



The Prevent Strategy - A Guide for Parents

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 Islamist groups and other causes.

How does the Prevent strategy apply to schools?

Since July 2015 all schools (as well as other organisations) have had 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
- Promoting the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils, as well as British values such as democracy

We will 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 materials, or by vetting visitors who come into the school to work with pupils. Different schools will carry out the Prevent duty in different ways, depending on the age of the children and the needs of the community.

Key terms

Extremism – vocal or active opposition to fundamental British values such as democracy, the rule of law and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs

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

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

Frequently asked questions

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.

Isn't my child 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. The school will make sure any discussions 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. We

aim to give children the skills to protect them from any extremist views they may encounter, now or later in their lives.

Where to go for more information

Contact school: If you have any questions or concerns about the Prevent strategy and what it means for your child, please do not hesitate to contact us here at Our Lady's Catholic Primary School.

External sources: The following sources may also be useful for further information: Prevent duty guidance: for England and Wales, HM Government

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/prevent-duty-guidance> Prevent for schools

<http://www.preventforschools.org/> Let's Talk About It <http://www.ltai.info/>

At the beginning of July 2015, the **Department for Education** released further guidance to help clarify the role of schools under the new “Prevent Duty”.

This departmental advice:

- clarifies **what the prevent duty means for schools** and childcare providers
- outlines **what they can do to help protect** children from the risk of radicalisation
- makes clear what schools and childcare providers should do **to demonstrate compliance with the duty**

COUNTER TERRORISM AND SECURITY ACT

- The new Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015 places a legal duty on public bodies (including schools) to ***‘have due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism’***.
- The legal duty is backed by **statutory guidance** that sets a range of expectations on schools.
- The statutory guidance will be monitored via existing inspection procedures, such as **OfSTED**.

EXPECTATIONS OF SCHOOL

- Teach a **broad** and balanced curriculum
- Promote **fundamental** British values
- Assess the risk of pupils being drawn into terrorism and support for extremism
- **Train** key staff to give them the knowledge and confidence to identify children at risk
- **Protect** children from terrorist and extremist material when accessing the internet at school
- Ensure **robust safeguarding policies** are in place to identify children at risk, intervene and refer pupils as appropriate

