Prevent Duty Information
Radicalisation and Extremism

Adopted: March 2024 Reviewed January 2026

What is it?

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

Extremism is vocal or active opposition to the fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs.

The Prevent Duty addresses all forms of terrorism, including radicalisation, school massacre ideologies and those with mixed, unclear or unstable ideologies. In recent years, right-wing and Islamist radicalisation have been the most common case types referred to Channel, the government's programme for supporting people at risk of radicalisation.

The Prevent Duty forms part of our wider safeguarding responsibilities. It is not about limiting freedom of expression, but about protecting children from harm.

What are our school's statutory duties?

Schools have a duty to prevent children from being drawn into terrorism, under Section 26 of the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015.

As a school, we also have a duty to safeguard and promote the welfare of our pupils and ensure they achieve the best possible outcomes.

How does radicalisation happen?

Increasingly, radicalisation happens online. For example:
- Extremist groups use online videos and platforms to share conspiracy theories and disinformation
- Far-right groups use social media to spread disinformation about Muslims and other marginalised groups
- Extremists may use chat functions within online games to target and groom children

Once contact is established, individuals may be groomed using increasingly extreme language, images or ideas.

In a primary school context, indicators are often subtle and may appear through changes in behaviour, language, attitudes or play.

Who is more at risk?

Any child can be vulnerable. However, children who may be more at risk include those who:
- Have low self-esteem
- Are experiencing bullying or discrimination
- Feel isolated, lonely or disconnected
- Are experiencing family stress or economic hardship

Some children may spend increased time online or unsupervised, which can increase exposure to harmful content.

What to look for…

Possible indicators include:
- Becoming increasingly argumentative or intolerant
- Using language that shows prejudice or hatred towards others
- Refusing to engage with peers who are different
- Becoming susceptible to conspiracy theories or feelings of persecution
- Significant changes in friendships, behaviour or interests
- Withdrawal from previously enjoyed activities
- Talking in a scripted or rehearsed way
- An unwillingness to listen to alternative viewpoints
- Increased anger, secrecy or defensiveness, particularly around internet use
- Expressing sympathy for extremist ideologies or justifying their actions
- Accessing or sharing extremist material

(Note: A single indicator on its own does not mean a child is being radicalised.)

What to do if you have a concern…

- Report concerns immediately to the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) Mrs Tina Clarke or Deputy DSLs Ms Dani Rees and Ms Lisa Solanki
- Record concerns on CPOMS in line with school safeguarding procedures
- The DSL may consult with the Local Authority, Children's Social Care or refer to the Channel Panel

- DfE Prevent Helpline: 020 7340 7264
Email: counter.extremism@education.gov.uk

British Values

Our curriculum actively promotes fundamental British values and helps children to:
- Respect difference
- Think critically
- Challenge stereotypes
- Develop tolerance and understanding
- Stay safe online and in the wider world