

Prevent and Anti Extremism Policy

Date established:	July 2015
Updated:	January 2021
Reviewed:	Annually Jan 2021
Purpose:	This policy aims to set out MITSkills position regarding the Prevent and Anti-Extremism policy

MITSkills (MIT) aims to ensure that learning takes place in a safe environment where extremism in its many forms is challenged, or where appropriate reported and that no employee, trainee or potential employee will receive less favourable consideration or treatment by virtue of his or her gender, race, colour, marital status, sexual orientation, disability, age, nationality or ethnic origin. Furthermore, we aim to ensure that no person will be disadvantaged by any condition or requirement, which cannot be shown as, justified.

MITSkills will ensure that it engages a competent, skilled workforce reflecting where possible, the ethnic mix of the local community.

For this policy to be successful, the cooperation of all employees is vital.

However, MITSkills is ultimately responsible for achieving the objectives outlined, and for ensuring full compliance with the relevant Acts of Parliament including the Equality Act 2010 and Codes of Practice and the Government’s ‘Prevent’ agenda, and our obligations under Safeguarding.

Misappropriate actions against this policy and the laws on which they are based, will be considered a serious offence and will incur disciplinary actions or dismissal.

Aims of Prevent Policy

MITSkills is committed to providing a secure environment for students, where they feel safe and are kept safe. All adults at MITSkills recognise that safeguarding is everyone’s responsibility, irrespective of the role they undertake or whether their role has direct contact or responsibility for students or not. Preventing Extremism and Radicalisation is one element within our overall MITSkills arrangement to safeguard and promote the welfare of all students in line with our statutory duties. This policy also draws upon the Government’s ‘Prevent’ agenda and Department of Education’s guidance, ‘Prevent violent extremism’ and DfE’s guidance “Prevent Duty Guidance: for further education institutions in England and Wales 2015” ‘as well as MITSkills’ Ethos and Practice.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/prevent-duty-guidance/prevent-duty-guidance-for-further-education-institutions-in-england-and-wales> (Correct Sept 2020)

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/744673/Work_Based_Learners_Guidance.pdf

(Correct Jan 2021)

When operating this policy, MITSkills uses the following accepted Governmental definition of extremism which is: '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; and/or calls for the death of members of our armed forces, whether in this country or overseas'. Extremists of all persuasions aim to develop destructive relationships between different communities by promoting division, fear and mistrust of others based on ignorance or prejudice and thereby limiting the life chances of young people.

Education is a powerful weapon against this; equipping young people with the knowledge, skills and critical thinking, to challenge and debate in an informed way. MITSkills does not tolerate extremist views of any kind whether from internal sources; learners, staff, subcontractors or Directors, or external sources; community, external agencies or individuals. Students see MITSkills as a safe place where they can explore controversial issues safely and where our teaching staff and assessors encourage and facilitate this. We have a duty to ensure this happens.

We at MITSkills 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 in challenging extremist views we are actively protecting our students. Therefore, at MITSkills we will provide a broad and balanced training programme, delivered by skilled professionals, to enable our students to understand and become tolerant of difference and diversity.

We will work to ensure that all learners feel valued and not marginalised. 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 Student Disciplinary Policy and the Staff Code of Conduct. As part of wider safeguarding responsibilities, MITSkills' staff will be alert to:

- Disclosures by students, of their exposure to the extremist actions, views or materials of others outside, such as in their homes or community groups, especially where students have not actively sought these out.
- Graffiti symbols, writing or artwork promoting extremist messages or images
- Students accessing extremist material online, including through social networking sites
- Parental reports of changes in behaviour, friendship or actions and requests for assistance
- Partner colleges, local authority services, and police reports of issues affecting students in other colleges or settings.
- Students voicing opinions drawn from extremist ideologies and narratives
- Use of extremist or 'hate' terms to exclude others or incite violence
- Intolerance of difference, whether secular or religious or, in line with our Equalities Policy, views based on, but not exclusive to, gender, disability, homophobia, race, colour or culture
- Extremist views in any form or encouraging others to extremist views can result in learners and or staff being reported to appropriate support or appropriate authorities MITSkills will take disciplinary action where appropriate, which can include removal from learning for learners and dismissal in the case of staff.
- Anti-Western or Anti-British views

MITSkills will closely follow any locally agreed procedure as set out by the Local Authority and/or Surrey Safeguarding Children's Board's agreed processes and criteria for safeguarding individuals vulnerable to extremism and radicalisation.

We will help support students who may be vulnerable to such influences as part of our wider safeguarding responsibilities and where we believe a student is being directly affected by extremist materials or influences, we will ensure that the student is offered mentoring. Additionally, in such instances MITSkills will seek external support from the Local Authority and/or local partnership structures working to prevent extremism. By delivering a broad and balanced learning 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.

Where there are concerns of extremism or radicalisation, students and staff will be encouraged to discuss them with the Safeguarding Officer or Operations Director. The procedure for reporting and referring safeguarding concerns will apply. The Managing Director of MITSkills will task Senior management with ensuring all staff undertake appropriate training to assure that they are clear about their role and the parameters of their responsibilities in an active Prevent strategy, including their statutory safeguarding duties.

The Senior Management of MITSkills will support the ethos and values of MITSkills and will support the tackling of extremism and radicalisation. In line with the provisions set out in the DfE guidance 'Keeping Children Safe in Education, 2020' the Managing Director will challenge MITSkills senior management team on the delivery of this policy and monitor its effectiveness. The Managing Director 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.

Use of Company funds and Public funds- MITSkills Directors and Senior Managers will not be involved in the funding of extremist organisations, and will take steps to prevent the use of company funds or public funds going to extremist organisations.

Staff or learners involved in collecting funds, encouraging others to collect funds or diverting fundings for extremist organisations will be reported to the appropriate authorities, and will face appropriate disciplinary action (including dismissal)

Fundraising, charity or otherwise may only take place within our delivery sites or by staff and learners with permission of the Directors, we will not allow fund raising by Political parties or organisations – please contact Hani Zubeidi / Hisham Zubeidi.

Selection & Recruitment:

- Where possible, to have more than one person involved in the selection, interview and recruitment process.
- All parties trained in equality of opportunities.
- To involve in the selection and recruitment process, women, the disabled and minorities
- To make clear our responsibility under equality, does not preclude our responsibilities under safeguarding or Prevent in protecting the learners, staff, partners and the wider community.

- Employment will require an enhanced DBS, and to achieve a satisfactory pass in appropriate Safeguarding and Prevent Training prior to employment or within the probationary period. No probationary period will be deemed as passed until these are achieved regardless of any other agreed targets set as a pre-employment requirement. Training will be ongoing in Equality, Safeguarding and Prevent to help underpin a common understanding of the need to facilitate and promote British values, be aware of vulnerable groups, and discourage extremist views which may be impact other rights, freedom and the rule of law.
- Explanations for the selection and rejection of applicants will be recorded.

Training:

- MITSkills will ensure that job descriptions are accurate to the post and frequently reviewed and updated where appropriate.
- All staff are regularly evaluated to identify any additional training needs including those related to Prevent and Safeguarding.
- All staff will be required to read 'Keeping Children Safe in Education 2020 (Part 1)', MITSkills recognises that learners and potential learners under 18 are a particularly vulnerable cohort and reading this document raises awareness of staff of issues relating to this group.
- MITSkills will encourage staff to apply for training and employment opportunities within the company.
- Where a need is identified, to recruit competent staff to deliver, suitable training and support will be provided, including on Safeguarding and Prevent.
- Staff are required to comply with our Prevent Policy, Safeguarding Policy and Equality and Diversity policy which we see as integral ensuring learners develop, and are kept safe within MITSkills.

Conditions of service:

- All personnel records will be kept confidential and accessed by authorised person/s only.
- Records on staff will include details on gender, racial origin and disability.
- Staff will have restricted access to view files held on them and where necessary issue instructions for corrections.
- All complaints and grievances should be addressed in the first instance to the line manager; MITSkills has clear guidance on complaints and appeals procedures.

Subcontracting

Where MITSkills subcontracts or has partners deliver to learners they are required to

- To confirm as part of selection and ongoing due diligence that their organisation is not involved in funding extremism and have policies in place to prevent the funding of

extremist organisations from their organisations activities, including fund raising events.

- Adhere to the Equality Act and require their staff to do so.
- Subcontractors are required to have linked policies for equality, enhanced DBS for staff, safeguarding, and Prevent and Anti Extremism policies and related appropriate procedures including training of all teaching and delivery staff, and for all staff working with MITSkills' learners. Subcontractor's staff are expected to achieve a satisfactory pass in appropriate Safeguarding and Prevent Training as agreed with MITSkills. For new subcontractors, where Safeguarding and Prevent training for all teaching and delivery staff working with MITSkills learners is not already in place will be given a grace period to evidence that all staff are trained and have passed safeguarding and Prevent training to the standard agreed with MITSkills. Until these are achieved regardless of any other agreed targets set, as a subcontractor requirement, the subcontractor will have a higher risk rating. If after the grace period, the evidence of training of staff is not achieved MITSkills will reflect this in the subcontractor risk rating of high and may incur penalties up to and including the subcontractor partnership being suspended or removed. Where compliance is achieved subcontractors will then be expected maintain regular staff and learner training in Equality, Safeguarding and Prevent to help underpin a common understanding of the need to facilitate and promote British values, be aware of vulnerable groups, and discourage extremist views which may impact other rights, freedom and the rule of law.

Learner Delivery

- Delivery staff including Subcontractors, will be required to demonstrate the integrated promotion of equality and diversity, including active delivery of the Prevent aims within their schemes of work and delivery, including improving the learners understanding of Equality and Diversity, British values, and how to raise concerns over extremism. Delivery staff will be risk rated on this and it will be reflected in MIT Skills teaching and assessment risk rating procedure. Delivery staff will be expected to develop and improve based on feedback and to agreed timescales (See Work Based Trainer Formal Observation Process).
- **Employers** – for Apprentices, all employers will be required to identify a Single Point of Contact (the named Mentor in the workplace as identified at signup or as informed by employer). MITSkills will provide signposting and appropriate Safeguarding and Prevent training, including supporting awareness of training required by the Department of Education.

A Policy on Visitors and Public speakers

All public speakers and visitors must be signed into and out of our sites by an authorised member of staff and their visit reported to the appropriate member of staff.

Public Speakers or lecturers – these must be authorised by the following SMT only, John Osborne, Hani Zubeidi or Hisham Zubeidi.

The content of any speakers must be requested and agreed with the Senior Manager and a member of staff must be present during any speaker's event.

Policy on offsite visits

Visits offsite for learners must be authorised by named SMT on the basis of a detailed justification by email.

Staff numbers must be appropriate and associated risks of exposure to radicalisation must be considered in the outline of risk.

Policy related to Distribution of Leaflets

No leaflets that are not published by a Government Body or Department, a recognised awarding body, local authority including emergency services, Health Board, Health Group, the Equality Commission, NHS, or trade body may be used or distributed on site unless authorised.

Authorisation is via the named SMT - John Osborne, Hani Zubeidi or Hisham Zubeidi.

Distribution of political leaflets is prohibited within the college. Staff members or learners distributing leaflets without authorisation, may face disciplinary action including, dismissal this includes e leafleting.

Policy on the Use IT Equipment of Email and Internet – MITSkills policy on Prevent and with regard to use of IT Equipment, Email and the Internet is clearly stated in the Policy "Use of IT Equipment, Email and Internet." Please read this in conjunction with this policy.

Safeguarding and Prevent Reporting from Sept 2020

The Department of education has issued guidance on Safeguarding during the Covid-19 restrictions – staff are asked to keep up to date with these. This can be found here

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-further-education-provision/what-fe-colleges-and-providers-will-need-to-do-from-the-start-of-the-2020-autumn-term>

MITSkills has put in place the following during the Covid -19 restriction, the italics are the outline requirements from the Department of Education

- *What staff and volunteers should do if they have any concerns about a safeguarding or prevent concern?*

MIT Staff should continue to report their concerns to the Safeguarding & Prevent Lead who will investigate please do not investigate yourself. We ask that you contact the numbers below, making sure you are safe to do so first.

If the learner is in immediate danger or injured, please contact the appropriate emergency service 999 as learner safety is priority but report the incident as soon as possible preferably the same day but within 24 hours.

We would encourage all staff to report it on the appropriate incident form available on Sharepoint, and at the end of this document as this will help structure the report, but again we ask you report by phone or email as soon as possible, and then complete the form as close to the reporting as possible again within 24 hours.

We provide an incident form which is available on Sharepoint and at the

bottom of this document.

Report Safeguarding and Prevent Concerns

MITSkills has a reduced office staff and as a precaution the Company Secretary is acting as an initial point of contact and backs up to our Safeguarding Lead. In the event of a Safeguarding/Prevent issue **please complete the following steps**

- 1) **Contact Hani Zubeidi on the following mobile number 07785 103001**
- 2) If the phone number is in use leave a voice mail stating clearly your name, contact number, and that you are aiming to report safeguarding issue. This should be backed up with a text with the words "Safeguarding Issue" to the same number. We will ring you back.
- 3) Progress your report using the incident form which is available on the website and attached below, email this to Hani Zubeidi at Hani.Zubeidi@mitskills.com and also our Designated Safeguarding Lead Stuart Francis at Stuart.Francis@mitskills.com.

Designated Safeguarding and Prevent Staff to which staff should report concerns in the first instance. Stuart Francis –
Stuart.Francis@mitskills.com

Deputy Safeguarding Officer is Claire Clark - Claire.Clark@mitskills.com.

- MITSkills emphasize the continued importance of all staff acting immediately on any safeguarding or Prevent concerns.
- DSL (and deputy) arrangements during Covid-19 are different in that our Main Office at West Byfleet has reduced staffing and due to this we would ask that you use the following additional steps above.
- There is continued importance staff to work with and support local social workers for looked-after and previously looked-after children (Relevant to those on Study programme and 16 to 19 Traineeships) where there is a known Social work contact please ensure that this is flagged in the incident report.
- *Peer on peer abuse and what staff should do if they have concerns about a staff member who may pose a safeguarding risk to children.*
- During the Covid-19 restrictions peer on peer abuse continues to be a risk including online abuse, and staff are encouraged to discuss wider learner needs and experiences as part of regular review and to encourage learners towards safe online use.
- **As part of our commitment to learners we provide Learning Curve online modules to support learners online and internet safety, safeguarding, and prevent learning. If you have a learner and they have not had access to these training modules, or they have lost their access to these please contact Admin by email. admin@mitskills.com**

- The Government has provided free online courses online to support learner safety, and these resources can be found via the Education and Training foundation called “Side by Side” Please follow the link below

<https://www.etfleaders.org.uk/>

Available courses



The Government as part of the Covid-19 support has also provided the following link to a free course which is an introductory Level 1 course in Cybersecurity and Staying Safe online to support those in learning.

https://www.open.edu/openlearn/science-maths-technology/introduction-cyber-security-stay-safe-online/content-section-overview?utm_source=ncs&utm_campaign=ol&utm_medium=cybersecurity

- Staff should also try to be aware changes in participation in online classroom or online activity that could be suggestive of a safeguarding issues e.g. becoming aware of learners accessing radical materials or using inappropriate use of chat sites texts and emails between peers.(Please refer to Keeping Children Safe in Education) see link.
https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/836144/Keeping_children_safe_in_education_part_1_2020.pdf
- If a member of staff becomes concerned that another member of staff may be using online or personal contact with a learner in a manner that is inappropriate, manipulative or abusive they should report this as a safeguarding concern see reporting above.
- It is of continuing importance staff to work with and support local social workers for looked-after and previously looked-after children (Relevant to those on Study programme and 16 to19 Traineeships) where there is a known Social work contact please ensure that this is flagged in any incident report. In the event staff are contacted by a Social Workers over a Safeguarding concern they must report this to the Company Secretary, and Designated Safeguarding Lead see reporting above.
- *Arrangements to support children the school or college are concerned about who do not meet the 'vulnerable' definition.*

MITSkills expects all learners that delivery staff will continue to support learners on furlough and/or Breaks in Learning with evidence of learning

and review, as well as contact is a continuing requirement. Where a tutor or delivery staff become aware that a learner is failing to participate in learning they should attempt to communicate this with the learner to understand why. This should be flagged to their lead tutor and the contacts given below under failing to engage as part of reporting and within 3 working days of becoming aware of the failure to engage

Whistleblowing – MITSkills has a Whistleblowing Policy and this extends to Prevent. In the case of Prevent related issues, in that a learner or member of staff has concerns that an issue related to extremism, or radicalisation is not being dealt with by MITSkills, or in relation to another provider/college/or school the Department of Education has provided the following contact details.

The DfE counter extremism helpline

Email counter.extremism@education.gov.uk. Telephone 020 7340 7264

If you are concerned about extremism in a FE or training provider organisation, or if you think a learner might be at risk of extremism, contact the DfE helpline.
Open Monday to Friday from 9am to 6pm (excluding bank holidays).

The following are the Department of Education Regional Prevent Coordinators

Regional Further Education (FE) / Higher Education (HE) Prevent Co-ordinators play a key role in the delivery of Prevent, providing FE and HE providers with support to build resilience against the dangers of radicalisation.

More detail is given on the following link

<https://www.safecampuscommunities.ac.uk/prevent/regional-coordinators>

The network is overseen by Chris Rowell, as Head, FE/HE Regional Delivery Network (Prevent and Counter Extremism)

CHRIS Rowell /CHRIS.rowell@EDUCATION.GOV.UK / 07384 872518

NORTH EAST AND YORKS: Chris Sybenga/chris.sybenga@education.gov.uk / 07384 456640

NORTH WEST: Nigel Lund / nigel.lund@education.gov.uk / 07384 452146

WEST MIDLANDS: Hifsa Haroon Iqbal /Hifsa.haroon-iqbal@education.gov.uk / 07785 654148

EAST MIDLANDS: Sam Slack / sam.slack@education.gov.uk / 07384 452156

EASTERN ENGLAND: Dave Layton-Scott (East) - david.layton-scott@education.gov.uk / 07384 452155

SOUTH WEST Salam Arabi-Katbi / salam.katbi@education.gov.uk / 07824 083307

SOUTH EAST: Alamgir Sheriyar / alamgir.sheriyar@education.gov.uk / 07468 714372

LONDON: Jake Butterworth / jake.butterworth@education.gov.uk / 07795 454722

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Safeguarding & Prevent incident report form

(email to Hani.Zubeidi@mitskills.com and Stuart.Francis@mitskills.com)

This form staff to record safeguarding or prevent concerns. The completed form should be sent to a member of the safeguarding team. (If the learner is in immediate danger call 999)

Your name	Your position
Department	Contact phone number
The student's details	
Name	
Address/phone number	
Date of birth	
Other relevant details about the child: <i>E.g. family circumstances, physical and mental health, any communication difficulties.</i>	
Parent/guardian/carers details	
Details of the allegations/suspensions	
Are you recording: (Please put X in box for all relevant)?	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disclosure made directly to you by the learner. • Disclosure or suspicions from a third party? • Your suspicions or concerns? 	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
Date and time of disclosure	
Date and time of incident	
Details of the allegation/suspensions. <i>State exactly what you were told/observed and what was said. Use the persons own words as much as possible</i>	
Action taken so far:	
Signed	Date