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PREVENT DUTY 2023-25

**At WLCHS we take Safeguarding extremely seriously and we want to share information with Parents and visitors in the same way that we do with staff and students.**

**To support parents we have included Up to Date information developed by the Department for Education and the Home Office to support a greater understanding of Prevent and Channel.**

What is the PREVENT Duty?

* **Prevent is about safeguarding people and communities from the threat of terrorism.**
* **It aims to stop people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism and violent extremism.**

The Prevent duty, came into force on 1 July 2015 and has been updated in September of 2023

The range of work by LCC, Police and schools supports local community by providing training and awareness around radicalisation and safeguarding those who may be affected.

PREVENT covers all forms of terrorism and extremism.

* **The main aim of Prevent is to stop people from becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism**
* **At the heart of Prevent is safeguarding children and adults and providing early intervention to protect and divert people away from being drawn into terrorist activity.**
* **Prevent addresses all forms of extremism but continues to ensure resources and effort are allocated on the basis of the greatest threat to our national security.**

We have included some Frequently asked questions below to help Parents and carers to understand what PREVENT is about.

**If you have any further questions or need support with English as an additional Language, Braille, or Sign Language please contact Mr Grant in the first place and we will endeavour to organise support via these means.**

Terrorism and Extremism

**Terrorism and extremism are sometimes used interchangeably.**

**Terrorism** is an action or threat designed to influence the government or intimidate the public. Its purpose is to advance a political, religious or ideological cause. The current UK definition of terrorism is given in the **Terrorism Act 2000.**

In the UK we define terrorism as a violent action that:

* Endangers a person’s life, other than that of the person committing the action
* Involves serious violence against a person
* Causes serious damage to property
* Creates a serious risk to the public’s health and safety
* Interferes with or seriously disrupts an electronic system

**Extremism** is the vocal or active opposition to our fundamental values, including democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, and respect and tolerance for different faiths and beliefs. We also regard calls for the death of members of our armed forces as extremist.”

It’s important to remember that not all extremist groups, whether Islamist, far-right or other, will commit terrorist or violent acts. However, some groups pose threats, both online and offline.

How do people become radicalised?

**The process of radicalisation is different for each child, but there are some factors which can lead to young people becoming radicalised.**

Personal vulnerabilities or local factors can make a young person more susceptible to extremist messages. These may include:

* Sense of not belonging
* Behavioural problems
* Issues at home
* Lack of self-esteem
* Criminal activity
* Being involved with gangs

Children don’t need to meet people to fall for their extremist beliefs. The internet is increasingly being used by extremist groups to radicalise young people. These groups will often offer solutions to feelings of being misunderstood, not listened to, or being treated unfairly.

Online radicalisation

**Talk to your child about online safety, explain the dangers, and make sure their social media accounts are secure. Install parental controls so you can monitor what they access.**

The [NSPCC](https://www.nspcc.org.uk/) has produced the following helpful suggestions to help keep your child safe:

* Speak with your child about what they do online
* Ask them to show you some of their favourite sites
* Show an interest in who their friends are online
* Ask them how they decide who to be friends with
* Try and get them to friend you online too
* Agree the amount of time they spend online and the sites they visit
* Think about installing parental controls on their devices
* Raise the issue of inappropriate content. Have they seen any?
* Make sure they know how to report abuse online

Children don’t think of people they have met online through social networking and online games as strangers – they are just online friends.

Point out that it’s a lot easier for people to lie online than it is in real life. Ideally be friends with your child on social media, but if they resist, ask a friend or family member you both trust to try.

Take an interest in your child’s online activities in the same way you do with their offline activities. What is their criteria for choosing friends? How come they have so many? Don’t be afraid to ask, as it’s important to discuss online safety with them.

Agree on some ground rules together. Consider the amount of time they are allowed to spend online, the websites they visit and the activities they take part in.

Internet service providers (ISPs), such as Virgin Media, TalkTalk, Sky or BT, provide parental controls for laptops, phones, tablets, game consoles and other devices that connect to the internet. Parental controls help you filter or restrict what your child can see online.

Check the privacy settings on your child’s social media accounts to keep personal information private. Talk to them about what to do if they see worrying or upsetting content or if someone contacts them and makes them feel anxious or uncomfortable.

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Discussing extremism

**If you’re worried your child is being exposed to extremist influences or has been radicalised, talking to them might be daunting. Here are some ways to make it easier.**

It’s never easy to start a serious conversation with a child. If you’re too forceful, your child may clam up; if you’re too subtle, you could end up discussing something completely different. The [NSPCC](https://www.nspcc.org.uk/what-you-can-do/report-abuse/dedicated-helplines/protecting-children-from-radicalisation/) has some helpful guidance:

* Make your child feel at ease
* Get the balance right
* Let your child talk without interruptions
* Encourage questions
* Listen

It’s important to think about where and how to raise the subject of extremism with your child. Choose a place your child feels at ease. Make it a time when you’re unlikely to be interrupted.

Make the conversation relevant. For example, if you both see something on TV about extremism, you could ask your child what they would do if they ever found themselves in that situation. Or, to show that you value their opinion, you could say that a friend of yours needs advice about extremism. Ask what they think. Find out how much they know about the subject.

When you’re chatting with your child, take care to listen:

* Ask them questions that don’t result in a yes or no answer. It gives them the chance to tell you what they really think
* Let them talk without interrupting, and encourage them to ask questions
* Be honest with them about your thoughts on extremism, and talk about your own views

If you’re worried about someone close becoming radicalised or holding extreme views, [ACT Early](https://actearly.uk/advice/tips-for-talking/) have tips on how to start a conversation.

It’s important that your child knows they can talk to you in confidence. If they don’t feel comfortable talking to you, suggest they talk to other people they trust, or to organisations such as [Childline](https://www.childline.org.uk/).

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What is Channel?

**Channel is a voluntary, confidential programme which safeguards people identified as vulnerable to being drawn into terrorism. It is a multi-agency process, involving partners from the local authority, the police, education, health providers and others.**

Referring possible cases of early-stage radicalisation is similar to safeguarding processes designed to protect people from gang activity, drugs, and physical or sexual abuse. Many types of support are available as part of the Channel programme, addressing educational, vocational, mental health and other vulnerabilities.

The Channel programme is:

* Voluntary
* Confidential
* A support programme – not a criminal sanction

A referral can come from anyone who is concerned about a person they know who may be at risk of radicalisation, whether a family member, friend, school leader, colleague or from a wide range of partners. Channel addresses all forms of terrorism, including Islamist, far-right and others.

When someone makes a referral, lots of agencies work together to offer support where they consider it necessary and proportionate to do so. This involves a number of steps:

* The local authority and the police carefully assess all referrals to see if they are suitable for Channel or whether a different type of support is more appropriate, such as mental health support.
* If suitable, the referral is discussed with all relevant partners at a meeting called a Channel panel to decide if an intervention is necessary. The individual who has been referred to Prevent is informed and must give their consent (or via a parent or guardian if they are children) before an intervention can take place.
* If Channel intervention is required, the panel works with local partners to develop an appropriate tailored support package.
* The support package is monitored closely and reviewed regularly by the Channel panel.

**Useful links:**

* More information about the [Channel Programme](https://www.gov.uk/government/case-studies/the-channel-programme)
* Official statistics on the number of individuals referred to and supported through the [Prevent Programme](https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/individuals-referred-to-and-supported-through-the-prevent-programme-april-2015-to-march-2016)
* [ACT Early](https://eur02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Factearly.uk%2Fworking-together%2Fwhat-is-channel%2F&data=04%7C01%7CLisa-Jo.Salvona%40met.police.uk%7C204424b3e5034ff22cfe08d8f0721da8%7Cf3ee2a7e72354d28ab42617c4c17f0c1%7C0%7C0%7C637523720199729936%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=CZbC%2BpiDWYoJmAJCL6lYmqayA3nw8VLr8pNhbp5rQdI%3D&reserved=0)

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