



## Prevent Duty – Information for Parents

Prevent is a strand of the Government's counter terrorism strategy - To stop people becoming terrorists or supporting radicalisation.

Counter Terrorism and Security Act puts Prevent on a statutory footing for local partners from July 2015

### Schools duties

- To provide a broad and balanced curriculum
- Risk assess with local partners (safeguarding team / police / SS)
- Link with local safeguarding board
- Risk awareness of staff – to recognise children at risk, know how to access local support and challenge extremist ideas
- Address on line safety of pupils

"Schools can help to protect children from extremist and violent views in the same ways that they help to safeguard children from drugs, gang violence or alcohol. Schools' work on Prevent needs to be seen in this context. The purpose must be to protect children from harm and to ensure that they are taught in a way that is consistent with the law and our values. Awareness of Prevent and the risks it is intended to address are both vital. Staff can help to identify, and to refer to the relevant agencies, children whose behaviour suggests that they are being drawn into terrorism or extremism" (*Prevent Strategy*)

**Prevent is a safeguarding issue.** It is not about race, religion or ethnicity

Don't focus on a particular community, there are a broad range of groups that have been involved in extremist behaviours e.g. animal rights, Sheffield English Defence League etc.

The dangers of focusing on a particular group of people as 'terrorists'

- it isn't statistically true
- May miss signs in other children or young people
- It will become harder to work with families who feel victimised

### In our school we build children's 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. (Circle time sessions/ class and school council allow time to develop critical personal thinking skills)
- we already promote the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of our pupils and, within this, fundamental British values. Our assembly themes are based on our Golden Rules, linked to our work on PSHCE (Personal, Social, Health, Citizenship and Education) and cover important values.
- Our Core Value statements are inclusive of all pupils.

PSHCE 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. Through the subject we teach pupils to recognise and manage risk, make safer choices, and recognise when pressure from others threatens their personal safety and wellbeing. We also cover this through our SEAL and safety work. We help the children develop effective ways of resisting pressures, including knowing when, where and how to get help. We encourage the pupils to develop positive character traits through PSHE, such as resilience, determination, self-esteem, and confidence. We also use our Learning Team to do this too. This helps to provide our children with the knowledge, skills and understanding to prepare them to play a full and active part in society. Through circle time and sometime in our English work we equip pupils to explore political and social issues critically, to weigh evidence, to debate, and to make reasoned arguments. Pupils learn about democracy, government and how laws are made and upheld. (Themes such as Stocksbridge, Our community) 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 (RE curriculum Exploring and promoting diversity and shared values between and within communities)

The referral process should we have concerns is via the Sheffield Safeguarding Advisory Service tel 0114 2053535 (M-F 9-5pm) [safeguardingchildrenadvice@sheffield.gov.uk](mailto:safeguardingchildrenadvice@sheffield.gov.uk)

Or SYP Prevent Team (Jo Batty 07770 823772 /Brendan Pakenham 07769 131474) via 101 or local Police contact

Or anti terrorist hotline 0800 789321