



The Prevent strategy – information for parents

At Cottenham Primary School we take our safeguarding responsibilities seriously and would like to share the following information with you:

What is the Prevent strategy?

Prevent is a government strategy designed to stop people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorist or extremist causes. The Prevent strategy covers all types of terrorism and extremism, including the extreme right wing, violent Islamist groups and other causes.

How does the Prevent strategy apply to schools?

From July 2015 all schools have a duty to safeguard children and young people from radicalisation and extremism. This means we have a responsibility to protect our students from extremist and violent views. Importantly, we aim to provide a safe place for children to discuss these issues within our school curriculum so they better understand how to protect themselves.

What does this mean in practice?

Many of the things we already do in school to help students become positive, happy members of society also contribute to the Prevent strategy. These include:

- Exploring other cultures and religions and promoting diversity
- Challenging prejudices and racist comments
- Developing critical thinking skills and a strong, positive self-identity
- Promoting the spiritual, moral, social and cultural (SMSC) development of students, as well as British values such as democracy

We will also aim to protect students from the risk of radicalisation, for example by using filters on the internet to make sure they can't access extremist and terrorist material, or by vetting visitors who come into school to work with students. Different schools will carry out the Prevent duty in different ways, depending on the age of the student and the needs of the community.

Frequently Asked Questions

How does Prevent relate to British values?

Schools have been required to promote British values since 2014, and this will continue to be part of our response to the Prevent strategy. British values include:

- Democracy
- The rule of law
- Individual liberty and mutual respect
- Tolerance of different faiths and beliefs

Isn't my child too young to learn about extremism?

The Prevent strategy is not just about discussing extremism itself, which may not be appropriate for younger children. It is about teaching young people values such as tolerance and mutual respect. The school will make sure any discussions are suitable for the age and maturity of the pupils involved.



Is extremism really a risk in our area?

Extremism can take many forms, including political, religious and misogynistic extremism. Some of these may be a bigger threat in our area than others. Our aim is to give pupils the skills to protect themselves from any extremist views they may encounter, now or later in their lives.

External sources

The following sources may also be useful for further information:

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

Frequently asked questions, Prevent For Schools

http://www.preventforschools.org/?category_id=38

What is Prevent? Let's Talk About It

<http://www.ltai.info/what-is-prevent>

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 and terrorism

If you have any questions or concerns about the Prevent strategy and what it means for your child, please do not hesitate to contact the school.

