

Christ Theological College

Prevent Policy

Safeguarding students and staff from being drawn into terrorism

Document Control

Version: 1.0

Date Approved: July 2026

Approved By: CTC Leadership Team

Policy Owner: Prevent Lead

Review Cycle: Annual

Next Review Date: July 2027

Applicable To: All students, staff, associate tutors, trustees, guest speakers and visitors to CTC online activity

1. Preamble

Christ Theological College trains adults for Christian ministry and service, entirely online, in cohorts that meet weekly by video conference. Its students are mostly mature, mostly in work or ministry, and drawn from the United Kingdom and from a wider diaspora. The College has no campus, no premises open to the public, no student union and no institutional network. Its risk profile in relation to radicalisation is therefore low, and this policy says so rather than manufacturing a sense of threat that would not survive scrutiny.

A low risk is not the same as no risk, and a small institution is not exempt from thinking clearly. Theological education engages directly with questions of authority, obedience, identity, suffering, justice and the legitimacy of violence. Students bring to it real grief, real anger about real injustice, and sometimes real vulnerability. Ministry formation places people in positions of influence over others. And an online college sees its students only through a screen, for two hours a week, which makes noticing harder than it would be in a shared building. Each of those is a reason for CTC to have thought about this in advance and to have said what it would do.

This policy therefore sets out CTC's position honestly: what its legal obligations actually are, what it can realistically do, what it cannot do, and how a member of the College community should act on a concern. It is written to be usable by a part-time tutor at nine o'clock on a Tuesday evening, which is when a concern is most likely to arise.

2. CTC's Position Under the Prevent Duty

This section is placed early and deliberately, because everything else in the policy depends on it being stated accurately.

2.1 Section 26 of the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 requires certain bodies — “specified authorities” listed in Part 1 of Schedule 6 to the Act — in the exercise of their functions, to have due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism.

2.2 The higher education bodies caught by Schedule 6 are, in broad terms, the governing bodies of qualifying institutions within the meaning of the Higher Education Act 2004, together with private higher education institutions with similar characteristics a category defined by reference to institutions with at least 250 students excluding students on distance learning courses.

2.3 CTC is not, on that description, a specified authority, and the Prevent duty does not apply to it as a matter of law. CTC is not registered with the Office for Students, is not a qualifying institution under the Higher Education Act 2004, does not receive public funding for its provision, and delivers wholly by distance learning to a small number of students.

2.4 The 2023 statutory guidance expressly contemplates that bodies which are not specified authorities may nevertheless wish to consider how to prevent people being drawn into terrorism, and may use the guidance to inform good practice. CTC adopts this policy on that basis.

2.5 CTC adopts it voluntarily for four reasons, each of which is a real obligation even though the Prevent duty itself is not:

- Duties that do apply to everyone. Sections 19 and 38B of the Terrorism Act 2000 require the reporting to the police of information about terrorist offences, and failure to report under section 38B is itself a criminal offence.
- Charity law. CTC is a registered charity. Its trustees have a legal duty to protect the charity's people, assets and reputation from abuse, including abuse for terrorist or extremist purposes, and to report serious incidents to the Charity Commission.
- Safeguarding. Radicalisation is a safeguarding matter before it is a security matter. CTC's safeguarding responsibilities toward its students do not depend on whether Schedule 6 names it.
- Partnership. CTC's provision is validated by Union School of Theology, which does hold Prevent responsibilities. CTC does not claim UST's statutory position as its own, but it maintains arrangements that are coherent with those of its validating partner.

2.6 Nothing in this policy should be read as CTC representing itself as a specified authority. Where the College says it will do something, it will do it because it has chosen to, and it can be held to it accordingly.

3. Purpose and Scope

3.1 Purposes

This policy exists so that everyone connected with CTC knows what to do if they think someone is at risk of being drawn into terrorism, who to tell, and what will

happen next. It also sets out how CTC seeks to reduce that risk in the way it teaches, recruits speakers and supports students.

3.2 Scope

It applies to:

- all students, including those studying from outside the United Kingdom;
- all staff, whether employed or engaged as consultants, and all associate tutors;
- trustees and members of any advisory body;
- guest speakers and visiting contributors to CTC teaching;
- anyone else admitted to a CTC online session or event.

CTC does not own or hire out premises, does not provide accommodation, and does not admit members of the public to its teaching. Provisions found in the policies of campus institutions relating to premises hire, external events, halls of residence and hazardous materials are therefore not reproduced here, because CTC does none of those things.

4. Definitions

5. Policy Statement

6. Leadership and Responsibility

7. Risk Assessment

8. Training and Awareness

9. Curriculum, Academic Freedom and Security-Sensitive Material

10. Guest Speakers and Visiting Contributors

11. Online Delivery, IT and Filtering

12. Pastoral Support and the Link with Safeguarding

13. Understanding the Risks of Radicalisation

14. Raising and Reporting a Concern

15. Students and Staff Outside the United Kingdom

16. Records, Confidentiality and Data Protection

17. Freedom of Speech and Freedom of Expression

18. Related Policies

19. Responsibilities, Approval and Review

20. Communication of this Policy

Appendix A – Prevent Concern Reporting Form

Appendix B – Who to Contact

Appendix C – Annual Prevent Risk Assessment Template