

Prevent duty at Blackfen School – January 2020

(Based on the Government guidance – originally issued on 12 March 2015 and revised on 16 July 2015 and again on 10 April 2019)

Statutory statement

The Prevent strategy is part of the overall counter-terrorism strategy. The duty in the Counter- Terrorism and Security Act 2015 is to have due regard to the need to prevent people (students) from being drawn into terrorism.

Statement of intent and aims

The Prevent duty applies to the whole school. It should be read in conjunction with the Safeguarding policy and the Promoting Fundamental British Values policy.

The aim of the Prevent strategy is to reduce the threat to the UK from terrorism by stopping students becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism. This is simply expressed as the need to “prevent people from being drawn into terrorism”.

The three strategic objectives are to:

- respond to the ideological challenge of terrorism and the threat we face from those who promote it;
- prevent students from being drawn into terrorism and ensure that they are given appropriate advice and support; and
- work to address risks of radicalisation.

Definition

The Government has defined extremism in the Prevent strategy as: “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. We also include in our definition of extremism calls for the death of members of our armed forces”.

8. The Prevent strategy was explicitly changed in 2011 to deal with all forms of terrorism and with non-violent extremism, which can create an atmosphere conducive to terrorism and can popularise views which terrorists then exploit. It also made clear that preventing people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism requires challenge to extremist ideas where they are used to legitimise terrorism and are shared by terrorist groups. And the strategy also means intervening to stop people moving from extremist (albeit legal) groups into terrorist-related activity.

9. 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.

10. Islamist extremists regard Western intervention in Muslim-majority countries as a 'war with Islam', creating a narrative of 'them' and 'us'. Their ideology includes the uncompromising belief that people cannot be both Muslim and British, and that Muslims living here should not participate in our democracy. Islamist extremists specifically attack the principles of civic participation and social cohesion. These extremists purport to identify grievances to which terrorist organisations then claim to have a solution.

11. The white supremacist ideology of extreme right-wing groups has also provided both the inspiration and justification for people who have committed extreme right-wing terrorist acts.

Contest:

"The Government's counter-terrorism strategy, CONTEST, responds to all forms of terrorism - whatever ideology motivates the terrorist and whatever methodology they seek to use. CONTEST, addresses all forms of terrorism and no individual or group is free to spread hate or incite violence. The far right has absolutely no place in Britain. The British people overwhelmingly reject the prejudiced rhetoric of the far right, which is the antithesis of the values that this country represents: decency, tolerance and respect. The Prevent strand of our counter-terrorism strategy, ... deals with all forms of terrorism, including Daesh-linked and far-right, and does not focus on any one community"

At Blackfen School

Leaders:

- establish and use existing mechanisms for the understanding of the risk of radicalisation;
- ensure that staff understand the risk and build the capabilities to deal with it;
- communicate and promote the importance of the duty; and
- ensure staff implement the duty effectively.

The staff:

- understand what radicalisation means and why students may be vulnerable to being drawn into terrorism as a consequence of it;
- are aware of the term “extremism”;
- know what measures are available to prevent students from being drawn into terrorism;
- know how to challenge the extremist ideology associated with terrorism;
- understand how to obtain support for students who may be being exploited by radicalising influences;
- understand the local context and are therefore able to assess the risk of students in our school being drawn into terrorism; and
- receive annual safeguarding training which includes training on Channel and Prevent.

Governors:

- ensure that safeguarding arrangements take into account the policies and procedures of the Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB);
- understand the local context and are therefore able to assess the risk of students in our school being drawn into terrorism; and
- receive annual safeguarding training which includes training on Channel and Prevent.

Procedures

Whistleblowing

Where there are concerns of extremism or radicalisation students and staff will be encouraged to make use of our internal systems to whistle blow or raise any issue in confidence. Please refer to the whistleblowing policy.

Child protection

Any student suspected of being involved in terrorist-related activity is dealt with under the school’s safeguarding procedures and are referred to the DSL or the deputy. Where initial interviews result in no further action, the DSL or the deputy will contact the family the same day to advise them of the referral. Where the risk is possibly credible the DSL will refer the case to the Channel programme.

The school maintains appropriate records to show compliance with the responsibilities.

The school will ensure that there is appropriate supervision of visiting speakers to the school to prevent presentations (including the distribution of materials) which are contrary to fundamental British values.

Curriculum

The curriculum is broad and balanced and promotes the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of students and prepares them for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of life.

The curriculum promotes community cohesion.

Fundamental British values are promoted.

The risk of any student being drawn into terrorism is assessed based on an understanding of the potential risk in the local area.

Students are protected from being drawn into terrorism through our robust safeguarding policies which identify students at risk and ensure intervention as appropriate. The level of risk is assessed to identify the most appropriate referral.

Staff have training that gives them the knowledge and confidence to identify students at risk of being drawn into terrorism, and to challenge extremist ideas which can be used to legitimise terrorism. The training ensures that staff know where and how to refer students for further help.

Appropriate levels of filters are in place to ensure students are safe from terrorist and extremist material when accessing the internet in school.

Working in partnership

The school recognises the importance of effective partnership in discharging the Prevent duty.

The school works in co-operation with local Prevent co-ordinators, the police and the local authority and any multi-agency forum.

Links to other policies

School behaviour policy; Acceptable Users Policy (AUP).

Statutory (linked) guidance: Working together to safeguard children, Keeping Children Safe in Education (September 2019).

Monitoring and enforcement

When assessing the effectiveness of the school OFSTED inspectors will have regard for the school's approach to keeping students safe from the dangers of radicalisation and extremism and the actions taken when it is suspected that students are vulnerable.

The school may be subject to the termination of the funding agreement if the safety of students or staff is threatened.

Glossary

'Extremism' is defined in the 2011 Prevent strategy as 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. We also include in our definition of extremism calls for the death of members of our armed forces, whether in this country or overseas. This definition is currently under review and so is subject to change.

'Interventions' are projects intended to divert people who are being drawn into terrorist activity. Interventions can include mentoring, counselling, theological support, encouraging civic engagement, developing support networks (family and peer structures) or providing mainstream services (education, employment, health, finance or housing).

'Non-violent extremism' is extremism, as defined above, which is not accompanied by violence.

'Prevention' in the context of this document means reducing or eliminating the risk of individuals becoming involved in terrorism. Prevent includes but is not confined to the identification and referral of those at risk of being drawn into terrorism into appropriate interventions. These interventions aim to divert vulnerable people from radicalisation.

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

'Safeguarding' is the process of protecting vulnerable people, whether from crime, other forms of abuse or (in the context of this document) from being drawn into terrorist related activity.

The current UK definition of **'terrorism'** is given in the Terrorism Act 2000 (TACT 2000). In summary this defines terrorism as an action that endangers or causes serious violence to a person/people; causes serious damage to property; or seriously interferes or disrupts an electronic system. The use or threat must be designed to influence the government or to intimidate the public and is made for the purpose of advancing a political, religious or ideological cause.

‘Terrorist-related offences’ are those (such as murder) which are not offences in terrorist legislation, but which are judged to be committed in relation to terrorism.

‘Vulnerability’ describes the condition of being capable of being injured; difficult to defend; open to moral or ideological attack. Within Prevent, the word describes factors and characteristics associated with being susceptible to radicalisation.

<https://homeofficemedia.blog.gov.uk/2019/12/19/prevent-and-channel-factsheet/>