

What is Prevent?

Prevent is a government strategy about safeguarding people and communities from the threat of all types of extremism and radicalisation, including terrorism. It is also about the promotion of British values, which are:

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

At the heart of Prevent is safeguarding children and adults and providing early intervention to protect and divert people away from being drawn into terrorist activity.

Everyone can help to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism and extremism.

Key terms

Extremism: 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 promote a political or ideological cause

Radicalisation: The process by which a person comes to support extremism and/or terrorism.

Prevent uses a range of measures to challenge extremism, including:

- Working with and supporting community groups and social enterprise projects who provide support and services to vulnerable people
- Working with faith groups and institutions to assist them in providing support and guidance to people who may be vulnerable
- Supporting local schools, local industry and partner agencies through engagement, advice and training
- Supporting people who are at risk of being drawn into terrorist or extremist activity through the channel process.

What does this mean in practice?

- Promoting diversity
- Challenging prejudice and racist behaviour/language
- Developing a strong, positive self-identity
- Promoting moral and social development (within teamwork exercises etc.)
- Active promotion of British values.

What can we do?

Discuss concerns about extremism, events in the news and about British values.

Be alert to any changes in the children's or colleagues' behaviour, which in your professional opinion may give a cause for concern. There are often no obvious signs, however the following information may help:

Extremism:

The behaviours described are intended as a guide to help to identify possible early indicators of extremism and radicalisation but this is not an exhaustive list.

- Argumentative and unwilling to listen to other people's views
- May refuse to engage with or become abusive to peers/ other employees who are different to themselves (perhaps on the basis of race, religion, gender or sexuality)
- Glorifying or advocating violence, especially to other faiths or cultures
- May be susceptible to conspiracy theories and feelings of persecution
- Changes in or distancing from friendship groups
- Changes in appearance, clothing (including wearing clothing or body art related to extremism), reject activities they used to enjoy, convert to a new religion
- Spending large amounts of time online or on their phone and be secretive to discuss what they are doing.

More explicit behaviours such as:

Expressions of sympathy for extremist ideologies and group or justifications of their actions

- Accessing material online or possessing other forms of extremist literature
- Being in contact with extremist, joining or seeking to join extremist organisations.

Concerns which should always be passed on:

- Evidence of sharing extremism websites
- Evidence of homophobic, religion or race-based bullying.

Terrorism:

There is no single way of identifying who is likely to be vulnerable to being drawn into terrorism. Factors that may have a bearing on someone becoming vulnerable may include:

- Peer pressure Influence from other people or via the internet
- Bullying
- Crime against them
- Their involvement in crime, e.g. race or hate crime and anti-social behaviour
- Family tensions
- Lack of self-esteem or identity
- Personal or political grievances.