

The Prevent Duty: safeguarding children and young people against radicalisation and extremism

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On 1 July 2015 the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 introduced the [Prevent Duty](#) on schools and colleges, as well as specified authorities such as local authorities, health and the police, “to have due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism”.

[Inspecting Safeguarding in early years, education and skills settings](#), is Ofsted’s guidance for inspectors for use in school inspections. Effective from September 2015, it also contains information on safeguarding from radicalisation and extremism.

[Keeping Children Safe in Education](#) (KCSIE) has also been updated to include references to preventing radicalisation.

The new duty applies to all schools and colleges and is very much about opening up discussion and debate around issues such as politics and identity. Ofsted have made clear that a school that has issues with extremist ideas can have outstanding practice if they are addressing these issues and having appropriate and meaningful discussions with their young people. However, a school that believes it has no issues and is not having these discussions can fail in its Prevent duty.

Schools and colleges also need to create more resilience to radicalisation and extremism amongst their pupils by providing a broad and balanced curriculum teaching fundamental British values and equalities, together with a strong school or college ethos which respects and values all young people. They also need to teach pupils critical thinking skills and how to manage risk, resist pressure, make safer choices and seek help if necessary.

As a minimum, all schools and colleges must:

- carry out a risk assessment to assess the general level of risk in their local area, shared with partners
- have robust and regularly reviewed safeguarding policies, procedures and interventions (no requirement for a discreet extremism/radicalisation policy). Policies must include the means to identify individual children who may be at risk, when to refer and to whom (local Channel panel, Social Care) and clear protocols for visiting speakers’ suitability and supervision
- work in partnership through their LSCB through usual safeguarding processes
- train staff to gain knowledge, skills, awareness and confidence to challenge extremist ideas and understand how and when to refer

- have robust IT policies in place which includes e-safety policy and appropriate filtering to protect students from exposure to violent extremist material

Training

Schools and colleges are best placed to assess their training needs in the light of their assessment of the risk. As a minimum, however, they should ensure that the Designated Safeguarding Lead undertakes Prevent awareness training and is able to provide advice and support to other members of staff on protecting children from the risk of radicalisation.

The Prevent statutory guidance refers to the importance of Prevent awareness training and the Home Office has developed a free core training workshop to Raise Awareness of Prevent (WRAP). This training is mostly delivered by local authorities or the police but will vary from area to area. The government appreciates that at present there is a time lag for schools and colleges to receive this training in some parts of the country, and advise they are working to build capacity within the system.

Channel is part of the Prevent strategy and helps identify and provide support to individuals who are at risk of being drawn into terrorism. The Channel panels are multi-agency panels set up by local authorities and include schools and colleges.

More information about their free online training is available at course.ncalt.com