

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 the extreme right wing, violent Islamist groups and other causes.

How does the Prevent strategy apply to schools?

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

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

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

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 – 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 does this mean in practice?

Many of the things we already do in school to help students 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 students 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 students. Different schools will carry out the Prevent duty in different ways, depending on the age of the students 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.

Are students in the lower years too young to learn about extremism?

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

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

Is extremism really a risk in our area?

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

We will give students the skills to protect them from any

extremist views they may encounter, now or later in their lives.

What shall I do if I have any concerns?

In an emergency ring the police on 999 or non-emergency 101. In school contact Mr L. Collins, Headteacher and Designated Safeguarding Officer (DSL), or Mrs Upstone/Ms Vallejo – Deputy DSLs.

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.

See our policies

You will find more details about radicalisation in our safeguarding policy, available on our website. We also have information about British values.

External sources

The following sources may also be useful for further information:

Prevent duty guidance: for England and Wales, HM Government

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/417943/Prevent_Duty_Guidance_England_Wales.pdf

Frequently asked questions, Prevent for Schools

http://www.preventforschools.org/?category_id=38

What is Prevent? Let's Talk About It

<http://www.ltai.info/what-is-prevent/>