

PREVENT DUTY The Short Version

What is the Prevent duty?

The Prevent duty requires **all** schools to "have due regard to the need to prevent people being drawn into terrorism", under the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015.

The duty covers all types of extremism. For further detail, the Government directs education settings to the following sites.

Educate Against Hate: [resources for schools to safeguard students](#)

Education and Training Foundation: [resources for FE providers](#).

What does it mean for your school?

Schools need to protect pupils from the risk of radicalisation, as part of their wider safeguarding duties. The [Prevent duty guidance](#) says that schools and FE providers should be safe spaces in which learners can understand and discuss sensitive topics, including terrorism and the extremist ideas that are part of terrorist ideology, and to learn how to challenge these ideas.

Schools should:

- Promote the fundamental British values in your curriculum
- Make sure the school is a safe space for pupils to discuss sensitive topics, including terrorism and extremism
- Ensure the school has robust safeguarding procedures to identify children at risk
- Engage with the Local Authority's risk assessment to determine the potential risk of individuals being drawn into terrorism in the local area
- Make sure the school has measures in place to protect pupils from harmful online content. This will include appropriate filtering and monitoring systems
- Make sure staff receive training to help them identify pupils at risk, challenge extremist ideas, and know how to act if they have a concern

The school's designated safeguarding lead (DSL) should have regular Prevent awareness training. It is best practice for all staff to be trained in the Prevent duty.

What should a staff member do if they have a concern?

A learner at risk may be showing behaviour(s) that could increase their risk and vulnerability to radicalisation.

If a learner is showing at risk behaviour, the staff member should discuss this with the DSL.

Safeguarding learners who may be susceptible to radicalisation into terrorism is no different to other types of safeguarding harms, many of which are interconnected.

Following your school's usual safeguarding procedures, the DSL will decide whether to escalate and/or involve other agencies such as the Local Authority, police, social services, or Channel, the government's programme for identifying and supporting those at risk of being drawn into terrorism.

A Prevent referral is not an accusation of criminality and will not affect a learner's education or career prospects. Instead, it allows for their circumstances to be assessed and any relevant safeguarding support to be provided.

DSLs should exercise their professional judgment about whether a referral is proportionate and appropriate, as they do for all other safeguarding risks.

Useful Links

[The Prevent duty: an introduction for those with safeguarding responsibilities - GOV.UK](#)

[Prevent duty training - GOV.UK](#)

[Managing risk of radicalisation in your education setting - GOV.UK](#)

[Making a referral to Prevent - GOV.UK](#)

[Channel and Prevent Multi-Agency Panel \(PMAP\) guidance - GOV.UK](#)

[What is Channel? | ACT Early](#)

[The Prevent duty: safeguarding learners vulnerable to radicalisation - GOV.UK](#)