

SUPPORT YOUR



Radicalisation and Extremism Support

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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 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, promoting diversity and challenging prejudices and racist comments
- Developing critical thinking skills and a strong, positive self-identity
- Promoting the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of students, 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, and by vetting visitors who come into school to work with students.

Key Terms

Prevent Strategy

A government policy designed to stop people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorist or extremist causes.

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

A violent action against people or property, designed to create fear and advance a political, religious or ideological cause

Radicalisation

The process by which a person comes to support extremism and terrorism

What to do if you have a concern?

- Contact school and ask to speak to Ms Kamei about a safeguarding concern.
- You can also contact your local police force or dial 101 (the non-emergency number). They can talk to you in confidence about your concerns and help you gain access to support and advice.
- If you feel there is a risk of your child leaving the country, consider what precautions you could take to prevent travel. You might want to consider taking the precaution of locking their passport in a safe place.
- Consider what access your child has to saving accounts or gifts of money from family and friends.

How can parents can help?

As young people enter their teenage years, they naturally start to explore their identity. There are ways parents can send positive messages;

- Value people's rights and equality.
- Bring up children to respect difference and value people's rights
- Acknowledge complexity. Teach your children to think critically about what they hear.
- Be tech savvy. Radicalisation isn't just an online problem, but the internet is one way young people connect with extremists who want to exploit them. Talk to your children about what they do online and stay alert for potential warning signs like increased secrecy.
- Don't ignore it. Not all extremist views are violent, but they are all cause for concern. If your child says something worrying, don't brush it off – even if you're not sure how serious it really is.
- Get support. Parents are often the first to notice worrying changes in a child's behaviour, but it's hard to deal with these issues by yourself.
- Talk about identity. Reassure young people who may be struggling with their identity. Make sure they know it's all right to be confused and that they can always come to you for guidance.