

Prevent Strategy at Richmond Academy

The Prevent strategy aims to stop people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism. While it remains rare for children and young people to become involved in terrorist activity, young people from an early age can be exposed to terrorist & extremist influences or prejudiced views. As with other forms of safeguarding strategies, early intervention is always preferable. Schools, working with other local partners, families and communities, play a key role in ensuring young people and their communities are safe from the threat of terrorism.

Safeguarding

Prevent should be seen as part of the existing school or college safeguarding framework; a local approach to ensuring the safety and well-being of all children and young people from birth to age 19.

Each area of the UK has adopted their own definition of safeguarding, but these often include the following phrases: protecting children from maltreatment; preventing impairment of children's health or development; ensuring that children are growing up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care; and taking action to enable children in need to have optimum life chances.

The Prevent strategy identifies that young people are more likely to be vulnerable to violent extremist or terrorist narratives. Schools and colleges have a duty of care to their pupils and staff which includes safeguarding them from the risk of being drawn into terrorism. Being drawn into terrorism includes not just violent extremism but also non-violent extremism, which can create an atmosphere conducive to terrorism and can popularise views which terrorists exploit.

Extremism

The Government's Prevent Strategy defines extremism 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. We also include in our definition of extremism calls for the death of members of our armed forces".

Schools should be safe spaces in which children and young people can understand and discuss sensitive topics, including terrorism and the extremist ideas that are part of the terrorist ideology and learn how to challenge these ideas. The 2014 Government extremism task force identified risks around radicalisation within educational institutions and it is important that Prevent is actively supporting these institutions to protect children from harm and ensure that they are taught in a way that is consistent with the law and British values.

British values

All schools must meet the requirements set out in section 78 of the Education Act 2002 and promote the spiritual, moral, social and cultural (SMSC) development of their pupils. Through ensuring pupils' SMSC development, schools can also demonstrate they are actively promoting fundamental British values. Actively promoting the values means challenging opinions or behaviours in school that are contrary to fundamental British values. Attempts to promote systems that undermine fundamental British values would be completely at odds with schools' duty to provide SMSC. The Teachers' Standards expect teachers to uphold public trust in the profession and maintain high standards of ethics and behaviour, within and outside school. This includes not undermining fundamental British values.

To find out how we promote British Values at Richmond Academy please see the tab on our website.

Ofsted

When assessing the effectiveness of schools, Ofsted inspectors already consider a school's approach to keeping pupils safe from the risk of radicalisation and extremism, and review the institute's procedures when it is suspected that pupils are being drawn into extremism or terrorist-related activity.

Prevent can work within both violent and non-violent extremism arenas and can include topics such as hate crime, racism, bullying, on line safety and extreme political views.

The Counter Terrorism & Security Act 2015

The Act places a Prevent duty on specified authorities to have "due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism".

Richmond Academy is subject to the Prevent Duty and is expected to demonstrate activity in the following areas –

- Assessing the risk of children being drawn into terrorism
- Demonstrate that they are protecting children and young people from being drawn into terrorism by having robust safeguarding policies.
- Ensure that their safeguarding arrangements take into account the policies and procedures of the Local Safeguarding Children Board.
- make sure that staff have training that gives them the knowledge and confidence to identify children at risk of being drawn into terrorism, and to challenge extremist ideas which can be used to legitimise terrorism
- Expected to ensure children are safe from terrorist and extremist material when accessing the internet in school.

Indicators

The early identification of safeguarding risks and subsequent intervention activity to protect and divert people away from the risks of radicalisation is a key element of the Prevent strategy. Following an assessment of Prevent activity within a school or college key indicators may be identified which will require further intervention activity within the location. Indicators may include things such as racist graffiti or comments being made on school premises, extremist content being shared on social media, terrorist or extremist propaganda being shared with students or vulnerable students being influenced by others with extreme views.

Supportive Interventions

Prevent Interventions may take many forms. Police activity can be utilised when delivering intervention activity but more often it is partner agency activity that can be the most effective form of intervention. Individuals who are identified as being vulnerable to being drawn into any form of extremism that could lead to terrorist related activity may be referred into Prevent for appropriate support.

Channel

Channel is a key element of the Prevent strategy. It is a multi-agency approach to protect people at risk from radicalisation. Channel uses existing collaboration between local authorities, statutory partners (such as the education and health sectors, social services, children's and youth services and offender management services), the police and the local community to:

- Identify individuals at risk of being drawn into terrorism
- Assess the nature and extent of that risk
- Develop the most appropriate support plan for the individuals concerned.

Channel is about safeguarding children and adults from being drawn into committing terrorist-related activity. It is about early intervention to protect and divert people away from the risk they face before illegality occurs.

Channel is one tactical option employed by Prevent and has recently been placed on a statutory footing. To understand more about the Channel Programme further information can be found here –

www.gov.uk/government/publications/channel-guidance

Channel vulnerability assessment - Publications - GOV.UK

Staff at Richmond Academy have completed an online training course that covers Prevent and Channel.

Reporting Concerns

Should concerns require support from other agencies there are a number of ways that issues relating to terrorism and extremism can be reported. These include the following –

- Dept for Education Due Diligence & Counter Extremism Group: 020 7340 7264
- Anti Terrorist Hotline: 0800 789 321
- Crime stoppers: 0800 555 111
- Relevant Police force: 101
- www.gov.uk/report-suspicious-activity-to-mi5
- www.gov.uk/report-terrorism

At Richmond Academy the designated safeguarding leads are Ms J Lockwood.

Social media

Social media is an increasingly influential part of life particularly for young people. It has been identified as an important tool in the sharing of extreme material and extremist groups are actively using social media to inform, share propaganda, radicalise and recruit for their cause. Social media safeguarding is an important element of protecting young people from extremist narratives and Prevent can play an active part in this process.

To report any online terrorist related online material visit:

www.gov.uk/report-terrorism

Find out more

The following resources are available to find out more about the Prevent strategy:

The Prevent strategy:

www.gov.uk/government/policies/protecting-the-uk-against-terrorism/supporting-pages/prevent

www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/97976/prevent-strategy-review.pdf

www.educateagainsthate.com

The Prevent Duty:

Prevent duty guidance - Publications - GOV.UK

How to support as a parent and talk to your child about radicalisation

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/fighting-for-childhood/news-opinion/why-doing-more-protect-children-radicalisation/>