



Vernham Dean Gillum's CE Primary School The Prevent Duty Guidance

Introduction

From 1 July 2015 all schools, registered early years childcare providers and registered later years childcare providers (referred to in these guidelines as 'childcare providers') are subject to a duty under section 26 of the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015, in the exercise of their functions, to have:

'Due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism'.

This duty is known as the Prevent duty. It applies to a wide range of public-facing bodies.

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 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 children from radicalisation and extremism. This means we have a responsibility to protect children from extremist and violent views the same way we protect them from drugs or gang violence. Importantly, we can provide a safe place for pupils to discuss these issues so they better understand how to protect themselves.

What does this mean in practice?

Many of the things we already do in school to help children 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 through P4C
- Promoting Christian Values, the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils, as well as British values such as democracy

Hampshire LA also protect children 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 pupils.

Risk assessment

All school staff, particularly the staff who work directly with the children are expected to assess the risk of children being drawn into terrorism, including support for extremist ideas that are part of terrorist ideology. This means being able to demonstrate both a general understanding of the risks affecting children and young people in the area and a specific understanding of how to identify individual children who may be at risk of radicalisation and what to do to support them.

As with managing other safeguarding risks, staff should be alert to changes in children's behaviour which could indicate that they may be in need of help or protection. Staff should use their professional judgement and inform the school's Designated Safeguarding Leader of concerns.

School's Procedure for reporting concerns

The school will follow normal safeguarding procedures but they may also decide to:

- Phone 101 as they can talk in confidence about concerns as they may advise it as a case for Channel (*see appendix one for further information on Channel*)
- Phone the Department for Education telephone helpline (020 7340 7264) to raise concerns and seek advice
- Email counter.extremism@education.gsi.gov.uk

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

Aren't our children too young to learn about extremism?

The Prevent strategy is not just about discussing extremism itself, which may not be appropriate for younger children. It is also about teaching children values such as tolerance and mutual respect which we do through our Christian Values, British Values, code of conduct and ethos of the school.

Staff must ensure that any discussions raised through P4C, PSHE and the curriculum are suitable for the age and maturity of the children 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. However as a school, we need to ensure we protect our children from any extremist views.

Where to go for more information

The following sources may also be useful for further information:

Prevent duty guidance

www.gov.uk/government/publications/protecting-children-from-radicalisation-the-prevent-duty

Frequently asked questions, Prevent for Schools

www.preventforschools.org/?category_id=38

What is Prevent? Let's Talk About It

www.ltai.info/what-is-prevent/

What is Channel?

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

Appendix one

Definition of terms that you may hear linked with The Prevent Duty

Extremism

Extremism is 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. It also included calls for the death of members of our armed forces, whether in this country or overseas.

Radicalism

Radicalism refers to the process by which a person comes to support terrorism and forms of extremism. There is no single way of identifying an individual who is likely to be susceptible to an extremist ideology. It can happen in many different ways and settings. Specific background factors may contribute to vulnerability which are often combined with specific influences such as family, friends or online, and with specific needs for which an extremist or terrorist group may appear to provide an answer. The internet and the use of social media in particular has become a major factor in the radicalisation of young people.

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 - the process by which a person comes to support extremism and terrorism

Channel

Channel is a key element of the Prevent strategy. It is a multi-agency approach to protect people at risk from radicalisation. Channel uses existing collaboration between local authorities, statutory partners (such as the education and health sectors, social services, children's and youth services and offender management services, the police and the local community) to:

- Identify individuals at risk of being drawn into terrorism
- Assess the nature and extent of that risk
- Develop the most appropriate support plan for the individuals concerned.

Channel is about safeguarding children and adults from being drawn into committing terrorist-related activity. It is about early intervention to protect and divert people away from the risk they face before illegality occurs.

Channel is one tactical option employed by Prevent and has recently been placed on a statutory footing.

To understand more about Channel further information can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/channel-guidance>

What is Channel?

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

NB: key staff may be asked to carry out a Channel awareness module (20 minutes) at:

http://course.ncalt.com/Channel_General_Awareness