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~~hate~~**

**School leaders.
Safeguarding
against ~~extremism.~~**

What is the threat from extremism and terrorism in the UK?

The government is determined to defeat extremism and terrorism in all its forms. This includes extremism: violent and non-violent, Islamist and far right.

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The greatest current challenge comes from the global rise of Islamist extremism. We see this in the violence of Al Qa'ida (AQ) and Daesh (also referred to as Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), Islamic State or IS).

But Islamist ~~extremism~~ is not the only threat. Today in the UK there are numerous active extreme right-wing groups, sharing an ideology centring on an intense hostility to minorities and a belief that violence between ethnic and religious groups is inevitable. Alongside antisemitism and racism, hostility to Islam has now become a common element of extreme-right ideology.

Why is extremism relevant to my school?

Children of all ages are vulnerable to a range of risks as they grow up. Even young children may be exposed to extremism, both inside and outside the home or online. As school leaders, you have a responsibility to protect them from those risks.

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There have been a number of tragic examples where young people have been influenced by ~~extremist~~ groups and have travelled to Syria, or become involved with far-right groups.

As head teachers and school leaders, you play a crucial role in ensuring your school protects children and young people from this threat. You can do this by understanding your responsibilities under the Prevent duty and what actions you can take to make sure your school is fulfilling them.

What are my school's responsibilities under the Prevent duty?

Since July 2015 all schools and registered childcare providers have been subject to a duty to, in the exercise of their functions, have “due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism”. This is called the Prevent duty.



Your responsibility as a head teacher is to ensure that you put in place robust procedures for protecting your pupils against radicalisation and extremism.

As a governor, you are responsible for reviewing and evaluating those procedures, and for ensuring that they are effective.

This should be seen as part of your school's wider safeguarding duties and is entirely consistent with your existing responsibilities in this area. Every school is different and clearly a "one size fits all" approach will not be effective. However, you must make sure that you have considered what is appropriate in your school based on your risk assessment.

What practical things should I do to ensure my school complies with its responsibilities under the Prevent duty?

As a starting point, both head teachers and governors should read “Keeping children safe in education” and “Prevent duty guidance”.

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Head teachers should then ensure that their school:

- Carries out an appropriate risk assessment**
- Works in partnership with others**
- Provides staff training**
- Puts in place appropriate IT policies**

All school leaders should oversee and review the school's activities on each of the above, with a particular view to evaluating and improving their effectiveness. More information on each of the above is available at educateagainsthate.com

What action should be taken if a member of staff in my school has a concern?

If you or a member of your staff have concerns that one of your pupils is being, or has been, radicalised you should follow your school's standard safeguarding procedures. This includes discussing the issue with your designated safeguarding lead and contacting your local authority if appropriate.

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You can also contact your local police force or dial 101 (the non-emergency number) or speak to your local authority. They can help you gain access to support and advice.

The Department for Education also has a counter-extremism helpline which you can call for advice on 020 7340 7264.

If you think someone is in immediate danger, trust your instincts and call 999 or the confidential Anti-Terrorist Hotline on 0800 789 321.

What should my staff be teaching in class?

It is important to remember that the Prevent duty is not intended to stop pupils debating controversial issues. In fact, by providing a safe environment where all pupils are encouraged to discuss a wide range of social and political issues, you can help build their resilience against extremist ideas, and prepare them to play a full and active role in wider society.

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There are many ways in which teachers can help build young people's resilience against extremism in the classroom. This could include discussing issues surrounding extremism and terrorism directly with your class. It also includes teaching about, and promoting, the British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance with those of different faiths and beliefs. There are resources available to help you with this on educateagainsthate.com

For more information:

educateagainsthate.com

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