



'Be wise, together we succeed'

Merton Junior School

Be wise, together we succeed

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 political and religious extremism.

The guidance, and our school's Prevent Policy, reflects 'Keeping Children Safe in Education' 2016 and our responsibilities with regard to the Prevent Strategy 2011.

Channel is the process that supports people at risk of being drawn towards terrorism or violent extremism.

How does the Prevent strategy apply to schools?

From July 2015 all schools (as well as other organisations) have a duty to safeguard children from radicalisation and extremism.

This means schools have a responsibility to protect children from extremist and violent views, in the same way we protect them from drugs or gang violence.

Importantly, schools can provide a safe place for pupils to discuss these issues so that they better understand how to protect themselves.

What does this mean in practice?

Different schools will carry out the Prevent duty in different ways, depending on the age of the children and the needs of the community.

Many of the things we already do in school to help children become positive, happy members of society also contribute to the Prevent strategy.

For example, we:

- Explore other cultures and religions and promote diversity
- Challenge prejudices and racist comments
- Develop critical thinking skills and a strong, positive self-identity
- Promote the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils, as well as British values such as democracy

-Protect the children from the risk of radicalisation, such as using filters on the internet or vetting visitors who come into school

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 the response to the Prevent strategy.

British values include:

- Democracy
- The rule of law
- Individual liberty and mutual respect
- Tolerance of different faiths and beliefs

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.

We would 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 ideological extremism. Some of these may be a bigger threat in our area than others.

The intention is to give children the skills to protect themselves from any extremist views they may encounter, now or later in their lives.

How do I know if a child or a young person is at risk of extremism or radicalisation?

Signs of extremism or radicalisation include, but are not limited to:

- Being overly secretive about their online viewing
- Becoming more argumentative or domineering in their viewpoints, being quick to condemn those who disagree and ignoring views that contradict their own.
- Expressing themselves in a divisive 'them and us' manner about others who do not share their religion or beliefs
- Downloading or promotion extremist content.
- Displaying feelings of isolation or expressions of an 'us and them' mentality – a sign of the sense of social isolation.
- Altered appearance – change in style of dress and/or personal appearance.

- Questioning their faith or identity.
- Social isolation – losing interest in activities they used to enjoy, distancing themselves from friends and social groups OR becoming involved with a different circle of friends
- Abnormal routines, travel patterns or aspirations.

What do I do, as a parent, if I have concerns that a child or a young person is at risk of extremism or radicalisation?

“There are lots of ways for parents to send positive messages to children of all ages. You might try:

- **Value people’s rights and equality.** All kinds of extremism are incompatible with human rights such as freedom of expression and equality for all. Bringing up children to respect difference and value people’s rights can make them less receptive to extremist views.
- **Don’t confuse Islamist extremism with Islam.** Then when you challenge extremism you won’t damage freedom of religion*
- **Acknowledge complexity and teach critical thinking.** Extremist ideologies are black and white. Teach your children to think critically about what they hear. Extremists present half-truths. Talking to your child about how complicated political and religious issues can be will help them understand that the important answers are not necessarily simple.
- **Be tech savvy.** Radicalisation isn’t just an online problem, but the internet is one way young people connect with extremists who want to exploit them. Talk to your children about what they do online and stay alert for potential warning signs like increased secrecy.
- **Don’t ignore it.** Not all extremist views are violent, but they are all cause for concern. If your child says something worrying, don’t brush it off – even if you’re not sure how serious it really is.
- **Get support.** Parents are often the first to notice worrying changes in a child’s behaviour, but it’s hard to deal with these issues by yourself. There are mentoring programmes and support networks that can help if you have concerns
- **Talk about identity.** Reassure young people who may be struggling with their identity that it’s normal to have lots of different aspects. Letting them know you’re supporting them as they explore the possibilities is one of the most important things you can do. Make sure they know it’s all right to be confused and that they can always come to you for guidance.”

Taken from article “Preventing violent extremism – what parents can do” - www.parentzone.org.uk

*not all people who practise Islam are extremists

If you are still concerned, you can:

- Contact your local police force or dial 101 (the non-emergency police number) If the child has not committed a criminal offence, the police and local authority will discuss your concerns, suggest how they can best protect the child, and help you gain access to all the support and advice you need.
- The local authority or police might suggest a referral to the Channel programme. The Department for Education also has a counter-extremism helpline which you can call for advice on 020 7340 7264 or email to counter.extremism@education.gov.uk.
- If you think someone is in immediate danger, may be planning to travel to join an extremist group (either alone or as part of a family unit or friendship group), or if you see or hear something that may be terrorist-related, trust your instincts and call 999 or the confidential Anti-Terrorist Hotline on 0800 789 321.

Anti-terrorism hotline: 0800 789321
Crimestoppers: 0800 555111

What is the Channel programme?

Channel is a voluntary, confidential programme which aims to safeguard children and adults from being drawn into terrorism. Channel can provide a support plan and specific interventions to protect people at risk, including mentoring support or an ideological or theological intervention. Referrals to Channel can come from anyone who has concerns about individuals who may be vulnerable to being drawn into terrorism. Referrals are most likely to come from youth offending teams, social services, health, police, and educational establishments such as schools.

In the event of an immediate risk you should [**contact the police**](#) by calling 999.

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 the school to speak to Miss Palmer or Mrs Reading.

This handout has been written in accordance with the following school policies:

Safeguarding Policy, Child Protection Policy and Prevent Policy.

External sources

The following sources may also be useful for further information:

Revised prevent duty guidance for England and Wales, HM Government (Adobe pdf file)

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/445977/3799_Revised_Prevent_Duty_Guidance_England_Wales_V2-Interactive.pdf

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

www.hampshireiowpreventboard.org.uk

The Prevent duty: advice for schools and childcare providers, GOV.UK – DfE (Adobe pdf file)

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/439598/prevent-duty-departmental-advice-v6.pdf

What is Prevent? Let's Talk About It

<http://www.ltai.info/what-is-prevent/>

Parental support

<http://www.parentzone.org.uk>

<http://www.familylives.org.uk>

<http://educateagainsthate.com/teachers/what-should-i-do-if-i-have-a-concern-about-a-child/>

Our Commitment

Merton Junior School is fully committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all its pupils. We recognise that safeguarding against radicalisation and extremism is no different to safeguarding against any other vulnerability in today's society. Our school fully recognises the contribution it can make to promoting the welfare of children and protecting them from harm. The school's Prevent policy and this guidance sets out our strategies and procedures to protect vulnerable pupils from being radicalised or exposed to extremist views. The elements of our policy are prevention, protection and support.

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 – 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, and is intended to advance a political, religious or ideological cause

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