

The Prevent Duty Policy



1 The Prevent Duty

1.1 The Prevent duty is the duty in the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 on specified authorities, in the exercise of their functions, to have due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism.

1.2 From 1 July 2015 all schools, including governing bodies, school leaders and school staff in maintained schools must have regard to paragraphs 57-76 of the following statutory guidance and are subject to a duty under section 26 of the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015, in the exercise of their functions, to have “due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism”. This duty is known as the Prevent duty.

Revised *Prevent* Duty Guidance - Guidance for specified authorities in England and Wales on the duty in the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 to have due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism.

Advice Notice:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/439598/prevent-duty-departmental-advice-v6.pdf

Duty:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/prevent-duty-guidance/revised-prevent-duty-guidance-for-england-and-wales>

2 The Prevent Duty at Vale School

2.1 In order for Vale School to fulfil the Prevent duty, it is essential that our staff are able to identify children who may be vulnerable to radicalisation, and know what to do when they are identified. Protecting children from the risk of radicalisation is part of our wider safeguarding duties, and is similar in nature to protecting children from other harms (e.g. drugs, gangs, neglect, sexual exploitation), whether these come from within their family or are the product of outside influences.

2.2 Vale School can also build pupils' resilience to radicalisation by promoting fundamental British values and enabling them to challenge extremist views. It is important to emphasise that in delivering our Prevent duty it is not intended to stop pupils debating controversial issues. On the contrary, as a school we shall provide a safe space in which pupils and staff can understand the risks associated with terrorism and develop the knowledge and skills to be able to challenge extremist arguments.

“Extremism” is 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. It includes calls for the death of members of our armed forces, whether in this country or overseas. Terrorist groups very often draw on extremist ideas developed by extremist organisations.

2.3 Our Prevent duty is entirely consistent with Vale School's existing statutory responsibilities and our school 'Aims'.

3 Our Processes to support our Prevent Duty

3.1 Risk assessment

- a) The general risks affecting children and young people can vary from area to area, and according to their age. Vale School is in an important position to identify risks within our given local context.
- b) We will assess the risk of children being drawn into terrorism, including support for extremist ideas that are part of terrorist ideology.
- c) We will use our professional judgement in identifying children who might be at risk of radicalisation and act proportionately.
- d) We will be alert to changes in children's behaviour which could indicate that they may be in need of help or protection.
- e) We will assess and monitor the increased risk of online radicalisation.
- f) We will have clear procedures in place for protecting children at risk of radicalisation - these procedures may be set out in existing safeguarding policies.
- g) We will ensure, through training, that school staff understand when it is appropriate to make a referral to the Channel programme.

3.2 Working in partnership

- a. The Vale School will work with the Local Safeguarding Children Boards (LSCBs) who are responsible for coordinating what is done by local agencies for the purposes of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in their local area.
- b. Our Safeguarding arrangements already take into account the policies and procedures of the LSCB.
- c. We will work with our Local Authority partners and Prevent coordinators
- d. We will effectively engage with parents / families to spot signs of radicalisation.
- e. We will assist and advise families who raise concerns and signpost them to the right support mechanisms.

3.3 Staff training

We recognise the importance of Prevent awareness training to equip staff to identify children at risk of being drawn into terrorism and to challenge extremist ideas.

- a. We will ensure that our Designated Safeguarding Lead and members of the Senior Leadership Team undertake Prevent awareness training and are able to provide advice and support to other members of staff on protecting children from the risk of radicalisation.
- b. We will ensure that our staff undertake 'Channel' training on how and when to refer a child or young person thought to be at risk.
- c.
- d. We will ensure that school Governors receive The Prevent Duty training
- e. We will identify a named 'lead governor' for The Prevent Duty.

3.4 IT policies

We recognise that we have an important role to play in equipping children and young people to stay safe online, both in school and outside. Internet safety will be an integral part of the school's curriculum, including PSHE.

As with other online risks of harm, staff will be aware of the risks posed by the online activity of extremist and terrorist groups.

- a. We will ensure that pupils are safe from terrorist and extremist material when accessing the internet in schools.
- b. We will ensure that suitable filtering is in place.

4 Building children's resilience to radicalisation

At Vale School we can help to build pupils' resilience to radicalisation by providing a safe environment for debating controversial issues and helping them to understand how they can influence and participate in decision-making. We already promote the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils and, within this, fundamental British values.

Our Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE) can be an effective way of providing pupils with time to explore sensitive or controversial issues, and equipping them with the knowledge and skills to understand and manage difficult situations. The subject can be used to teach pupils to recognise and manage risk, make safer choices, and recognise when pressure from others threatens their personal safety and wellbeing. They can also develop effective ways of resisting pressures, including knowing when, where and how to get help.

Citizenship helps to provide pupils with the knowledge, skills and understanding to prepare them to play a full and active part in society. It can equip pupils to explore political and social issues critically, to weigh evidence, to debate, and to make reasoned arguments. In Citizenship, pupils learn about democracy, government and how laws are made and upheld.

Pupils are also taught about the diverse national, regional, religious and ethnic identities in the United Kingdom and the need for mutual respect and understanding.

5 What to do if you have a concern

If a member of staff has a concern about a particular pupil they will follow the school's normal safeguarding procedures, including discussing with the school's designated safeguarding lead or in their absence their deputy or the headteacher.

If a parent, carer or other person has a concern about a particular pupil they should contact the school's designated safeguarding lead (the deputy headteacher) or in their absence their deputy or the headteacher.

You can also contact your local police force or dial 101 (the non-emergency number). They can talk to you in confidence about your concerns and help you 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, such as a child being at immediate risk of harm or a security incident, in which case the normal emergency procedures should be followed.