

Background to Prevent

The revised Prevent Strategy was launched in June 2011 and is an integral part of the Contest Counter Terrorism Strategy. Its aim is to stop people becoming drawn into, promoting, or supporting terrorism. Prevent will address all forms of terrorism but continue to prioritise according to the threat they pose to our national security. Preventing terrorism will mean challenging extremism (and non-violent) ideas that are also part of a terrorist's ideology. Prevent will also mean intervening to try to stop people moving from extremist groups or extremism into terrorist-related activity.

The three Prevent Objectives are:

Respond to the ideological challenge of terrorism and the threat we face from those who promote it:

- Using teaching and learning to help students and staff to develop the knowledge and skills to challenge extremist narratives.

Prevent people from being drawn into terrorism and ensure that they are given appropriate advice and support:

- Identifying how to prevent harm to students by individuals, groups or others who promote terrorism and violent extremism.
- Robust safeguarding procedures to intervene and support any student who is at risk.

Supporting sectors and institutions where there are risks of radicalisation:

- Increasing the resilience of college communities by encouraging engagement with management, staff and students through training and awareness raising.
- Encouraging the training of staff and the use of curriculum opportunities with students which allow grievances to be aired and dealt with.
- Ensuring that college resources are not used by extremist groups.

How can the Further Education sector help?

The Counter Terrorism and Security Bill has placed the Prevent element of the national counter terrorism strategy on a **statutory footing**. This has implications for colleges and partner agencies and bodies, such as schools, universities and councils. Further Prevent Duty Guidance was issued in September 2015.

Schools promote and facilitate the exchange of opinions and ideas and enable debate as well as learning. The Government has stated that it has no wish to limit or otherwise interfere with this free flow of ideas, and that it will be careful to balance the need to preserve national security with protecting civil liberties. Although it is vital that colleges must protect academic freedom, it is a long-established principle that schools also have a duty of care to their students. Schools and student groups have a clear and unambiguous role to play in helping to safeguard vulnerable young people from radicalisation and recruitment by terrorist organisations.

We accept that Nova Primary Academy School can play an important part in preventing terrorism. Just as we can help to educate people about risk, we offer opportunities to help learners understand the risks associated with extremism and help develop the knowledge and skills to be able to challenge terrorist ideologies.

Staff in this school, working in partnership with other local agencies, are well placed to identify needs and support the welfare of individual students who may be particularly vulnerable.

Building Children's Resilience to Radicalisation

Nova Primary Academy aims to build pupils' resilience to radicalisation by providing a safe environment for debating controversial issues and helping them to understand how they can influence and participate in decision-making.

We already promote the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils and, within this, fundamental British values. In addition, Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE) is an effective way of providing pupils with time to explore sensitive or controversial issues and equipping them with the knowledge and skills to understand and manage difficult situations. PSHE is used to teach pupils to recognise and manage risk, make safer choices, and recognise when pressure from others threatens their personal safety and well-being. We strive to teach pupils to develop effective ways of resisting pressures, including knowing when, where and how to get help.

Staff at Nova Primary Academy encourage pupils to develop positive character traits through PSHE, such as resilience, determination, self-esteem, and confidence. Citizenship helps to provide pupils with the knowledge, skills and understanding to prepare them to play a full and active part in society. It should equip pupils to explore political and social issues critically, to weigh evidence, to debate, and to make reasoned arguments. In Citizenship, pupils learn about democracy, government and how laws are made and upheld. Pupils are also taught about the diverse national, regional, religious and ethnic identities in the United Kingdom and the need for mutual respect and understanding.

Who is responsible for pursuing terrorists?

There are other elements within the Government's counter terrorism strategy which focus on pursuing and disrupting terrorists, this is titled Pursue. This is not the role of 'Prevent', which operates in what is called the 'non-criminal space' like other preventative initiatives that protect and safeguard vulnerable individuals at risk of being drawn into harms such as drugs, gang culture and gun and knife crime.

What support is available for people at risk of becoming involved in extremism?

Channel is a multi-agency support scheme that offers help and guidance to people who may be at risk of becoming involved in extremism. Extremist organisations sometimes try to recruit people who are susceptible or vulnerable, in person or

through the internet. If the early signs are spotted and acted upon, it safeguards the person concerned and helps protect all of us who live and work in the town. The school is represented on the Channel Board by the local Education safeguarding lead.

Concerns that an individual may be vulnerable to radicalisation (grooming) does not mean that we think the person is a terrorist; it means that we are concerned that they are prone to being exploited by others.

It is important too that staff trust their professional judgement – if they are concerned that someone is at risk of getting involved in extremism, they should in the first instance contact the Safeguarding Team via MyConcern who should, if required, contact their Channel Co-Ordinator. They will, in partnership with other safeguarding professionals, investigate further to assess the nature and extent of the risk and the Channel Panel will develop the most appropriate support package for the individual concerned.

What training is available?

WRAP 4 Training is available for staff whose work may bring them into contact with people who may be vulnerable to becoming involved in extremism. The workshop is an introduction to Prevent and covers issues such as crime, normal social processes that are used to influence and manipulate, extreme right-wing and Al Qaida case studies, terrorist ideologies and factors which may contribute to an individual's susceptibility to a terrorist ideology.

This workshop provides attendees with:

- a. An awareness and understanding of the Prevent agenda and their role within it
- b. The ability to use existing expertise and professional judgement to recognise potentially vulnerable individuals who may be susceptible to messages of violence
- c. The confidence to use a common sense-based response to support and intervene with vulnerable people.

Prevent training is undertaken by all staff as a minimum requirement and is part of the induction programme for new staff.