

Prevent Duty

Mortimer Community College

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PREVENT duty

The Prevent duty is part of the UK Government's counter-terrorism strategy and was established in **2015**.

It places a statutory responsibility on schools and childcare providers to **have due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism**. The duty complements broader safeguarding obligations, ensuring that children and young people are **protected from extremist ideologies** and radicalising influences.

Key Components for Schools

Risk Assessment:

Schools must assess how learners and staff may be vulnerable to radicalisation, considering both physical and online environments as well as local risk factors.

Promoting British Values:

Education should embed fundamental **British values**: democracy, rule of law, individual liberty, and mutual respect and tolerance for those of different faiths and beliefs. Schools provide safe spaces to discuss sensitive topics and challenge extremist ideas in a balanced and informed way.

Staff Training: All staff should receive **Prevent training appropriate to their role**. Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSLs) are central to managing concerns and making referrals

Partnerships and Referral: Suspected cases of radicalisation are managed through **the Channel programme**, a voluntary, multi-agency support panel offering tailored interventions.

British Values

- Schools have a duty to promote ‘British Values’ as part of their Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural curriculum (SMSC). This sits within what is now called Personal Development and is inspected by OFSTED.
- Each school will have a different delivery method for this curriculum.

British Values

- an understanding of how citizens can influence decision-making through the democratic process
- an appreciation that living under the rule of law protects individual citizens and is essential for their wellbeing and safety
- an understanding that there is a separation of power between the executive and the judiciary, and that while some public bodies such as the police and the army can be held to account through Parliament, others such as the courts maintain independence
- an understanding that the freedom to choose and hold other faiths and beliefs is protected in law
- an acceptance that other people having different faiths or beliefs to oneself (or having none) should be accepted and tolerated, and should not be the cause of prejudicial or discriminatory behaviour
- an understanding of the importance of identifying and combatting discrimination.

Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural

- Through their provision of SMSC, schools should:
- enable students to develop their self-knowledge, self-esteem and self-confidence
- enable students to distinguish right from wrong and to respect the civil and criminal law of England
- encourage students to accept responsibility for their behaviour, show initiative, and to understand how they can contribute positively to the lives of those living and working in the locality of the school and to society more widely
- enable students to acquire a broad general knowledge of and respect for public institutions and services in England;
- further tolerance and harmony between different cultural traditions by enabling students to acquire an appreciation of and respect for their own and other cultures;
- encourage respect for other people
- encourage respect for democracy and support for participation in the democratic processes, including respect for the basis on which the law is made and applied in England.

Threat and risk factors to consider

- Official threat level '**SUBSTANTIAL**'
- Islamist influenced terrorism, far-right extremism, divisive narratives and mass casualty attacks. All forms of terror!
- Local, Regional, National and Global factors – global conflict, rising community tensions, misinformation and disinformation are endemic.
- Rise in reported hate crimes and Prevent referrals in 2025
- Young males in South Tyneside most likely to be referred to Prevent in relation to online extremism.
- Self initiated terrorism is an enduring threat

Support for schools for Prevent from STC

- Access to free Prevent training on request, face-to-face and online training modules are available via South Tyneside Community Safety Team
- Prevent Duty SPOC within the Council –
graeme.littlewood@southtyneside.gov.uk
- Monthly Channel panel meetings for young people identified as being at risk of radicalisation.
- STC Prevent Duty Annual Risk Assessment and Counter Terrorism Local Profile shared across all schools – includes local risk profile and details of hate crimes etc.

Education to eradicate hate

- STC continue to be the only area in Northumbria to fund Show Racism the Red Card (SRtRC) to deliver education workshops across local schools and proactively support Wear Red Day etc.
- Latest SRtRC 'Challenging Harmful Narratives' programme funded for x6 South Tyneside schools. Available to pupils aged 14-16 years, offer includes a complimentary teacher training session.
- Dialogue Society 'Life of a Chickpea' project available to primary and secondary aged children.
- Safer Schools Partnership
- Pol-Ed resources

Useful links and resources

- [The Prevent duty: an introduction for those with safeguarding responsibilities - GOV.UK](#)
- [Prevent duty training - GOV.UK](#)
- [Educate Against Hate - Prevent Radicalisation & Extremism](#)
- [Promoting fundamental British values through SMSC - GOV.UK](#)
- [Home - Show Racism the Red Card](#)
- [Home - The Life of a Chickpea](#)