



The Prevent strategy

What is the Prevent duty?

The [Counter-Terrorism and Security Act](#), which came into force on 1 July 2015, requires certain authorities, including schools, to "have due regard to the need to prevent people being drawn into terrorism". This is known as the 'Prevent duty'.

The duty covers all types of extremism, whether political, religious or ideological.

What does it mean for schools?

The duty to [protect pupils from the risk of radicalisation](#) should be seen as part of schools' wider safeguarding duties, similar to the responsibility to protect pupils from harm caused by, for example, drugs, gangs, neglect or sexual exploitation.

The Prevent duty is consistent with schools' existing duties, such as the requirement to abide by the [Equality Act 2010](#), promote '[fundamental British values](#)', secure a balanced presentation of political issues and promote [community cohesion](#).

What does my school need to do?

Schools need to ensure their existing safeguarding procedures are robust and take the risk of radicalisation into account, including with regard to [visiting speakers](#). You should have appropriate internet filtering systems in place to ensure pupils are [not exposed to harmful content online](#).

The school should also carry out an [assessment of the risk of pupils being drawn into terrorism](#), based on an assessment of local risk. Talk to your local authority (LA) or police force to gain a better understanding of the risks particular to your area.

You should also ensure staff receive training to help them identify children at risk of being drawn into terrorism, challenge extremist ideas, and know how to act if they have a concern. At the very least, your designated safeguarding lead should undergo Prevent awareness training.

The government says it is also very important that schools are "safe spaces" for pupils to discuss sensitive topics, [including terrorism and extremist ideas](#). They should also be taught how to recognise and manage risk, think critically and make reasoned arguments.

What should staff do if they have a concern?

The government's [Educate Against Hate](#) website says that where a member of staff has a concern, he/she should follow the school's usual safeguarding procedures. Concerns should be discussed with the designated safeguarding lead, who may decide to involve other agencies such as the LA or local police.

The LA or police may suggest that the pupil is referred to [Channel](#), the government's programme for identifying and supporting those at risk of being drawn into terrorism, or to social services.

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