



## **Prevent Duty**

### **Policy statement**

As of 1<sup>st</sup> July 2015, all schools and childcare providers are subject to a duty under section 26 of the Counterterrorism and Security Act 2015 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 Radicalism?**

Radicalism refers to the process by which a person comes to support terrorism and forms of extremism.

Protecting children from the risk of radicalisation is seen as part of our settings wider safeguarding duties and is similar in nature to protecting children from other forms of harm and abuse. During the process of radicalisation, it is possible to intervene to prevent vulnerable people being radicalised.

There is no single way of identifying an individual who is likely to be susceptible to an extremist ideology, as it can happen in many different ways or locations.

Specific background factors may contribute to vulnerability which are often combined with specific influences such as family friends or online access, 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.

### **What is 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. Our definition

also includes extremism calls for the death of members of our armed forces, whether in this country or overseas.

## **Procedures**

We believe that it is essential that all our staff, trustees and volunteers are able to identify children or their families who may be vulnerable to radicalisation and know what to do when they are identified. Protecting children from the risk of radicalisation is seen as being similar in nature to protecting children from other harms (i.e. drugs, gangs, neglect, sexual exploitation), whether these come from within their family or outside influences.

We also build our children's resilience to radicalisation by promoting fundamental British Values and enabling them to challenge extremist views. All staff are instructed to challenge extremist and radical views and report as necessary to designated safeguard officer,

It is important to emphasise that the Prevent Duty is not intended to stop children debating controversial issues and discussing world topics. This should enable them to develop the ability to gain the knowledge and skills to be able to challenge extremist arguments as they go through further education. We work on British Values through Personal, Social and Emotional Development, UNICEF rights respecting activities and understanding of the world at a level appropriate to their understanding.

All our staff and volunteers are DBS Checked.

## **Risk Assessment**

All of our staff, particularly those working directly with the children and their families, are expected to assess the risk of the children or their families 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 need help or protection.

Staff should use their professional judgement in identifying whether children or their families might be at risk of radicalisation and act proportionately which may include making a referral to the Channel Program (see below).

### **Procedure for reporting concerns**

If a member of staff in the setting has a concern about a particular child or their family they will follow the setting's normal safeguarding procedures, including discussing with our designated safeguarding officers, who will, where deemed necessary refer to children's social care and/or local police for advice and support. Social care or the local police can advise if this is a case for Channel. The Department for Education has a dedicated telephone helpline (020 7340 7264) to enable staff and trustees to raise concerns relating to extremism directly, or concerns can be raised by email on [counter.extremism@education.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:counter.extremism@education.gsi.gov.uk)

### **Channel**

Channel is a program which focuses on providing support at an early stage to people who are identified as being vulnerable to being drawn into terrorism. It provides a mechanism for education settings to make referrals if they are concerned that an individual might be vulnerable to radicalisation.

Section 36 of the Counterterrorism and Security Act 2015 places a duty on local authorities to ensure Channel Panels are in place. The panel must be chaired by the local authority and include the police for the relevant local authority area. Following a referral, the panel will assess the extent to which identified individuals are vulnerable to being drawn into terrorism, and, where considered appropriate and necessary consent is obtained and arranged for support to be provided to those individuals.

Channel is available at:

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

	<b><u>Date:</u></b>	<b><u>By Whom?</u></b>	<b><u>Comments</u></b>
<b>Created</b>	15 <sup>th</sup> November 2019	Zoe Shaw	New Policy
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