criminalisation
- vulnerability does not equal extremism
- referrals should be evidence-informed and proportionate
- concerns must be contextualised within SEMH and developmental presentation

The DSL/Prevent Lead will maintain links with:

- Bristol Prevent Team
- local safeguarding partnerships
- social care
- police and Channel panels where required

Overall Risk Judgement

Current Overall PREVENT Risk: Moderate

Manor Wood school acknowledges heightened contextual vulnerabilities associated with SEMH provision and online harms. However, strong therapeutic safeguarding systems, relational culture, adult vigilance, and multi-agency partnerships significantly reduce risk.

The school's approach is:

- evidence-based
- trauma-responsive
- anti-discriminatory
- proportionate
- rooted in safeguarding rather than fear-based practice

Any concerns regarding radicalisation are addressed through early intervention, professional curiosity, and lawful safeguarding procedures. Our school does not tolerate extremist behaviour, hate-based harm, or unsafe environments, safeguarding remains everybody's responsibility.