University of Oxford
St Edmund Hall

PREVENT POLICY

The Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 (CTSA) created a statutory duty for specified public authorities to have 'due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism'. Prevent is one of the four strands of the government's counter-terrorism strategy. Universities became subject to the Prevent duty on 19 September 2015.

Oxford University states that:
"Prevent must not be implemented in such a way that it overrides those existing rights without which the University of Oxford could not function as a place of higher learning. These existing rights include the rights to free expression, academic freedom, autonomy, confidentiality, privacy and equal treatment under the law - it is vital that the University continues to assert the importance of those rights."

St Edmund Hall is meeting its obligations under Prevent cognisant of (a) the explicit responsibility of the CTSA to 'have a particular regard to the duty to ensure freedom of speech' and the importance of academic freedom and (b) the fundamental importance of pre-existing legislation, such as the Human Rights Act 1998, the Education Act 1986, the Education Reform Act 1988 and the Equality Act 2010.

St Edmund Hall takes the following actions:

1. The College conducts an annual review to satisfy the Governing Body that PREVENT policies and practice are not undermining, remain subject to, and are operating in a manner to secure and protect, existing rights.

   The College puts this into practice by means of the Governing Body commissioning an annual review from the Senior Dean, as Prevent Lead, in order to satisfy itself that the PREVENT duty is being implemented in a manner that does not undermine, and secures and protects, existing rights, including to free expression, academic freedom, autonomy, confidentiality, privacy, and equal treatment under the law.

2. The College maintains access to the University working group on PREVENT to work with HEFCE and the University to issue guidance and templates for risk assessments, action plans and policy changes.

The College puts this into practice by means of the Governing Body reviewing the template risk assessments and guidance, and adopting action plans, as and when promulgated. The Welfare Dean/College Nurse, Senior Welfare Officer, Senior Dean, and Junior Discipline Dean undertake Prevent training on an annual basis.

3. The College includes compliance with PREVENT duties in the College's risk register which is reviewed annually by Governing Body when making its annual report to HEFCE and other bodies.

   The College puts this into practice by means of the Governing Body reviewing the College's risk register, as updated and maintained by the Finance Bursar, to include a reference to the PREVENT risk assessment and action plan.

4. The College nominates key individuals to take responsibility for the PREVENT duty.

   The College puts this into practice by means of the Governing Body having nominated the following key individuals as responsible for the PREVENT duty: Principal, Senior Tutor, Senior Dean (as Prevent Lead), Finance Bursar, Domestic Bursar, Chaplain, and Welfare Dean/College Nurse.

5. The College nominates a PREVENT Leader for the College, the PREVENT Leader to have special responsibility for the PREVENT duty and for reporting to the Governing Body.

   The College puts this into practice by means of the Governing Body having nominated the Senior Dean as PREVENT Leader for the College.

The St Edmund Hall **Freedom of Speech Statement** is available as a separate policy document. Further information on Prevent at the University is available at: https://compliance.admin.ox.ac.uk/prevent

Approval and Review

This PREVENT Policy was prepared by St Edmund Hall.

It will be reviewed on an annual basis to ensure continuing appropriateness.

Policy approved by the General Purposes and Bursarial Committee and recommended for approval by Governing Body.

Date: May 2026

Next review date: May 2029

Version Control:

Version	Date Created	Created By	Position	Authorised By
1	20/06/2016	N. Davidson	Dean / Prevent Officer	S. Costa
2	17/01/2019	C. Sweeney	Domestic Bursar	Governing Body
3	17/11/2019	C. Sweeney	Domestic Bursar	Governing Body
4	20/01/2020	C. Sweeney	Domestic Bursar	Governing Body, 10/02/2021
5	31/05/2023	L Butler	Governance Officer	Governing Body, 14/06/2023
6	29/05/2026	M Blandford Baker & Dr A Lloyd	Domestic Bursar & Senior Dean	Governing Body, 17/06/2026