

Prevent Duty

Preventing Radicalisation in school

At Hele's School we recognise that we play a vital role in keeping children safe from harm, including from the risks of extremism and radicalisation, and in promoting the welfare of children in our care.

Building resilience in our young people and the promotion of fundamental British values is at the heart of preventing radicalisation. We do this by providing a safe place in which children can discuss controversial issues, and we give them the knowledge and confidence to challenge extremist beliefs and ideologies. Our new prevent duty, is carried out under the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015, which legally requires us to take steps to prevent pupils from being drawn into terrorism. We take this duty seriously and carry out the four main actions responsibly, namely: risk assessment, working in partnership, staff training and IT policies. If we assess a child as at risk, we will refer to the Channel Programme, which focuses on providing support at an early stage to people who are identified as being vulnerable to being drawn into terrorism.

Section 26 of the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 places a duty on certain bodies, listed in Schedule 3 to the Act, to have "due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism".

What is Extremism?

The government has defined extremism in the Prevent Duty as: "vocal or active opposition to fundamental British values, including democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs." This also includes calls for the death of members of the British armed forces. An individual exposed to extremist viewpoints may, over time, be encouraged to carry out an act of violent extremism or terrorism. Strong evidence shows that an intervention can stop someone supporting violent extremism.

What are British Values?

British values are defined as "democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance for those with different faiths and beliefs"; institutions are expected to encourage students to respect other people with particular regard to the protected characteristics set out in the Equality Act 2010.

Disclosures by students might tell of their exposure to the extremist actions, views or materials of others outside of school, such as in their homes or community groups, especially where students have not actively sought these out.

Possible indicators:

Graffiti symbols, writing or art work promoting extremist messages or images;
Students accessing extremist material online, including through social networkingsites;
Parental reports of changes in behaviour, friendship or actions and requests for assistance;

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Partner schools, local authority services, police reports of issues affecting students in other schools or settings;
Students voicing opinions drawn from extremist ideologies and narratives;
Use of extremist or 'hate' terms to exclude others or incite violence;
Intolerance of difference, whether secular or religious or, in line with our equalities policy, views based on, but not exclusive to, gender, disability, homophobia, race, colour or culture;
Attempts to impose extremist views or practices on others;
Anti-western or Anti-British views.

What we do if there is a concern

If we have a concern about a particular pupil we will follow the school's normal safeguarding procedures, including discussing with the school's designated safeguarding lead, and where deemed necessary, with children's social care.

We may also contact the local police force or dial 101 (the non-emergency number). They can talk to us in confidence about your concerns and help us gain access to support and advice.

The Department for Education has dedicated a telephone helpline (020 7340 7264) to enable staff and governors to raise concerns relating to extremism directly. Concerns can also be raised by email to counter.extremism@education.gsi.gov.uk

Sandra Crawford DSL – September 2015