

**PREVENT** is part of the Government counter-terrorism strategy and aims to reduce the threat to the UK from terrorism by stopping people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism. **PREVENT** focuses on all forms of terrorism and operates in a 'pre-criminal' space'.

The **PREVENT** strategy has three objectives: Challenging the ideology that supports terrorism and those who promote it, Protecting vulnerable people, Supporting sectors and institutions where there are risks of radicalisation.

In 2015, the UK Government placed a duty on specified authorities (including schools, colleges and universities) to have, in the exercise of their functions, "due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism".

Simply put, **PREVENT** is about safeguarding individuals from being drawn into terrorism, ensuring those vulnerable to extremist and terrorist narratives are given appropriate advice and support at an early stage. **PREVENT** is no different to any other form of safeguarding from harm. Schools have an important role to play by providing a safe space for learners to explore, discuss and debate the range of social and political issues in our rapidly changing world.

It is important to develop young people's skills to be able to engage as active citizens

in a democratic society, developing critical thinking skills so that they become resilient to and equipped to challenge divisive viewpoints and hate speech.

Within our Townley curriculum through CWB, RS, 21c and International Relations students develop their understanding of the world by learning about other people, cultures, beliefs, attitudes and values.

Our educational ethos helps to challenge misinformed views and perceptions amongst learners and challenging commonly held myths, for example regarding particular communities, requires skilled practitioners who use techniques that open up discussion.

Alongside our school's duty it is important parents are aware of their duties and responsibilities in further ensuring their child is protected and not vulnerable to any form of radicalisation. During the current COVID pandemic and lockdown arrangements, young people are likely to spend more time at home and could become more isolated and vulnerable to online radicalisation.

We thus urge parents to read over the guidance provided and refer to the online advice pages, E learning course and other useful links to ensure you are fully educated and aware of our joint **PREVENT** responsibilities.

# prevent

to stop people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism

The UK Counter-Terrorism (CONTEST) Strategy was developed to tackle threats that the UK faces from a range of extremist and terrorist ideologies, groups and individuals. Prevent is one strand of this strategy, and sits alongside

**Pursue:** to stop terrorist attacks

**Protect:** to strengthen our protection against a terrorist attack

**Prepare:** to mitigate the impact of a terrorist attack

## Useful support:

**PREVENT** advice line on 0800 0113764  
[www.internetmatters.org/issues/radicalisation/](http://www.internetmatters.org/issues/radicalisation/)

Guidance on how to protect children online  
<https://actearly.uk/>

Comprehensive **PREVENT** guidance  
[www.elearning.prevent.homeoffice.gov.uk/edu/screen2.html](http://www.elearning.prevent.homeoffice.gov.uk/edu/screen2.html)

Online E-Learning **PREVENT** course  
[www.ltai.info/](http://www.ltai.info/)

Let's Talk About it online support page

### Q. Does the PREVENT Duty require teachers to shut down open and free discussion?

A. No. teachers should encourage discussion and debate about sensitive issues rather than shutting it down. Key to the success of Safeguarding for Prevent in schools is providing a safe space to explore social and political issues and engage in an open debate about these issues within the classroom. Through Curriculum for Excellence, teachers are encouraged to provide pupils with the opportunity to discuss and more importantly develop their understanding of wider beliefs and values and how they are fundamental in both local and global communities. An essential element is developing critical thinking skills so children and young people become resilient to and equipped to challenge divisive narratives.

### Q. Are teachers being asked to spy on students?

A. No, this is about providing those who have a duty of care to our children and young people with a better understanding of the potential factors which could make someone vulnerable to the radicalisation process. Teachers help safeguard pupils from drugs and alcohol misuse, bullying and sexual exploitation. Radicalisation can

have a similarly devastating effect on our children and young people and protecting them from the influence of extremist ideas is a part of our overall safeguarding role.

### Q. Does Prevent only focus on Muslim communities?

A. No. Preventative activity has always focused on addressing all forms of violent extremist activity and has never focused solely on Muslim communities, or any other particular community. We face many different threats. No matter the ideology or idea which sits behind a vulnerability, the collective focus is always the early identification of risk to an individual in order to safeguard them.

### Q. Why do we need Prevent, this isn't an issue in my Local Authority area?

A. This is a commonly held view but it is simply not accurate. As our children and young people grow they inevitably search for answers to questions about identity, faith and belonging, and look for adventure and excitement. This can mean that they are vulnerable to groups, who may claim to offer answers as well as identity

and a strong social network. This is further enhanced by the role the internet can play; terrorist groups are very adept at using social media and the internet to engage with children and young people. This is why it is so important that teachers raise awareness of staying safe online and provide a safe space to explore and discuss these issues within the classroom.

### Q. If I have a concern, what should I do?

A. If a parent is concerned that their child is vulnerable to radicalising influences, whatever the ideology or idea involved, they should alert the school immediately. Prompt attention helps ensure that the response is proportionate and that the young person receives relevant support at the earliest opportunity. Please refer to the new PREVENT website

<https://actearly.uk/spot-the-signs/what-to-look-for/>

for additional guidance and to register any concerns relating to a young person call the national police PREVENT advice line on **0800 0113764**.