

Prevent factsheet for staff, governors and volunteers

'Prevent' relates to the Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015 which came into force on 1 July 2015.

Since July 1 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 will be trained using the '**Workshop to Raise Awareness of Prevent**' [WRAP] training materials in 2015/16. Until that training session occurs 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?

'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'.

Please note that being drawn into terrorism includes not only violent extremism but also non-violent extremism. Extremism can take several forms, including Islamist extremism, far-right and animal rights extremism for example.

What are British Values?

'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 with particular regard to 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. It is important to emphasise that the Prevent duty is not intended to stop pupils debating controversial issues. On the contrary, 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 seen as part of the school's wider safeguarding duties, and is similar in nature to protecting children from other harms (e.g. drugs, gangs, neglect, sexual exploitation), whether they come from within their family or are the product of outside influences.

The school has clear procedures in place to safeguard children that includes protecting children at risk of radicalisation. These procedures will be set out in existing safeguarding policies.

Staff should be alert to the signs that a young person is becoming radicalised and utilise 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 can 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.

If a member of staff has a concern about a particular pupil they should **follow the school's normal safeguarding procedures, including discussing these with the school's Designated Safeguarding Lead.**

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 entirely voluntary at all stages.
- 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. The Home Office has developed a core training product for this purpose – Workshop to Raise Awareness of Prevent (WRAP).
- 4. IT policies**
The statutory guidance makes clear the need for 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

In order for schools and academies to fulfil the Prevent duty, it is essential that staff are able to identify children who may be vulnerable to radicalisation, and know what to do when they are identified. Protecting pupils from the risk of radicalisation should be seen as part of schools' wider safeguarding duties, and is similar in nature to protecting children from other harms (e.g. drugs, gangs, neglect, sexual exploitation), whether these come from within their family or are the product of outside influences.

There are several ways to identify pupils at risk: specific background factors may contribute to vulnerability such as families and friends, internet and use of social media etc. School staff are encouraged to use their professional judgement in identifying children who might be at risk of radicalisation. An indicator might be to notice changes in children's behaviour.

Schools and academies can also build pupils' resilience to radicalisation by promoting fundamental British values and enabling them to challenge extremist views. It is important to emphasise that 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.

Next Steps

- The school should review existing policies in relation to the above sections, using the LA model CP policy, revised in June 2015 (see section on Preventing Radicalisation p.19-20);
- The school should, through the curriculum, promote British Values and individual leaders be able to demonstrate the impact of this in their area;
- As a minimum, schools should ensure that the Designated Safeguarding Lead undertakes Prevent awareness training and is able to provide advice and support to other members of 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;
- All staff to receive WRAP training from the DSL;
- All curriculum leaders to ensure that their curriculum meets the requirement of modern Britain and being able to signpost British Values in it;
- Check that the school is meeting the requirements of the Equalities Act (as well as the specific extremist/radicalisation agenda this includes how the school is tackling issues such as homophobic bullying and Female Genital Mutilation);
- Ensure the school has a policy and clear procedures for recording, reporting and monitoring prejudice-related incidents.

Further resources

Information and training links have been included in [The Prevent Duty](#).

- [HM gov e-learning prevent online training](#) is provided, suitable for school staff
- [UK Safer Internet Centre website](#): for general advice and resources on internet safety
- [Advice on promoting fundamental British values](#).

What to do if you have a concern? The school's normal safeguarding procedures should be followed; where deemed necessary, discuss the concerns with Children's Social Care (MASH).

- You can also contact your local police force or dial 101 (the non-emergency number) for support and advice.
- Concerns relating to extremism can be raised directly using the Department for Education dedicated helpline:

Tel:	020 7340 7264
Email:	counter.extremism@education.gov.uk

Please note that the helpline is not intended for use in emergency situations, such as a child being at immediate risk of harm or a security incident, in which case the normal emergency procedures should be followed.

DfE guidance:

- **Prevent Duty Guidance: for England and Wales** (July 2015)
Statutory guidance published in March 2015 as part as the UK's Counter Terrorism strategy which came into force 1 July 2015
(see p.10-15 for schools, registered childcare providers and further education).
- **The Prevent Duty, Departmental advice for schools and childcare providers** (June 2015)
This non-statutory departmental advice is for governing bodies, Headteachers / Principals, Designated Safeguarding Leads and school staff. The document clarifies what the *Prevent* duty means for schools and what actions are necessary to demonstrate compliance with the duty. It also provides sources of information, advice and support.
- **Keeping Children Safe in Education** (revised September 2018)
The statutory guidance includes information about the *Prevent* duty (p.81)