

PREVENT factsheet for staff, governors and regular volunteers

'**Prevent**' relates to the Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015

Since July 1st, 2015 there has been a duty on schools to have 'due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism'. This is called the *Prevent* duty.

Prevent is part of the Government's counter terrorism strategy. Its aim is to stop people from becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism in all its forms, domestic or international.

All staff should be aware of the following:

What is radicalisation?

"Radicalisation" refers to the process by which a person comes to support terrorism and forms of extremism leading to terrorism. During the process of 'radicalisation' it is possible to intervene to prevent vulnerable people being drawn into terrorist-related activity.

What is extremism?

Extremism is defined by the DfE as '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 includes calls for the death of members of our armed forces, whether in this country or overseas.'

Extremism can take several forms, including far-right, animal rights and Islamist extremism. Being drawn into terrorism includes violent and non-violent extremism.

What are British Values?

British values are defined by the DfE as 'Democracy, the rule of law, equality of opportunity, freedom of speech and the rights for all men and women to live free from persecution of any kind'.

Schools are expected to encourage pupils to respect other people regarding the protected characteristics set out in the Equality Act 2010 (age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion and belief, sex and sexual orientation).

Schools can build pupils' resilience to radicalisation by promoting fundamental British values and enabling them to challenge extremist views. The Prevent duty is not intended to stop pupils debating controversial issues. Schools should provide a safe place in which children, young people and staff can understand the risks associated with terrorism and develop the knowledge and skills to be able to challenge extremist arguments.

What action should staff take if they are worried that a child or young person might be drawn into extremism?

Protecting children from the risk of radicalisation should be part of the school's wider safeguarding duties and is similar to protecting children from other harms (eg drugs, gangs, neglect, sexual exploitation), whether they come from within their family or are the product of outside influences.

Schools must have procedures in place to safeguard children that includes protecting children at risk of radicalisation. These procedures should be set out in existing safeguarding policies. Wiltshire Council recommends that all staff, governors and regular volunteers undertake the free online Prevent training.

Staff should be alert to the signs that a young person is becoming radicalised and use the school's existing child protection procedures, informing the Designated Safeguarding Lead without delay of any child or young person they are concerned about.

Concerns might be

- the 'generic' safeguarding triggers linked to the child protection training staff have received such as: changes in behaviour and mood, self-harm; or
- the specific extremist strand such as: showing sympathy for extremist causes, glorifying violence, evidence of possessing illegal or extremist literature etc.

Preventing Radicalisation

What to do if you have a concern?

1. Your first course of action should be to follow your school's standard safeguarding procedures. This includes discussing any concerns with your school's DSL, who may get further advice from the local authority.

For additional support outside school, you can:

- Email: channelsw@avonandsomerset.pnn.police.uk
- Call 101 (the non-emergency police number)

or

2. If you're not sure what to do about a concern, then the Department for Education has a **counter-extremism helpline**. You can call them for advice on **020 7340 7264** between 9am and 5pm, Monday to Friday (excluding bank holidays).

or

3. If you think someone is in immediate danger, or if you see or hear something that may be terrorist-related, trust your instincts and call 999 or the confidential Anti-Terrorist Hotline on 0800 789 321

Contacting the authorities won't get a pupil into trouble if a criminal act hasn't been committed. The police and local authority will discuss your concerns, suggest how they can best help the child and give you access to relevant support and advice.

The police might suggest a referral to the Channel programme. This is a voluntary, confidential programme which aims to safeguard children and adults being drawn into terrorism. Channel can provide a support plan and specific interventions to protect those at risk, including mentoring support or an ideological or theological intervention.

You can find out more about Channel at:
www.gov.uk/government/publications/channel-guidance or call 101 for more information.

Preventing radicalisation

Factsheet for Headteachers and Designated Safeguarding Leads

DfE guidance and links:

- [Prevent Duty Guidance: for England and Wales](#) (July 2015)
Statutory guidance (see p.10-15 for schools, registered childcare providers and further education).
- [The Prevent Duty, Departmental advice for schools and childcare providers](#) (June 2015)
Non-statutory advice for governing bodies, Headteachers/Principals, DSLs, and school staff.
- [Keeping Children Safe in Education](#) (revised September 2019)
The statutory guidance includes information about the *Prevent* duty (p.84)
- [HM gov e-learning prevent online training](#) is provided, suitable for school staff
- [Advice on promoting fundamental British values](#).

The requirements on schools and academies are summarised by four themes:

1. Risk assessment

Schools and academies are expected to assess the risk of children being drawn into terrorism, including support for extremist ideas that are part of terrorist ideology. This means being able to demonstrate both a general understanding of the risks affecting children and young people in the area and a specific understanding of how to identify individual children who may be at risk of radicalisation and what to do to support them.

2. Working in partnership

School staff should understand when it is appropriate to make a referral to the Channel programme. Channel is a programme which focuses on providing support at an early stage to people who are identified as being vulnerable to being drawn into terrorism. An individual's engagement with the programme is voluntary.

3. Staff training

The statutory guidance refers to the importance of Prevent awareness training to equip staff to identify children at risk of being drawn into terrorism and to challenge extremist ideas.

4. IT policies

The statutory guidance requires schools to ensure that children are safe from terrorist and extremist material when accessing the internet in schools. Schools should ensure that suitable filtering is in place.

Principles

Staff must be able to identify children who may be vulnerable to radicalisation and know what to do when they are identified.

Schools and academies can build pupils' resilience to radicalisation by promoting fundamental British values and enabling them to challenge extremist views.

The Prevent duty is not intended to stop pupils debating controversial issues. On the contrary, schools should provide a safe space in which children, young people and staff can understand the risks associated with terrorism and develop the knowledge and skills to be able to challenge extremist arguments.

Schools and childcare providers should have clear procedures in place for protecting children at risk of radicalisation. These procedures may be set out in existing safeguarding policies. It is not necessary for schools and childcare settings to have distinct policies on implementing the Prevent duty.

Schools should ensure

- existing policies relate to the above requirements, eg the Wiltshire Model CP policy, revised 2019.
- British Values are promoted and that school leaders can demonstrate the impact of this.
- the Designated Safeguarding Lead (as a minimum) undertakes Prevent awareness training and is able to provide advice and support to staff on protecting children from the risk of radicalisation. Staff should be equipped with necessary skills to identify children at risk and to challenge extremist ideas
- the school meets the requirements of the Equalities Act.