



# St Mary's University Twickenham London

## Prevent Policy

Updated: March 2023

### The Prevent Duty overview

Introduced under the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015, the Prevent Duty requires universities to take appropriate steps to prevent people being drawn into terrorism. As part of its role safeguarding and supporting students and staff, the University, like other educational institutions, has a statutory responsibility to adhere to the government's Prevent Duty.

The [Prevent Duty guidance for higher education institutions](#) in England and Wales was updated in 2019. It is monitored by the Office for Students (OfS), which has provided [a framework \(PDF\)](#) that all registered higher education providers in England are expected to satisfy.

If you have any questions or comments in relation to the University's Prevent or Safeguarding duty, please contact either a member of the Prevent Working Group or a Lead Safeguarding Officer.

Alternatively, contact [Prevent@stmarys.ac.uk](mailto:Prevent@stmarys.ac.uk) if you have any concerns in relation to Prevent or call ext. 4268

### University responsibilities

The University must be able to demonstrate that its [policies](#) and procedures fulfil the requirements of the Prevent Duty. Measures in place to do this include:

- assess the risks associated with Prevent and draw up a plan to mitigate these
- have effective welfare support systems, linking to DfE Prevent coordinators, local authorities or the police if necessary
- have systems for assessing and mitigating risks around external speakers and events on campus, while maintaining the existing duty to promote freedom of speech
- arrange ongoing Prevent training for relevant staff
- have an IT usage policy, and where appropriate a research policy, which cover the Prevent duty
- engage with students and ensure that students' unions and societies are aware of policies concerning activities on campus



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## Governance

The Director of Student Operations, Simon Williams, is the institution's Prevent lead. He is supported by Heather Tonkin (EA to the DOSO and secretary of the Prevent working group) and members of the **Prevent Working Group**, drawn from members across the University.

Chaired by the Director of Student Operations, the working group reviews all activity in relation to the Act and monitors implementation of statutory guidance relating to it. The group is responsible through the Safeguarding lead (COO) to the Chair of the Board of Governors who signs off the Annual Data Return to the Office for Students.

## Prevent Working Group

The Prevent Working Group was established in 2015 to coordinate work across the University and ensure that the University is meeting its Prevent obligations. The group meets regularly throughout the academic year and also links in with external bodies where relevant, including the local Prevent Co-ordinator, who attends a meeting once a year to give a regional and national update on Prevent.

The Prevent Group is chaired by the Director of Student Operations and includes the following members;

- Director of Student Operations
- EA to the Director of Student Operations (Secretary and note taker)
- Security Operations Manager
- University Secretary and Head of Legal Governance
- CEO of the Students' Union
- Head of Student Services
- Director of the Institute of Education

## Freedom of Speech

The University has a statutory responsibility and is committed to upholding freedom of speech and at the same time, it has a responsibility to all staff, students and members of the public, including any speakers, to ensure there are processes and procedures in place to safeguard them.

We are proud to be an inclusive University community, where people from all backgrounds can come together to share their views and experiences and in which ideas can be heard and tested.

We encourage our students to show they can challenge and interrogate different viewpoints in a thoughtful, tolerant and courteous way.



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Any member of staff can refer an event to the University Secretary/Senior Leadership Team if they think it may pose a risk, to do this the below referral form should be completed and submitted to the University Secretary.

## [Event/Speaker Referral Form](#)

Additional guidance on referring an event or completing the form, can be found in the following document [Event/Speaker Referral Guidance](#).

For further information on organised events at St Marys, please see the following documents:

- [Event Management Policy](#)
- [Room Booking Procedure](#)

## External Speakers

We expect all speakers who attend events across any of our campuses, or being held online, to conform to the University and SMSU policies

Both the University and St Marys Students Union reserve the right to deny access to a speaker, or to stop a talk, if an individual or organisation refuses to comply with these requirements or breaches the policy in any way.

## Online

The University's [IT Policy](#) applies to the use of all IT systems at St Mary's used for electronic communication and content creation, as well as network security.

For further guidance and advice please contact the [IT department](#).

Staff and students should note that if they wish to access material which may relate to terrorism as part of their teaching or learning or research, they should obtain the relevant approval for the research through the Ethics Sub-Committee.

Further information can be found on the [Ethics Guidelines and Forms](#) pages on StaffNet, or contact the Research Officer for further information.