

## **Prevent factsheet for staff, governors and volunteers**

'Prevent' relates to the Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015 which came into force on 1 July 2015.

Since July 1 2015 there has been a duty on schools to have 'due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism'. This is called the *Prevent* duty.

*Prevent* is part of the Government's counter terrorism strategy. Its aim is to stop people from becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism in all its forms, domestic or international.

All staff will be trained using the '**Workshop to Raise Awareness of Prevent**' [WRAP] training materials in 2015/16. Until that training session occurs staff should be aware of the following:

### **What is radicalisation?**

"Radicalisation" refers to the process by which a person comes to support terrorism and forms of extremism leading to terrorism. During the process of 'radicalisation' it is possible to intervene to prevent vulnerable people being drawn into terrorist-related activity.

### **What is extremism?**

'Vocal or active opposition to fundamental British values, including democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs'.

Please note that being drawn into terrorism includes not only violent extremism but also non-violent extremism. Extremism can take several forms, including Islamist extremism, far-right and animal rights extremism for example.

### **What are British Values?**

'Democracy, the rule of law, equality of opportunity, freedom of speech and the rights for all men and women to live free from persecution of any kind'.

Schools are expected to encourage pupils to respect other people with particular regard to the protected characteristics set out in the Equality Act 2010 (age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion and belief, sex and sexual orientation).

Schools can build pupils' resilience to radicalisation by promoting fundamental British values and enabling them to challenge extremist views. It is important to emphasise that the Prevent duty is not intended to stop pupils debating controversial issues. On the contrary, schools should provide a safe place in which children, young people and staff can understand the risks associated with terrorism and develop the knowledge and skills to be able to challenge extremist arguments.

### **What action should staff take if they are worried that a child or young person might be drawn into extremism?**

Protecting children from the risk of radicalisation should be seen as part of the school's wider safeguarding duties, and is similar in nature to protecting children from other harms (e.g. drugs, gangs, neglect, sexual exploitation), whether they come from within their family or are the product of outside influences.

The school has clear procedures in place to safeguard children that includes protecting children at risk of radicalisation. These procedures will be set out in existing safeguarding policies.

Staff should be alert to the signs that a young person is becoming radicalised and utilise the school's existing child protection procedures, informing the Designated Safeguarding Lead without delay of any child or young person they are concerned about.

**Concerns can be the 'generic' safeguarding triggers linked to the child protection training staff have received such as: changes in behaviour and mood, self-harm; or the specific extremist strand such as: showing sympathy for extremist causes, glorifying violence, evidence of possessing illegal or extremist literature etc.**

If a member of staff has a concern about a particular pupil they should **follow the school's normal safeguarding procedures, including discussing these with the school's Designated Safeguarding Lead.**