

Prevent Guide for Parents and Carers

What is the Prevent strategy?

Prevent is a government strategy designed to stop people becoming involved in extreme actions, becoming terrorists or supporting terrorist or extremist causes.

Extremist groups use the internet and social media to spread their ideology and recruit vulnerable young people. They know young people are using the internet much more, quite often by themselves, and so utilise these opportunities to exploit and recruit. There is a chance that your child may meet people online or visit websites that could lead them to adopting what is considered extreme views and become radicalised. Whether you'd like to protect your child from being radicalised or you are concerned that they may be at risk, navigate our guidance below to get expert tips on practical ways you can support them and where you can go for further support.

Why do young people become radicalised?

The reasons for young people being drawn into extremist views are many and varied but may include:

- They are trying to make sense of world events.
- They feel that their culture or religion is under threat.
- It makes them feel a sense of identity or belonging or being part of something.
- They are looking for adventure or excitement.
- A personal grievance or experience of racism or discrimination and feel they want to change things.
- They are under pressure from their peers who have links with these groups.

How are young people radicalised?

Young people may meet adults and peers with extremist views both online and in everyday life. The person may be a friend or relative or may be a stranger they meet online.

Contact online may be through social media such as Facebook, Twitter or YouTube but young people may be invited to join discussions on less well-known sites such as Kik, Whisper, Messenger, or Telegram. Extremists often use these sites because they are harder to monitor and they can hide their identity. Extremists often manipulate young people by using emotional triggers to engage with them and may target them when they are experiencing difficulties such as bereavement, emotional trauma, mental health issues or social isolation.

Terms and Definitions

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 (grooming)

How does Holmfirth High School support the Prevent strategy?

- **Staff training and awareness.** All staff are trained annually to identify vulnerabilities, worrying behavioural changes or sudden isolation that may indicate a radicalisation risk. Staff know how to report concerns internally to the safeguarding team so that these can be explored.
- **Curriculum and ethos.** Students study broad, balanced, diverse and inclusive curriculum content which promotes fundamental values such as tolerance, mutual respect and rule of the law. Opportunities for critical thinking are provided as part of the RPSE curriculum to analyse information challenge extremist narratives and debate controversial topics in a safe and controlled environment.
- **Online safety.** Robust filtering and monitoring systems block access to terrorist, extremist or radicalising content. Safeguarding staff are alerted to any concerning online activity which is then addressed with the student/s concerned. Students are taught about safe internet use, digital footprints and how to spot manipulative online behaviour.
- **Policies and Multi-Agency Partnerships.** There are clear protocols in place for vetting visiting speakers and external organisations to ensure they align with school values. School works closely with Kirklees Local Authority Prevent team and the police via the Channel Programme to provide tailored support for students most at risk.

How can parents and carers keep young people safe?

- Know where your child is and who they are with; find out about your child's friends and their families.
- Be aware of your child's online activity and check which social media sites they are visiting; report any sites that you have concerns about.
- Talk to your child about their lives and their interests; encourage them to take up positive activities with local groups that you trust.
- Help your child to be critically aware of what they see on the TV or the internet; encourage them to see different points of view and help them to develop tolerance for others.
- Remind your child that people they contact over the internet may not be telling them the whole truth and may not inform them of any potential dangers. If they are being asked to keep something secret, then they may be at risk of harm.
- Get help from other members of your family or community that your child looks up to.

What can I do if I have a concern?

If you are worried about your child or have concerns that they may be being radicalised, you can contact:

- Claire Ellis, Designated Safeguarding Lead at Holmfirth High or Alison Akers, Safeguarding Officer
- Act Early UK <http://www.actearly.uk/>

Where else can I find support and information?

- **Kirklees Safeguarding Children Partnership** - <https://www.kirkleessafeguardingchildren.co.uk/safeguarding-2/keeping-children-safe/prevent/>
- **Educate against hate** - <https://educateagainsthate.com/>
- **ThinkUKnow** - <https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/>
- **NSPCC Information about radicalisation** - <https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/safeguarding-child-protection/radicalisation>
- **Parentzone** - <https://www.parents.parentzone.org.uk/>
- **BBC Newsround** - <https://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround>
- **Simple Politics** - <https://www.simplepolitics.co.uk/>