



Prevent Strategy - Information for parents

Promoting British Values, preventing terrorism, extremism and radicalisation

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

Different schools will carry out the Prevent duty in different ways, depending on the age of the children and the needs of the community. Many of the things we already do in school to help children become positive, happy members of society also contribute to the Prevent strategy such as:

- Exploring other cultures and religions and promoting diversity in PSHCE and through our subject curriculum
- 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
- Protecting children from the risk of radicalisation, such as using filters on the internet or vetting visitors who come into school.

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 the response to the Prevent strategy.

British values are taught through citizenship and 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. Schools should make sure any discussions are suitable for the age and maturity of the children involved. By delivering a broad and balanced curriculum, augmented by the use of external sources where appropriate, we will strive to ensure our pupils recognise risk and build resilience to manage any such risk themselves where appropriate to their age and ability but also to help pupils develop the critical thinking skills needed to engage in informed debate.

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. The intention is to give children the skills to protect them from any extremist views they may encounter, now or later in their lives. Many of us have spent more time online through the pandemic and it is a good idea to speak to children about what they are viewing online and the content that they are engaging with. If you have any concerns about members of the public or issues in the community these can be reported at: <https://actearly.uk/>

Where to go for more information:

Contact the school If you have any questions or concerns about the Prevent strategy and what it means for your child, please do not hesitate to contact the school. We have links to experts in the field and should be able to support. If your child is showing changes in their usual behavior, and you are concerned that this could be due to them accessing extremist narratives, please contact the school as we can support you with this.

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

You will find more details about radicalisation in our safeguarding policy and from Keeping Children Safe in Education 2021, available on our website.

External sources - the following sources may also be useful for further information:

Revised prevent duty guidance for England and Wales, HM Government (Adobe pdf file)

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/445977/3799_Revised_Prevent_Duty_Guidance_England_Wales_V2-Interactive.pdf



The Prevent duty: advice for schools and childcare providers, GOV.UK - DfE (Adobe pdf file)
https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/439598

What is Prevent? Let's Talk About It <http://www.ltai.info/what-is-prevent/>