

Preventing extremism & radicalisation

The 'Prevent' duty:

All education settings must try to prevent children & young people from being drawn into extremism and/or terrorism.

Extremism is defined as:

Opposition to fundamental values, e.g. democracy, law, liberty, respect & tolerance of other faiths & beliefs; that can be used to sow division on the basis of race, faith, denomination; to justify discrimination towards women and girls; persuade others that minorities are inferior etc.

It includes e.g. far right views, animal rights activism and religious fundamentalism.

Protecting students from these risks is similar to protecting them from harm and abuse.

The Prevent programme must not involve any covert activity against people or communities. However, specified authorities may need to share personal information, e.g. to ensure that a student at risk of radicalisation is given appropriate support.

Factors making students vulnerable include:

- Pressure from peers & others or the internet
- Crime against them or involvement in crime
- Anti-social behaviour and bullying
- Family tensions
- Race or hate crime
- Lack of self-esteem or identity
- Personal or political grievances

Signs to look out for include:

- Isolation
- Fixation on an ideology/belief/subject
- Sense of injustice/grievance
- Subjected to group influence/control
- Seeking identity/meaning/belonging
- 'Them' and 'us' perspective on situations
- Attitudes that justify offending etc.

If you think a student might be at risk:

- Inform your DSL/D immediately
- The DSL/D will assess the needs of the student & family & ensure that they are supported within school & with a 'team around the family' meeting
- Serious concerns must be referred immediately by the DSL/D to Children's Social Care, & may involve Police, other agencies & the Channel Programme

Education settings should ensure:

- They are alert to behaviour which may indicate that a student needs help or protection
- They discuss & challenge ideas via the curriculum, debates, outside speakers, etc.
- They have clear procedures in place to assess & protect students at risk
- Designated Safeguarding Leads & Deputies:
 - undertake mandatory 'Workshop for Raising Awareness of Prevent' (WRAP) training via bookings@learnsheffield.co.uk
 - provide briefings, awareness, advice, and support to staff & volunteers
- Students are safe from terrorist & extremist material when accessing the setting's internet
- They give a **proportionate** response to risk
- They work with all services, e.g. Youth Justice, Social Care, & Community Youth Teams, to ensure the welfare of students, staff & visitors

'Prevent' does not:

- Stop students from debating 'risky' issues
- Require unnecessary intrusion into family life
- Override your legal duties of ensuring freedom of speech within legal boundaries

Be careful that you do not stereotype – any group or community can be drawn to extremist ideas & put a child or young person at risk.

Prevent Single Point of Contact:

Andrew Adedoyin, tel.: 0114 2734855

Anyone can report a concern in confidence to:

- Police Prevent Team tel.: 0114 2523217
- Out of hours: tel.: 101, or in an emergency 999
- Email: Prevent@southyorks.pnn.police.uk

Useful resources:

- [Prevent Duty Guidance, DfE 2019](#)
- [Protecting children from radicalisation, DfE 2015](#)
- [Keeping Children Safe in Education, DfE 2021](#)
- [ACT campaign](#)
- [Terrorism Act 2000](#)
- [Channel Guidance, HO 2015](#)
- [SCSP Child Protection & Safeguarding Procedures](#)