Staff Safeguarding Briefing: Key Changes from Policy v12 to v13

Our academy Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy has been updated from v12 (August 2026) to v13 (October 2026) **to reflect two new pieces of statutory government guidance**: the Information Sharing Duty (2026) and the Prevent Duty Practical Guidance (2026).

The core procedures for day-to-day reporting remain the same, but two main areas have been clarified and updated.

1. The Information Sharing Duty: What Has Changed?

The biggest change in v13 is how information is shared between staff and partner agencies (such as Social Services or the Police).

- Parental consent is not needed to share safeguarding information: Under the new Information Sharing Duty and UK data laws, staff do not need parental permission to share information that protects a child or promotes their welfare. The previous policy stated that the school would normally ask for consent first; v13 makes it clear that staff should never hold back concerns due to data protection rules.
- Share early help and everyday concerns: The duty to share applies to early emerging needs, and peer issues - not just emergencies or severe harm.
- Internal communication with classroom staff: In v12, safeguarding details were restricted strictly to the senior leadership team and the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL). Under v13, the DSL will share essential background details on a ***need-to-know basis*** with class teachers, teaching assistants, pastoral staff, and the SENCO so that everyone working with the pupil can support them effectively.
- Transparency without risk: Parents should generally be told what is being shared unless doing so would put the child in danger.

2. Prevent Duty & Radicalisation: What Has Changed?

Section 6 of the policy now gives clearer, practical advice on spotting and reporting signs of radicalisation:

- A pupil does not need a clear ideology to raise concerns: A child does not have to belong to a specific group or follow a traditional political or religious ideology for staff to report a concern.
- Key warning signs to notice:
    - Sudden "us vs. them" divisive language or intolerance.
    - Obsessions with harmful conspiracy theories.
    - Fixation on weapons, mass attacks, or terrorist events.
    - Viewing violent extremist material or showing intense secrecy around devices.
- SEND is not a risk factor: A pupil with special educational needs or neurodiversity is not inherently at risk of radicalisation, and SEND must never be treated as an indicator on its own.

- DSL role enhancements: Designated Safeguarding Leads now undergo advanced Prevent refresher training at least every two years and oversee the prevention of the spread of extremist material.

3. What This Means for You

1. Keep reporting on CPOMS:

Continue to record any changes in behaviour, mood, attendance, or home life as soon as they happen. External agency referrals will generally continue to be handled by your Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL).

2. Never let data protection stop you from raising a concern:

Data protection laws support sharing information to keep children safe. If you are ever unsure, speak directly to a member of the safeguarding team.

3. Be professionally curious:

Look at the full picture of a pupil's wellbeing, including friendships, online activity, and attendance patterns.