

THE PREVENT DUTY

- A summary for parents/carers.



Prevent is a national safeguarding programme that supports people who are at risk of becoming involved with terrorism through radicalisation. Prevent is part of the government response to terrorism.

All schools have a duty ('The Prevent Duty') to report if they are concerned that a child/adult is being radicalised or may be a risk to others. This is so they and others can be kept safe and be supported.



Radicalisation means someone is being encouraged to develop extreme views or beliefs in support of terrorist groups and activities. Someone might be groomed and radicalised by others or become radicalised through accessing extremist content themselves, both online and offline. The government's definition of 'extremism' is: "the promotion or advancement of an ideology based on violence, hatred or intolerance, that aims to:

1. negate or destroy the fundamental rights and freedoms of others; or
2. undermine, overturn or replace the UK's system of liberal parliamentary democracy and democratic rights; or
3. intentionally create a permissive environment for others to achieve the results in (1) or (2)."



Risks include (but are not limited to) a person supporting Far-Right extremism, Islamist extremism, anti-LGBTQ+ extremism or animal rights extremism. They may also have MUU (mixed, uncertain or unclear ideologies) which includes Incel ideologies. It may not be clear which ideology they support but they may appear to support mass murder or idolise terrorist attackers.

Signs that a child could be being radicalised include: increasingly secretive behaviour, spending lots of time online, talking about 'new friends' who seem to have a lot of influence, seeming to hate/blame a particular group of people for the problems of the world/country, drawing signs and symbols that suggest they are part of a group or gang or an unusual change in behaviour and/or appearance.

Children with SEND can sometimes be more susceptible to radicalisation for a wide range of reasons including: feeling more socially isolated (and therefore needing connection with others, and potentially spending more time online), perhaps finding it more difficult to read 'red flags' in terms of someone trying to manipulate them and also, perhaps being more 'black and white' in their thinking. Sadly, some abusive adults will target children with SEND because they view them as being more easily influenced.

Every education setting has a SPOC (Single Point of Contact). The SPOC is responsible for dealing with Prevent concerns and making referrals to the Prevent team at the Local Authority. The SPOC at The Meadows is Theodora Papaspyrou. If you are worried your child may be at risk of radicalisation, call her on 0121 569 7080. You can also speak to the police on 101 or the police anti-terrorist hotline on 0800 789 321 in an emergency situation. If you spot concerning content online, you can report this at www.gov.uk/report-terrorism

