

# **Prevent Policy**Preventing the Radicalisation of Young People

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#### **DevonPathways Safeguarding Team**

Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) and Prevent Lead:

*Tania Mayes* 07546 744072

#### **Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads (DDSLs):**

<u>Chris Kenny</u> 07858 111600

*Lucinda Billington* 07709 395545



#### 1. Policy Statement

DevonPathways recognises its statutory duty to have due regard to the need to safeguard and prevent young people/pupils from being drawn into terrorism or extremist ideology. This policy outlines the principles and values underpinning the expectations of DevonPathways in carrying out the Prevent duty. We adopt a zero-tolerance approach to radicalisation and work preventatively to promote resilience, belonging and critical thinking. The current national terrorism threat level (at the time of this policy's review) is substantial, meaning a terrorist attack is likely. The UK threat picture includes online radicalisation, extremist propaganda, grievance-based narratives and ideology spread via digital platforms. In the South West region risks typically involve online radicalisation, low-level extremist grooming, conspiracy ideology and vulnerability through isolation.

#### 2. Legal Framework

This policy has been developed in accordance with the principles established by the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act (2015 & 2019), CONTEST Strategy (2023), Channel Duty Guidance (2023) and also the Children Acts 1989 and 2004; the Education Act 2002 and 2011, and in line with government publications Prevent Duty Guidance: for England and Wales (2015, updated 2023), Working Together to Safeguard Children (2015, updated 2023). This policy also reflects Keeping Children Safe in Education (2025) and our responsibilities regarding the Prevent Strategy.

#### 3. Purpose and Scope

Since the publication of the Prevent strategy, there has been an awareness of the specific need to safeguard young people/pupils and families from radicalisation and extremist ideology. *Keeping young people/pupils safe from these risks is a fundamental part of wider safeguarding duties and should be approached in the same way as safeguarding young people/pupils from other risks*. Young people/pupils should be protected from messages of all violent and non-violent extremism.

DevonPathways aims to safeguard all staff and young people/pupils from the threat of extremism and ensure that our support, guidance and curriculum builds resilience to radicalisation by promoting fundamental British values and empowers young people/pupils to reject violent or extremist behaviour. Young people/pupils will be safeguarded through education and have access to a safe space where they can develop their understanding of the risks associated with terrorism and develop their knowledge and skills to be able to challenge extremist arguments.

Young people/pupils can be exposed to a wide range of extremist influences or prejudiced views and behaviours, including via the internet, from an early age. Early intervention and education are a powerful and necessary way of safeguarding against extremism and radicalisation.

This policy aims to ensure:

- the early identification of young people/pupils at risk
- proportionate intervention
- protection of welfare
- promotion of British Values
- the upholding of safe referrals through Channel
- ongoing staff vigilance and compliance



This policy applies to all staff, volunteers, visitors, contractors, and external partners working with DevonPathways and the young people/pupils attending.

#### 4. Definitions

**Radicalisation** is the process of a person legitimising support for, or use of, terrorist violence. A terrorist 'ideology' is a set of beliefs, principles, and objectives to which an individual or group purports to adhere and attempts to instil in others to radicalise them towards becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism. There are several concepts or 'tools' that often feature in terrorist and extremist ideologies, including: narrative, propaganda, grievances, and conspiracy theory.

**Terrorism** is an action that endangers or causes serious violence to a person/people; causes serious damage to property; or seriously interferes or disrupts an electronic system. The use or threat must be designed to influence the government or to intimidate the public and is made for the purpose of advancing a political, religious or ideological cause.

**Extremism** is defined in the Prevent strategy as the 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. It also includes extremism calls for the death of members of our armed forces.

#### 5. Roles and Responsibilities

It is everyone's responsibility to identify, report on and prevent extremism. The Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) is the Prevent Lead. Each group of stakeholders has individual responsibilities that must be adhered to if radicalisation is to be identified and addressed.

#### Leaders:

- must ensure that staff are aware of and have read the policy and understand the procedures outlined
- must ensure young people/pupils and, where appropriate, parents/carers, are given regular feedback on the action being taken
- must ensure that safeguarding arrangements within the setting and linked policies reflect the importance that information is shared with the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL), including deputies, in a timely manner and the role of the DSL to consider the level of risk and decide which agency to make a referral to, if necessary, in line with the normal safeguarding procedures. The Devon Prevent Referral Flowchart and Channel Referral Flowchart (see appendix 2 and appendix 3) can be utilised to determine the most effective course of action

#### Staff:

- must read and adhere to the policy
- should provide a safe place in which young people/pupils can debate ideas and discuss controversial ideas, as age appropriate
- must always strive to be aware of potential or actual radicalisation or extremist behaviour and take action when there are concerns
- must report and record all concerns following the organisation policies and procedures (initially, this will be communicating with the Designated Safeguarding Lead)
- must not promote partisan political views in sessions/teaching and, where political issues are brought to the attention of young people/pupils, they are offered a balanced presentation of opposing views



#### **Director/Governance:**

- must ensure that the organisation has a Prevent policy and that it is reviewed annually
- must ensure that there is a leader that has specific responsibility for Prevent agenda, usually the Designated Safeguarding Lead.
- must ensure that the effectiveness of the Prevent Policy is regularly monitored and that this is reported to appropriate bodies

#### **Parents/Carers:**

- please see appendix 5 for more information about Prevent
- should contact their child's school or with DevonPathways immediately if they know or suspect their child is at risk of radicalisation in order to work in partnership with the school/organisation. This applies even if the child has asked for 'secrecy'.
- should share with the school or with DevonPathways any concerns they have that children are at risk of extremism, even when it does not directly involve their child
- out of school hours (e.g. school holidays) parents should share their concerns with Police or Children services and notify their child's school or DevonPathways at the earliest opportunity

#### 6. Indicators of Risk and Susceptibility to Radicalisation

There is no single way of identifying an individual who is likely to be susceptible to a terrorist ideology or radicalisation. As with managing other safeguarding risks, staff should be alert to signs, symptoms and changes in behaviour, which could indicate the need for help or protection.

These may include, but not limited to:

- sudden ideological fixation
- changes in friendship groups, often older persons or groups of adults
- a lack of empathy for and/or hostile attitudes towards others groups and/or the views or beliefs of others
- a level of understanding or expressed views that are beyond the norm for their age
- clothing or other physical changes suggesting a concern (e.g. symbols or badges)
- secretive and/or extensive use of the internet
- association with and/or viewing of material linked to extreme groups/networks/ organisations
- a willingness to share extreme views with peers or staff
- irregular attendance or known to go missing from home
- written or art work expressing extremist views
- gifts (including mobile devices) or unexplained sums of money
- withdrawing from longstanding friendships or groups such as sports teams

Staff should be aware that some groups of young people/pupils are more vulnerable to radicalisation or grooming. Some common factors include, but are not limited to:

- struggling with a sense of identity
   becoming distanced from their cultural or religious background
- questioning their place in society
- family issues
- experiencing a traumatic event
- experiencing racism or discrimination
- difficulty in interacting socially and lacking empathy
- difficulty in understanding the consequences of their actions
- low self-esteem



External factors such as: community tension, events affecting the country or region where they or their parents are from, or having friends or family who have joined extremist groups are also contributing factors in increasing vulnerability to radicalisation.

The Channel Vulnerability Assessment Framework (see Appendix 1: 'Further Information' for more details) provides other possible indicators, but emphasises that it should not be assumed that the characteristics necessarily give definitive indication of a commitment to terrorism or engagement with an extremist group/ideology.

Young people/pupils at risk of radicalisation may display different signs or seek to hide their views. Staff should use their professional judgement in identifying young people/pupils who might be at risk of radicalisation and, as with any other safeguarding risk, they must take action when they observe behaviours of concern.

DevonPathways recognises its duty to protect our young people/pupils from radicalisation into any form of extreme ideology which may lead to the harm of self or others. This includes the prevalence of exposure to online extremist materials, narratives and recruitment. DevonPathways will therefore aim to do the following:

- educate young people/pupils about the appropriate use of online platforms and social media and the dangers of downloading and sharing inappropriate material both online and offline, as age appropriate
- educate young people/pupils about the concepts of radicalisation and extreme ideology, as age appropriate
- inform young people/pupils about the importance of online/internet safety using all curriculum and pastoral opportunities
- ensure that young people/pupils are unable to access any inappropriate internet sites whilst using technology provided by the organisation, through the use of appropriate cybersecurity, filtering, firewalls and security settings. This should include a mechanism that alerts the safeguarding team to any concerning internet searches and/or inappropriate internet use.

## 7. Arrangements for Visiting Speakers

DevonPathways has clear protocols for ensuring that any visiting speakers are appropriately supervised and suitable. DevonPathways' responsibility to young people/pupils is to ensure that they can critically assess the information they receive as to its value themselves and that the information is aligned to the ethos and values of DevonPathways and British values. In order to safeguard young people/pupils from visiting speakers to DevonPathways who may have extreme or radical views, DevonPathways will:

- ensure all visiting speakers have a named point of contact
- undertake a risk assessment, including carrying out due diligence if deemed necessary, before agreeing to a visiting speaker being allowed to attend DevonPathways
- ensure all visiting speakers are carefully vetted and take immediate action if any individual or group is perceived to be attempting to radicalise members of the DevonPathways community. This should be reported to all appropriate bodies, including, as appropriate, Local Couter Terrorism Policing Team (01392 225130 / prevent@devonandcornwall.pnn.police.uk
- use an open online search to check any organisations which wish to have an ongoing relationship with DevonPathways, particularly those in the voluntary sector



- ensure that visiting speakers understand that, where appropriate, their sessions should actively
  promote the British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect
  and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs and at no point undermine these
- on arrival, confirm the identity of the visiting speakers using photographic ID and share organisation safeguarding procedures
- ensure all visiting speakers, whilst in attendance, are supervised by a member of staff
- keep an appropriate record of visiting speakers showing that the required checks have been completed

#### 8. Arrangements for Hiring and Lettings

DevonPathways will undertake due diligence before any agreement is made. If there is a concern about an individual or group hiring a space, this will be reported to all appropriate bodies, including, as appropriate, Local Couter Terrorism Policing Team (01392 225130 / prevent@devonandcornwall.pnn.police.uk. A record will be kept of all individuals and groups hiring any space. Any organisations or individuals wishing to hire any space will be 'open source' checked to confirm that they do not have any extreme or radical views. This requirement will also be included in any Letting Agreements.

#### 9. Staff Training

In order to fulfil the requirements of the Prevent Duty DevonPathways will:

- ensure the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) undertakes Prevent training relevant to the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) role and is able to provide advice and support to other members of staff on protecting young people/pupils from the risk of radicalisation.
- ensure all staff complete the online Home Office Prevent duty training (which should be refreshed annually) and receive regular updates through safeguarding briefings
- circulate the Prevent policy annually to all staff, who need to read and sign stating they understand the policy. A record of this will be kept.
- ensure staff are trained to be vigilant in spotting signs of extremist views and behaviours and that they always report to the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) anything which may suggest a young person/pupil, another staff member, a parent/carer, a visitor or member of the community is expressing opinions which may cause concern.
- ensure staff are aware of and follow the organisation reporting policies and procedures, as for any other safeguarding concern, as laid out in the Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy
- ensure staff understand the importance of reporting student attendance/absences in line with organisation policy, so that this can be recorded, shared, monitored and addressed as appropriate
- ensure staff are aware of how to identify and respond to risks to young people/pupils from extreme views. Staff are also advised to access 'Educate Against Hate' (see Appendix 1: 'Further Information' for more details) where signs of radicalisation are shared to help staff inform themselves about young people/pupils who might be at risk of being radicalised



#### 10. Curriculum and British Values

DevonPathways ensures its young people/pupils are offered a broad and balanced curriculum which aims to prepare them for life by encouraging them to be inquisitive learners who embrace difference and diversity while they themselves thrive, feel valued and are not marginalised.

As appropriate to the age of the young person/pupil, practices include:

- questioning to open up safe debate
- building confidence to promote honesty about a plurality of views
- ensuring freedom of expression and freedom from threat
- debating fundamental moral and human rights principles
- promoting open respectful dialogue
- affirming multiple identities

DevonPathways ensures that embedded within the curriculum are opportunities for young people/pupils to build resilience to extremism and enable them to develop a positive sense of identity through the development of critical thinking skills. Young people/pupils are encouraged to participate in discussion, with speaking and listening being embedded in all areas of the wider curriculum, and with everyone able to speak freely and voice their opinions. However, there is an understanding that freedom comes with responsibility and free speech that is designed to manipulate the vulnerable or that leads to violence and harm of others goes against the moral principles in which freedom of speech is valued. DevonPathways promotes democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, mutual respect and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs.

#### Curriculum content includes:

- promoting knowledge, skills and understanding to build the resilience of learners
- exploring controversial issues
- recognising local needs
- challenging extremist narratives
- promoting universal rights
- promoting critical analysis
- promoting pro-social values

#### 11. Prevent Risk Assessment

The Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) is responsible for completing and reviewing a Prevent risk assessment (see appendix 4), in order to assess the delivery of the Prevent duty, as an organisation, and to address the risk of young people/pupils supporting terrorism or engaging with an extremist group/ideology.

## 12. Managing Referrals & Working in Partnership

All concerns must be reported to the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) Any immediate risk should be reported via 999. If a young person/pupil has presented as being at risk of radicalisation to extreme views, the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) will consider the level of risk, discuss with the young person/pupil and their parents/carers/families (where appropriate) and refer to the most suitable agency. Please see appendix 2 and appendix 3 for the Devon Prevent Referral Flowchart and Channel Referral Flowchart, which can be utilised to determine the most effective course of action.



DevonPathways will then work in partnership with the relevant agencies to seek advice, support and guidance, drawing on multi-agency expertise, to support young people/pupils at risk. A strong multi-agency partnership across the whole system of help, support and protection, including effective work from all agencies, parents/carers and families, is vital. This includes a child-centred approach within a whole family focus and, it is in this context how all practitioners should work in partnership with parents and carers as far as possible.

The Prevent Duty should be seen as part of our existing safeguarding framework and this policy should be read in conjunction with all other safeguarding policies.

#### 13. Record Keeping and Oversight

All records are stored securely and are GDPR-compliant. These are overseen by the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL), director and governance for statutory accountability.

#### 14. Review

This policy is reviewed annually, or sooner if legislation changes or safeguarding context shifts.



## **Appendix 1: Further Information**

Prevent Duty: The Prevent Duty - advice for schools and carers

Prevent Duty self-assessment tool for schools: <u>Prevent duty self-assessment tool for schools – GOV.UK</u> (www.gov.uk)

<u>Prevent duty training: Learn how to support people susceptible to radicalisation | Prevent duty training (support-people-vulnerable-to-radicalisation.service.gov.uk)</u>

Gov.UK Safeguarding learners vulnerable to radicalisation: <u>The Prevent duty: safeguarding learners vulnerable to radicalisation – GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)</u>

Gov.UK, Prevent Factsheet: <u>FACTSHEET</u>: <u>Prevent and Channel – 2021 – Home Office in the media</u> (<u>blog.gov.uk</u>)

Gov.UK, get help if you are worried someone is being radicalized: <u>Get help for radicalisation concerns – GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)</u>

Local Police Prevent team (Devon) if unsure a concern is Prevent relevant or if seeking further advice and signposting contact the local police prevent team on: 01392 225130 Prevent@devonandcornwall.pnn.police.uk

Devon and Cornwall Police website (Prevent) <a href="https://www.devon-cornwall.police.uk/advice/your-community/prevent-reporting-and-preventing-radicalisation-terrorism-and-extremism/">https://www.devon-cornwall.police.uk/advice/your-community/prevent-reporting-and-preventing-radicalisation-terrorism-and-extremism/</a>

Educate against the Hate (Government advice and trusted resources to safeguard students from radicalisation, build resilience to all types of extremism and promote shared values.) <a href="https://educateagainsthate.com/">https://educateagainsthate.com/</a>

Channel Vulnerability Assessment Framework <a href="https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/5a7a36bee5274a34770e50fe/vul-assessment.pdf">https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/5a7a36bee5274a34770e50fe/vul-assessment.pdf</a>



## **Appendix 2: Devon Prevent Referral Flowchart**

- Practitioner identifies Prevent concern
- Call 999 if
  - o There is immediate risk of harm to the subject or another
  - o Or immediate risk of a crime being committed
  - Or immediate risk of travel to a conflict zone
- Otherwise, discuss concerns with line manager or safeguarding lead. If, following conversation, a Prevent referral is believed to be required, contact the local Counter Terrorism Policing Team to seek guidance on 01392 225130 or email prevent@devonandandcornwall.pnn.police.uk.
- If the concern meets criteria for a Prevent referral and relates to an adult (aged 18 or over)
  - O Complete the Police Prevent Referral Form.
  - If the adult is a parent, carer or guardian of a child under 18 or has been identified as living in the same household as a child under 18, complete a <u>Front Door (MASH) Request for Support (call 0345 155 1071 for</u> guidance if required). Please state that a Prevent referral has been submitted to the police and include headline context from the Prevent referral to enable a rounded assessment of need.
- If the concern meets criteria for a Prevent referral and relates to a child (aged under 18)
  - O Complete Police Prevent Referral Form.
  - And complete a <u>Front Door (MASH) Request for Support (call 0345 155 1071 for guidance if required)</u>.
     Please state that a Prevent referral has been submitted to the police and include headline context from the Prevent referral to enable a rounded assessment of need.
  - Alternatively, if you are the social worker for the child or young person you have Prevent concerns about, complete the <u>Police Prevent Referral Form</u>.
- If the concern does not meet criteria for a Prevent referral but does meet criteria for a safeguarding referral
  - o If the concern relates to a child (under 18) seek consent and complete a Front Door (MASH) Request for Support (call 0345 155 1071 for guidance if required).
  - o If the concern relates to an adult (18 and over) complete a Safeguarding Adult Referral Form.
- If the concern does not meet criteria for a Prevent referral or a safeguarding referral
  - Give consideration to Early Help and the Adolescent Safety Framework (applicable if the person is under 18, or is 18-25 and is a care leaver or has Special Educational Needs).
- After a Prevent referral has been submitted the Counter Terrorism Policing Team contact the referrer. Information is shared between Safeguarding Teams and Counter Terrorism Policing Team as appropriate. A screening assessment conducted and the outcome is one of the following:
  - Police Prevent process.
  - o Referral into multiagency **Channel** (see below).
  - No further action in relation to Prevent. However, other safeguarding action may be taken if deemed appropriate.



## **Appendix 3: Channel Referral Flowchart**

- Once a referral has been made and it meets the Channel criteria, the Police will carry out the below process with the support of multi-agency partners working to the relevant Local Authority Lead. This process takes place in order to identify the level of risk and provide an appropriate support plan where necessary.
- Further information gathering with referrer and other key agencies that the individual is involved with. Aim is to establish the following:
  - Are there shared concerns?
  - o Is there susceptibility to radicalisation?
- If there is deemed to be no risk or the risk does not meet Channel threshold then consideration is given to signposting to safeguarding/other processes as appropriate.
- If there is deemed to be a risk, a multiagency Channel Panel meeting is arranged. This will be chaired by the Local Authority Channel Lead and attended by relevant multiagency representatives.
  - The Channel Panel reviews the case and decides whether or not it is appropriate to adopt the case into Channel.
  - o If the decision is taken to adopt the case the Channel Panel will explore support options and liaise with the referred individual (or the referred individual's parent/carer if under 18) to gain consent.
  - If consent is gained a plan is agreed by the Channel Panel and support/interventions are offered. The
    individual will exit the Channel process when all panel members feel the susceptibility to radicalisation has
    been completely removed or significantly lessened. Where appropriate regular updates will be provided to
    relevant family members throughout.
- If the decision is taken not to adopt the case into Channel then consideration may be given to signposting to safeguarding or other processes as appropriate (e.g. Early Help).



## **Appendix 4: Prevent Risk Assessment**

### **DevonPathways: Prevent Risk Assessment**

Written in accordance with the principles established within the Prevent Duty Guidance 2015 & 2023), Counter Terrorism and Security Act (2015 & 2019) and Keeping Children Safe in Education (2025) with due regard to the need to safeguard and prevent young people/pupils from being drawn into terrorism or extremist ideology. National risks – risks of radicalisation more generally: the UK threat picture includes online radicalisation, extremist propaganda, grievance-based narratives and ideology spread via digital platforms. Local risks – risk of radicalisation in the local area: in the South West region risks typically involve online radicalisation, low-level extremist grooming, conspiracy ideology and vulnerability through isolation.

Potential Hazard Susceptibility to radicalisation - leading to being drawn into terrorism	Who may be at risk Young people/pupils	Risk Management - existing precautions  Leadership:  Prevent Training for all staff Prevent Lead (Head of Operations and DSL) Risk assessment, Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy, Prevent Policy reviewed and signed off by leadership Use of Devon Prevent Referral Flowchart to ensure understanding of	Risk rating following implementation of precautions  Low	Any further actions needed
or extremist ideology		<ul> <li>reporting and referral mechanisms</li> <li>Sharing of Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy, Prevent Policy and updated Keeping Children Safe in Education – staff sign to confirm reading and understanding these</li> <li>Promotion of a safeguarding culture through induction, regular training and updates</li> <li>Self-evaluation to identify key priorities for continuous improvement</li> </ul>		
		<ul> <li>Working in Partnership:         <ul> <li>Working partnerships with: Local Safeguarding Children's Partnership, DSL forums, LADO, Community Safety Partnerships, Police Prevent Team, Channel panel, Child and family</li> <li>Regular attendance at meetings</li> <li>Signposting to wider sources of information and guidance</li> <li>Use of Devon Prevent Referral Flowchart to maximise effective partnerships</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Low	



			<b>U</b> -
	<ul> <li>Staff Training:         <ul> <li>Training includes e-learning and information communicated through regular updates</li> <li>All staff undertake safeguarding training and are familiar with key safeguarding and statutory policies</li> <li>All staff attend Prevent training with a focus on Notice, Check, Share</li> <li>DSL receive additional support from local partnerships and training on local processes for Prevent</li> <li>Records kept of all staff training</li> <li>Regular refresher training</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Low	DevonPathway
	<ul> <li>Strong culture of safeguarding that supports effective arrangements to:         <ul> <li>identify young people/pupils who may need early help or who are at risk of neglect, abuse, grooming or exploitation</li> <li>help children reduce their risk of harm by securing the support they need, or referring in a timely way to those who have the expertise to help</li> </ul> </li> <li>Clear processes for raising radicalisation concerns and making a Prevent referral (see Devon Prevent Referral Flowchart)</li> </ul>	Low	
	<ul> <li>Building Resilience to Radicalisation</li> <li>Codes of conduct for all staff</li> <li>Safer recruitment checks on all staff</li> <li>Curriculum content is monitored by leadership</li> <li>Opportunities to discuss controversial issues and for young people/pupils to develop critical thinking and digital literacy skills</li> <li>Discussions of controversial issues are carried out in a safe space</li> <li>Fundamental British values are embedded into the curriculum, sessions, culture and ethos, while also ensuring specific discussions can take place in a safe environment.</li> </ul>	Low	
I	<ul> <li>Young people/ pupils are unable to access any inappropriate internet sites whilst using technology provided by the organisation, through the use of appropriate cybersecurity, filtering, firewalls and security settings.</li> </ul>	Low	



<ul> <li>Clear reporting process in place should filtering systems flag any safeguarding or Prevent related concerns or inappropriate internet use</li> <li>The designated safeguarding lead (DSL) takes lead responsibility for safeguarding and child protection (including online safety)</li> <li>Young people/pupils are equipped with the skills to stay safe online, both in school and outside</li> </ul>		DevonPathway
<ul> <li>Visitors</li> <li>Processes are in place to manage visitors, including sub-contractors</li> <li>Risk assessment and due diligence checks undertaken on visitors, speakers, the organisations they represent and the materials they promote or share</li> <li>The private/commercial use of spaces is effectively managed &amp; due diligence checks are carried out on those using/booking and on the organisations that they represent</li> </ul>	Low	



## **Appendix 5: The Prevent Strategy: Information for Parents/Carers**

#### What is the Prevent strategy?

Prevent is a government strategy designed to stop people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorist or extremist causes.

The Prevent strategy covers all types of terrorism and extremism, including political and religious extremism.

#### How does the Prevent strategy apply to schools?

From July 2015 all schools (as well as other organisations) have a duty to safeguard children from radicalisation and extremism.

This means we have a responsibility to protect children from extremist and violent views, in the same way we protect them from drugs or gang violence.

Importantly, we can provide a safe place for pupils to discuss these issues so that they better understand how to protect themselves.

#### What does this mean in practice?

Many of the things we already do in school to help children become positive, happy members of society also contribute to the Prevent strategy.

#### These include:

- Exploring other cultures and religions and promoting diversity
- Challenging prejudices and racist comments
- Developing critical thinking skills and a strong, positive self-identity
- Promoting the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils, as well as British values such as democracy

We will also protect children from the risk of radicalisation, for example by using filters on the internet to make sure they can't access extremist and terrorist material, or by vetting visitors who come into school to work with pupils.

Different schools will carry out the Prevent duty in different ways, depending on the age of the children and the needs of the community.

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

#### How does Prevent relate to British values?

Schools have been required to promote British values since 2014, and this will continue to be part of our response to the Prevent strategy.

#### British values include:

- Democracy
- · The rule of law
- Individual liberty and mutual respect
- Tolerance of different faiths and beliefs

#### Isn't my child too young to learn about extremism?

The Prevent strategy is not just about discussing extremism itself, which may not be appropriate for younger children. It is also about teaching children values such as tolerance and mutual respect.

The school will make sure any discussions are suitable for the age and maturity of the children involved.

#### Is extremism really a risk in our area?

Extremism can take many forms, including political, religious and ideological extremism. Some of these may be a bigger threat in our area than others.

We will give children the skills to protect them from any extremist views they may encounter, now or later in their lives.

#### **KEY TERMS**

Extremism – vocal or active opposition to fundamental British values such as democracy, the rule of law and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs

**Ideology** – a set of beliefs

Terrorism – an action that endangers or causes serious violence to a person/people, causes serious damage to property, or seriously interferes or disrupts an electronic system, and is intended to advance a political, religious or ideological cause

Radicalisation – the process by which a person comes to support extremism and terrorism

#### Where to go for more information

Contact us: if you have any questions or concerns about the Prevent strategy and what it means for your child, please do not hesitate make contact

See our policies: you will find more details about radicalisation in our safeguarding policy. We also have information about curriculum, spiritual, moral, social and cultural development (SMSC), and British

#### **External sources:**

Revised Prevent duty guidance for England and Wales, HM Government https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/prevent-duty-quidance What is Prevent? Let's Talk About It http://www.ltai.info/what-is-prevent/

Educate Against Hate: Advice and Guidance for Parents and Carers https://educateagainsthate.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/Parents-Booklet-accessible-final-updated-26-01-23-1.pdf