

Prevent Strategy

PREVENT STRATEGY

What is Prevent?

Prevent is part of CONTEST, the Government's strategy to address terrorism. The main aim of Prevent is to stop people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism. Prevent focuses on all forms of terrorist threats. E.g. international terrorism, far right extremists (among others).

Prevent falls within the Government's Counter Terrorism Strategy (CONTEST), and is made up of four strands:

- Protect - to strengthen our overall protection against a terrorist attack.
- Prepare - where we cannot stop a terrorist attack, to mitigate its impact.
- Pursue - to stop terrorist attacks.
- Prevent - to stop people becoming terrorists or supporting violent extremism.

Three key themes

The police, Local Authorities, and partner organisations are working together to help strengthen and empower our communities to reject those who want to cause harm. We should all work together and focus on three key themes:

- Safeguarding vulnerable individuals through the provision of advice and support and intervention projects.
- Working closely with institutions such as Universities, Schools, Prisons, Health, Charities and faith establishments.
- Challenging terrorist ideology by working closely with other local and national agencies, partners and our communities

Prevent Teams

Prevent teams across the country are active in:

- Challenging extremist ideologies of those referred to the team.
- Supporting individuals so that they are drawn away from extremism.
- Working with institutions where there are risks of radicalisation.

The Prevent Engagement Team of officers and police staff aim to encourage discussion ensuring that terrorism is prevented from taking root in our communities. They support the wider engagement activities already taking place in schools, places of worship and community groups.

Through this work they aim to strengthen communities in order to challenge the ideologies and messages of hate which lead to terrorism.

In Surrey, this work is being carried out in partnership with local authority staff.

The Government's Prevent strategy can be found at the following address: www.homeoffice.gov.uk

How you can help?

It is important that we all work together, so that we can protect our communities. There are many ways you can help:

- You can get in touch with your local neighbourhood or Prevent team for advice and support, if you are worried about someone you know who you believe may be vulnerable to radicalisation
- You can speak to your local officers or Prevent contact about helping run community events to bring people from different communities together
- You can provide facilities that could help us and our partners hold community engagement events.

How does the PREVENT Strategy apply to schools?

From July 2015 all schools 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.

It is not targeted at religion - extremists can come from any background.

It is not about blame. There is no hidden agenda to criminalise any individual or to target any community or group. Prevent is about working together with the public to support vulnerable people and build stronger, safe communities.

What does this mean for us as at St Charles Borromeo Catholic Primary school?

Many of the things we already do in 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 such as through our RE curriculum and Faith Weeks
- Challenging prejudices and racist comments, ensuring a zero tolerance approach and acceptance that any form of prejudice should be reported and challenged
- Promoting the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils, as well as British values such as democracy through our curriculum and values led education

We will also protect children from the risk of radicalisation, for example by using software and filters on the internet to make sure they can't access extremist and terrorist material, or by vetting visitors who come into school to work with pupils.

How does Prevent relate to British values?

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

British values include:

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

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 younger children. It is also about teaching children values such as tolerance and mutual respect.

The school will 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.

What to do if you see extremism online

If you, or someone you know is concerned that extremist material exists online then you can report it by following this link www.gov.uk/report-terrorism Members of the public can use this tool to report terrorist-related online content directly to the national police Counter Terrorism Internet Referral Unit.