

Broad Oak Primary School



www.broadoak.lancs.sch.uk

Preventing Radicalisation in school

Schools have a vital role to play in protecting children and young people from the risks of extremism and radicalisation. This role is underpinned by the Counter Terrorism and Security Act (2015) to have due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism.

The Prevent Strategy, published by the Government is part of an overall counter terrorism strategy. The aim of the Prevent strategy is to reduce the threat to the UK from terrorism by stopping people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism activity. This has raised a specific need to safeguard children, young people and families from violent extremism and terrorism.

Prevent is part of the Government's Counter-Terrorism Strategy, CONTEST. Its aim is to stop people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism.

Prevent Objectives

Objective 1: the ideological challenge

Children and young people can be drawn into violence or they can be exposed to the messages of extremist groups by many means. Children and young people are vulnerable to exposure to, or involvement with, groups or individuals who advocate violence as a means to a political or ideological end. Examples of extremist causes that have used violence to achieve their ends include animal rights, the far right, internal terrorist and international terrorist organisations. The extremist ideology can be influenced by family members, friends, and contact with extremist groups and organisations, or increasingly through the internet. Extremist speakers may try to use schools, colleges or universities to platform their extremist views to young people. We need to check the credibility of speakers, their presentations and prohibit those who preach hate and extremism. This can put a child or young person at risk of being drawn into criminal activity and has the potential to cause significant harm. We need to create safe spaces to allow young people to discuss current affairs, politics and conflict in a controlled environment. Extremists try to accentuate division and difference. Education can equip young people with the knowledge, skills and reflex to think for themselves, to challenge and debate; and giving young people the opportunity to learn about different cultures and faiths, and crucially to gain an understanding of the values we share.

Objective 2: supporting vulnerable people

The process of radicalisation is different for every individual and can take place over an extended period or within a very short time frame. It is important that awareness, sensitivity and expertise are developed to recognise the signs and indications of radicalisation. Channel has been developed to support and protect vulnerable people from being drawn into terrorism.

Research shows that indicators of vulnerability can include:

- Identity Crisis - Distance from cultural/religious heritage and uncomfortable with their place in the society around them.
- Personal Crisis – Family tensions; sense of isolation; adolescence; low self esteem; disassociating from existing friendship group and becoming involved with a new and different group of friends; searching for answers to questions about identity, faith and belonging.
- Personal Circumstances – Migration; local community tensions; events affecting country or region of origin; alienation from UK values; having a sense of grievance that is triggered by personal experience of racism or discrimination or aspects of Government policy.

- Unmet Aspirations – Perceptions of injustice; feeling of failure; rejection of civic life.
- Criminality – Experiences of imprisonment; poor resettlement/ reintegration, previous involvement with criminal groups

Channel is a national project covering all forms of violent extremism that has been put in place to safeguard individuals who may be vulnerable to radicalisation. The multi-agency approach is to provide early intervention and support to people that are vulnerable and so they are not drawn into criminal activity.

Potential indicators identified by **Channel** Guidance include:

- use of inappropriate language
- possessing or accessing violent extremist literature
- changes in behaviour
- the expression of extremist views
- advocating violent actions and means
- articulating support for violent extremist causes or leaders
- using extremist views to explain personal disadvantage
- joining or seeking to join extremist organisations
- seeking to recruit others to an extremist ideology

Objective 3: working with key sectors

In 2015 the Counter Terrorism Bill became law which listed schools as one of the bodies that has a duty to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism.

At Broad Oak if we have a concern about a particular child we will follow the school's normal safeguarding procedures, including discussing with the school's designated safeguarding lead, and where deemed necessary, with children's social care. If required the school will make a referral to the CHANNEL program which supports young people who may be at risk of radicalisation. We may also contact the local police force or dial 101 (the non-emergency number). They can talk to us in confidence about concerns and help us gain access to support and advice. The Department for Education has dedicated a telephone helpline (020 7340 7264) to enable staff and governors to raise concerns relating to extremism directly. Concerns can also be raised by email to counter.extremism@education.gsi.gov.uk.

Please note that the helpline is not intended for use in emergency situations

For more information and extra resources:

[Educate Against Hate - Prevent Radicalisation & Extremism](#)

Prevent duty guidance: for England and Wales, HM Government

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/417943/Prevent_Duty_Guidance_England_Wales.pdf

Prevent free online training- [INTRODUCTION TO PREVENT E-LEARNING PACKAGE](#)

http://www.preventforschools.org/?category_id=38What is Prevent? Let's Talk About It

KEY TERMS

Extremism – vocal or active opposition to fundamental British values such as democracy, the rule of law and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs

Ideology – a set of beliefs

Terrorism – a violent action against people or property, designed to create fear and advance a political, religious or ideological cause

Radicalisation – the process by which a person comes to support extremism