

INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

St Mildred's Primary Infant School



The Prevent duty (Radicalisation & Extremism)



What is the Prevent Duty?

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 and academics?

From July 2015 all schools and academics (as well as other organisations) have a duty to safeguard children from radicalisation and extremism.

This means we have a responsibility to protect children from extremist and violent views the same way we protect them from drugs or gang violence.

Importantly, we can provide a safe place for pupils to discuss these issues so they better understand how to protect themselves.

What does this mean in practice?

Many of things we already do at St Mildred's Primary Infant School to help children 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 development of pupils, as well as British values such as democracy

We will also protect children from the risk of radicalisation, for example by using filters on the internet to make sure they cannot access extremist and terrorist material, or by vetting visitors who come into St Mildred's Primary Infant School to work with pupils.

Different schools will carry out the Prevent duty in different ways, depending on the age of the children and the needs of the community.

How does Prevent relate to British Values?

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

The British values include:

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

Please see our website for more information on the British Values and how they are promoted at St Mildred's.

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 our younger children. It is also about teaching children values such as tolerance and mutual respect. We will always make sure any discussions are suitable for the age and maturity of the children 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.

We will give children the skills to protect them from any extremist views they may encounter, now or later in their lives, in an age appropriate way.

Where to go for more information

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.

You will find more details about radicalisation in our safeguarding policy, available on our website.

External sources

The following sources may be also be useful for further information:

Revised prevent duty guidance for England and Wales, HM Government

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/445977/3799_Revised_Prevent_Duty_Guidance_England_Wales_V2-Interactive.pdf

Frequently asked questions, Prevent For Schools

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

What is prevent? Lets Talk About It

<http://www.itai.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- an action that endangers or causes serious violence to a person/people, causes serious damage to property, or seriously interferes or disrupts an electronic system, and is intended to advance a political, religious or ideological cause.

Radicalisation - the process by which a person comes to support extremism and terrorism.