

What is the Prevent strategy?

Prevent is part of the government's counter-terrorism strategy to stop people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism. Page 1 of the strategy document says that it seeks to:

- Respond to the ideological challenge of terrorism and aspects of extremism, and the threat posed by those who promote these views
- Provide practical help to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism and ensure they are given appropriate advice and support
- Work with a wide range of sectors where there are risks of radicalisation which needs to be addressed, including education, criminal justice, faith, charities, the internet and health

What must schools do in response?

- All schools are required by law to teach a broad and balanced curriculum which promotes the spiritual, moral and cultural development of pupils and prepares them for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of life.
- Publicly funded schools are required to promote community cohesion, a duty first introduced through the Education and Inspections Act 2006.
- Schools can help to protect children from extremist and violent views in the same ways that they help to safeguard children from drugs, gangs and alcohol. A school's work on Prevent could be seen in this context.
- Staff can help to identify children whose behaviour suggests that they are being drawn into terrorism or extremism. These children can then be referred to the relevant agencies.

The role of schools in Prevent

The Prevent For Schools website explains that schools can provide a safe environment for discussing controversial issues, and help young people understand how they can influence and participate in decision-making. It says:

Schools of all kinds can play a role in enabling young people to explore issues like terrorism and the wider use of violence in a considered and informed way ...

Schools can facilitate understanding of wider issues within the context of learning about the values on which the strategy is founded and our system of democratic government.

Schools need to:

- Raise awareness
- Provide information
- Enable learners to make a positive contribution
- Safeguard young people

Greneway's response:

- Review the curriculum, and pupil participation and safeguarding processes
- Themed assemblies
- Explore and promote diversity and shared values between and within communities
- Challenge Islamophobia, anti-semitism and other prejudices
- Build ties with all local communities, seeking opportunities for linking with other schools

Prevent training for staff:

The DfE has not set a requirement for schools or nurseries to have Prevent training for staff.

At Greneway, staff and governors have attended awareness training linked to the strategy and have resources to support its implementation on Google Drive.

What is The Counter-Terrorism and Security Act?

HM Government has published guidance for authorities, including schools, on their responsibilities under the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act, which came into effect on 1 July 2015.

Schools' duties under the guidance

Pages 10-12 of the guidance covers schools' responsibilities under the Act.

The guidance reiterates that all schools have a responsibility to promote the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils and to promote British values in school. It also emphasises that publicly-funded schools must teach a broad and balanced curriculum and promote community cohesion.

The document goes on to say that schools should take measures such as:

- Assessing the risk of pupils being drawn into terrorism, and having robust safeguarding policies in place to identify pupils at risk and refer them to relevant authorities
- Working in partnership with other local bodies and following local authority inter-agency procedures
- Ensuring staff are trained to identify pupils at risk of being drawn into terrorism, challenge extremist ideas and refer children to appropriate authorities where necessary
- Ensuring the school has internet filters in place to block terrorist and extremist material

The guidance adds that Ofsted inspectors already take into account whether schools keep pupils safe from the risk of radicalisation and extremism when making their judgements. The above also links with British Values, a policy we have recently reviewed at C & A gov meeting and have discussed in staff development meetings in the autumn term.

How to raise a concern

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

The Department for Education has dedicated a telephone helpline (020 7340 7264) to enable staff and governors to raise concerns relating to extremism. Concerns can also be emailed to counter.extremism@education.gsi.gov.uk

*Channel is a multi-agency approach to identify and provide early support to individuals who are at risk of being drawn into extremist or terrorist related activity, eg Far-Right, Extreme-Right, Irish-Related, Al-Qaeda inspired, Animal Rights, Environmental or any other form.

To make a CHANNEL referral, contact the Prevent team at prevent@herts.pnn.police.uk or download the referral form from:

http://www.thegrid.org.uk/leadership/safeguarding/documents/channel_referral_form_v2.doc
[X](#)

Monitoring the Duty

Ofsted are responsible for monitoring how well schools are implementing this duty. Ofsted's revised common inspection framework for education, skills and early years (from 1 September 2015), makes specific reference to the need to have safeguarding arrangements to promote pupils' welfare and prevent radicalisation and extremism.