

## **Teachers. Building resilience against ~~extremist~~ and radicalising influences.**

As a teacher, you are in a key position to protect children and young people from the dangers of extremist narratives.

You do an invaluable job in protecting students from drug abuse, gangs, neglect and sexual exploitation. Radicalisation has a similarly devastating effect on young people, families and communities. Helping to protect students from extremist and radicalising influences is an important part of your overall safeguarding role.

This leaflet outlines what you should do if you feel a student is at risk of radicalisation or extremist influences.

### **1. What are the warning signs of radicalisation?**

There is no single route to radicalisation. It can happen over a long period of time or sometimes it is triggered by a specific incident or news item and can happen quickly. The behaviours listed here are intended as a guide to help you identify possible radicalisation.

#### **Online behaviour**

- Accessing extremist online content
- Sympathetic to extremist ideologies and groups
- Joining or trying to join an extremist organisation
- Changing online identity

#### **Outward appearance**

- Not listening to other points of view
- Abusive towards people who are different
- Embracing conspiracy theories
- Feeling persecuted
- Changing friends and appearance
- Converting to a new religion
- Being secretive of movements
- Increasingly argumentative
- Distancing themselves from old friends
- No longer doing things they used to enjoy

### **2. 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](http://www.gov.uk/government/case-studies/the-channel-programme)

### 3. Which young people are vulnerable to radicalisation?

Children from all backgrounds can become radicalised, but it's important to keep the risk in perspective. External factors such as community tension, global events, or having friends or family who have joined extremist groups, all play a part. Any of these issues make children more susceptible to believing that extremists' claims are the answer to their problems.

The following is a guide only, so use your professional judgment to assess students' vulnerability.

- Struggling with a sense of identity
- Becoming distanced from their cultural or religious background
- Questioning their place in society
- Family issues
- Experiencing a traumatic event
- Experiencing racism or discrimination
- Difficulty in interacting socially and lacking empathy
- Difficulty in understanding the consequences of their actions
- Low self-esteem

### 4. What should I do if I have a concern about a student?

If you are concerned a student is being radicalised, you should follow your school's standard safeguarding procedure. This includes discussing any concerns with your school's designated safeguarding lead.

For additional support outside of your school, you can:

- speak with your Prevent coordinator or local authority school safeguarding team
- contact your local police or dial 101 (the non-emergency police number)

For advice:

- call the Department for Education counter-extremism helpline on 020 7340 7264
- or email [counter.extremism@education.gov.uk](mailto:counter.extremism@education.gov.uk)

If you think someone is in immediate danger, or if you see or hear something that may be terrorist-related:

- trust your instincts and call 999
- or the confidential Anti-Terrorism Hotline on 0800 789 321

### 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](http://www.educateagainsthate.com)