Staff information regarding PREVENT

Section 26 of the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015

There is a duty on certain bodies, in the exercise of their functions, to have "due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism"

Summary and context of the PREVENT strategy

The Prevent strategy, published by the Government in 2011, is part of our overall counter-terrorism strategy, CONTEST. The aim of the Prevent strategy is to reduce the threat to the UK from terrorism by stopping people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism. In the Act this has simply been expressed as the need to "prevent people from being drawn into terrorism".

The 2011 Prevent strategy has three specific strategic objectives:

- respond to the ideological challenge of terrorism and the threat we face from those who promote it

- prevent people from being drawn into terrorism and ensure that they are given appropriate advice and support

- work with sectors and institutions where there are risks of radicalisation that we need to address.

Our Prevent work is intended to deal with all kinds of terrorist threats to the UK. The most significant of these threats is currently from terrorist organisations in Syria and Iraq, and Al Qa'ida associated groups. But terrorists associated with the extreme right also pose a continued threat to our safety and security.

This is a very wide ranging policy and covers local authorities, schools, the health sector, the prison service and police sector.

The part that applies to schools

All publicly-funded schools in England are required by law to teach a broad and balanced curriculum which promotes the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of pupils and prepares them for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of life. They must also promote community cohesion.

Being drawn into terrorism includes not just violent extremism but also non-violent extremism, which can create an atmosphere conducive to terrorism and can popularise views which terrorists exploit. Schools should be safe spaces in which children and young people can understand and discuss sensitive topics, including terrorism and the extremist ideas that are part of terrorist ideology, and learn how to challenge these ideas. The Prevent duty is not intended to limit discussion of these issues. Schools should, however, be mindful of their existing duties to forbid political indoctrination and secure a balanced presentation of political issues.

Risk assessment

Schools will need to demonstrate that they are protecting children and young people from being drawn into terrorism by having robust safeguarding policies in place to identify children at risk, and intervening as appropriate. Institutions will need to consider the level of risk to identify the most appropriate referral, which could include Channel or Children's Social Care, for example. These policies should set out clear protocols for ensuring that any visiting speakers – whether invited by staff or by children themselves – are suitable and appropriately supervised.

Working in partnership

In England, governing bodies and proprietors of all schools and registered childcare providers should ensure that their safeguarding arrangements take into account the policies and procedures of the Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB).

IT policies

The statutory guidance makes clear the need for schools to ensure that children are safe from terrorist and extremist material when accessing the internet in schools. Schools should ensure that suitable filtering is in place. More generally, schools have an important role to play in equipping children and young people to stay safe online, both in school and outside. Internet safety will usually be integral to a school's ICT curriculum and can also be embedded in PSHE and SRE. General advice and resources for schools on internet safety are available on the UK Safer Internet Centre website. As with other online risks of harm, every teacher needs to be aware of the risks posed by the online activity of extremist and terrorist groups.

Staff training

Schools should make sure that staff have training that gives them the knowledge and confidence to identify children at risk of being drawn into terrorism, and to challenge extremist ideas which can be used to legitimise terrorism and are shared by terrorist groups. They should know where and how to refer children and young people for further help. Prevent awareness training will be a key part of this.

Below is an overview of how as a school, we fulfil these duties set out in the strategy	
Teaching a broad and balanced curriculum which promotes the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of pupils and prepares them for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of life. They must also promote community cohesion.	School ensures a broad and balanced curriculum with regard to spiritual, moral, cultural and social development which is achieved in many ways and handled respectfully and objectively by all staff. • Jigsaw curriculum aims to celebrate difference by learning about different cultures, challenges and respecting those with different views to our own. This curriculum prompts a lot of open discussion and challenges perspectives in a safe space • Diversity is a key driver in our curriculum and throughout many topics, different cultures, role models and ways of life are discussed and difference is celebrated • Our RE curriculum studies the life and challenges of different religions in the UK today and regular visits to places of worship during RE topics promotes community cohesion • Whole school assemblies focus on First News issues designed to create open and objective discussion of current and sometimes political issues whilst promoting respect for views different to their own. • Staff ensure safe spaces to discuss sensitive topics and tolerance of others and community cohesion is a priority
Risk assessment	Robust safeguarding policies are in place as referenced in our safeguarding policy. This includes identifying children at risk and intervening as appropriate. This may mean reference to different bodies, such as CHANNEL or the Police PREVENT Team, to work with families believed to be at risk. As a school, we are confident that all staff are trained in spotting signs and aware of appropriate reporting procedures within school if it were to be believed that a child was at risk. As a school, we currently have no children assessed to be at risk. Any visiting speakers to school would never be left unsupervised with children as per our safeguarding and visitor policy.
Working in partnership	Policies and procedures of the Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) are accounted for in our school safeguarding policy. All designated safeguarding leads in school attend local update training termly which delivers any key local and national messages and updates in a range of areas, including PREVENT. Some areas within the UK are considered to be PREVENT priority areas and have increased partnerships working with the local authority and schools – Doncaster is not currently one of the areas identified.
IT policies	Internet safety is integral to the school's curriculum and is covered through: • Jigsaw curriculum addressing how to challenge unsafe online behaviour • Computing curriculum addressing online safety • Safer Internet Day celebrated annually • Regular key stage assemblies addressing pertinent issues regarding online safety • A wealth of resources regarding online safety being available on the school website for children and parents

	• Any children deemed to be practising unsafe online behaviour in any area may have mentoring sessions and liaison with parents.
	All staff understand through training what to look out for when children are using the internet as part of lessons.
	Very secure internet filtering is in place from our IT provider.
	Any devices loaned to children from school for home or remote learning purposes are equipped with Cisco Umbrella to ensure filtering is in place when not using our internet service.
	School IT policy states:
	'The DfE guidance regarding prevent duty and protecting children from radicalisation is applied at every level during IT use in school. Staff are well-trained and vigilant for any signs of radicalisation or concerning behaviour regarding the use of the internet or technology. Appropriate reporting channels are understood by all staff in line with the safeguarding policy.'
Staff training	The context and duties placed upon staff under the PREVENT strategy feature in safeguarding level 1 training which all staff receive annually. This outlines signs to look out for and how to deal with and report any concerns.
	This is also covered more in depth as part of a longer term safeguarding training strategy for staff which includes regular updates.
	Below is an example of the poster for staff which is present on the safeguarding display and in the central office for reference.

PREVENT duty

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The most significant of these threats is currently from terrorist organisations in Syria and Iraq, and Al Qa'ida associated groups. But terrorists associated with the extreme right also pose a continued threat to our safety and security.

In 2020/21, only 22% of referrals to the Police Prevent Team were regarding Islamist radicalisation. More referrals (25%) were regarding extreme right-wing radicalisation. It could happen in any community. It could happen here.

Extremism is a vocal or active opposition to fundamental British values, including democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs.

Radicalisation refers to the process by which a person comes to support terrorism and extremist ideologies associated with terrorist groups.

Spotting the signs of radicalisation

Radicalisation can be really difficult to spot. Signs that may indicate a child is being radicalised include:

- Change in behaviour
- Isolating themselves from family and friends or changing their circle of friends
- Talking as if from a scripted speech
- Unwillingness or inability to discuss their views
- A sudden disrespectful attitude towards others
- Increased levels of anger
- Increased secretiveness, especially around internet use
- Accessing extremist material online
- Talking about a new role model or their views
- Displaying a new symbol/ logo or creating writing/artwork that promotes violent or extremist messages

Children who are at risk of radicalisation may have low self-esteem, or be victims of bullying or discrimination. Extremists might target them and tell them they can be part of something special, later brainwashing them into cutting themselves off from their friends and family.

Reporting

If any member of staff in a school has a concern about a particular pupil they should follow the school's normal safeguarding procedures, including discussing with the school's designated safeguarding lead immediately.

The DSL will decide upon the appropriate channel of reporting which may be Doncaster Children's Social Care on 01302 737777.

The local authority Prevent lead can also provide support. In Doncaster, this is Rachael Long, Crime and Community Safety Theme Manager, 01302 737469 or email Rachael.Long@doncaster.gov.uk.

You can also contact your local police force or dial 101 to speak to the Police Prevent Team. They can talk to you in confidence about your concerns and help you gain access to support and advice.

The Department for Education has dedicated a telephone helpline (020 7340 7264) to enable staff and governors to raise concerns relating to extremism directly.

Concerns can also be raised by email to counter.extremism@education.gsi.gov.uk. Please note that the helpline is not intended for use in emergency situations, such as a child being at immediate risk of harm or a security incident, in which case the normal emergency procedures should be followed.