

School leaders. Safeguarding against ~~extremism.~~

Since July 2015, schools have a legal responsibility to “have due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism”.

As a school leader, it’s your responsibility to put in place robust procedures to protect your students, and to review and evaluate these procedures to ensure they are effective.

This leaflet contains information to help you protect your students from radicalisation and extremism.

More information and training can be found at:
www.educateagainsthate.com/school-leaders

1. What is Channel?

Channel is a multi-agency, voluntary programme which safeguards people identified as being vulnerable to radicalisation. A referral can come from anyone who is concerned about a person they think is at risk. It is not a criminal sanction and will not affect a person’s criminal record.

Many types of support are available as part of the Channel programme, addressing educational, vocational, mental health and other vulnerabilities.

www.gov.uk/government/case-studies/the-channel-programme

2. What if a member of staff in my school has a concern?

As a school leader it’s your responsibility to ensure your teachers and staff are aware of, and confident in, following your safeguarding procedure.

If a teacher has concerns about a student, you should encourage them to discuss this with your school’s designated safeguarding lead in the first instance.

If necessary, either you, the teacher or the safeguarding lead should contact:

- the local authority school safeguarding team for further advice
- the non-emergency police number: 101
- the Anti-Terrorism Hotline: 0800 789 321
- 999 only in an emergency

The police and local authority will discuss your concerns and give you access to relevant support and advice. Speaking to the police will not get the child into trouble if a criminal act hasn’t been committed.

3. What steps should I take to ensure my school complies with Prevent?

As a school leader you should familiarise yourself with key documents including the *Prevent duty guidance* and *Keeping children safe in education*.

Key activities include carrying out a risk assessment, building on existing local partnerships, training staff and ensuring appropriate IT policies and practices are in place.

You should:

- assess the risk of children being drawn into terrorism
- ensure your school understands the relevant risks to students

- get practical information regarding the risks in your area
- follow your Local Safeguarding Children Board policies
- seek advice and support from the local authority, police, civil society organisations and families and parents
- ensure your safeguarding lead undertakes Prevent awareness training
- train other staff to identify children at risk
- ensure your school has suitable online safety controls
- equip your students to stay safe online
- integrate internet safety into the ICT curriculum

4. What should my staff be teaching in class?

Schools should be a safe space where students can discuss social and political issues, including extremism and terrorism. Building young people's resilience will put them in a stronger position to reject extremist views.

Teachers should build resilience to extremist narratives by giving students the skills and knowledge to explore issues critically, to weigh evidence, debate and make reasoned arguments.

This can include:

- age-appropriate conversations about extremism and radicalisation
- promoting fundamental British values of democracy, rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs
- discussing issues of identity, difference and tolerance

The DfE has published advice on fundamental British values as part of the spiritual, moral, social and cultural (SMSC) development of your students.

www.gov.uk/government/news/guidance-on-promoting-british-values-in-schools

Important contacts

Department for Education counter-extremism helpline: 020 7340 7264

 @EducateAgainst

Anti-Terrorism Hotline: 0800 789 321

Further guidance, lesson plans and support organisations can be found at www.educateagainsthate.com