

Cherrytree Nursery School Ltd

Prevent Duty – A Parent's Guide

- advice from the Department for Education

The Prevent Duty is the duty in the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 on specified authorities, including schools, in the exercise of their functions, to have due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism.

From 1 July 2015 all schools, registered early years childcare providers and registered later years child-care providers (referred to here as 'childcare providers') are subject to a duty under section 26 of the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015, in the exercise of their functions, to have "due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism". This duty is known as the '**Prevent Duty**'.

The Prevent Duty: What it means for schools and childcare providers

In order for schools and childcare providers to fulfil the Prevent duty, it is essential that staff are able to identify children who may be vulnerable to radicalisation¹, and know what to do if they are identified. Protecting children from the risk of radicalisation is similar in nature to protecting children from other harms (e.g. drugs, gangs, neglect, sexual exploitation), whether these come from within their family or are the product of outside influences.

Schools and childcare providers can also build pupils' resilience to radicalisation by promoting fundamental British values and enabling them to challenge extremist² views.

For early years childcare providers, the statutory framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) sets standards for learning, development and care for children from 0-5, thereby assisting their personal, social and emotional development and understanding of the world.

The Prevent duty is entirely consistent with schools' and childcare providers' existing responsibilities. Ofsted's inspection makes specific reference to the need to have safeguarding arrangements to promote pupils' welfare, and prevent radicalisation and extremism.

Building children's resilience to radicalisation

Schools and childcare providers are already expected to promote the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils and, within this, fundamental British values. As part of the EYFS, we teach children to understand right from wrong, to respect each other, and value others' opinions. As they get older, children are encouraged to recognise and manage risk, make safer choices, and recognise when pressure from others threatens their personal safety and wellbeing. We try to encourage pupils to develop positive age-appropriate character traits such as resilience, determination, self-esteem, and confidence.

Working in partnership

Effective engagement with parents and/or the wider family is also important as they are in a key position to spot signs of radicalisation. We would assist and advise families who raise concerns and point them to the right support mechanisms.

Risk assessment

The statutory guidance makes clear that schools and childcare providers are expected to assess the risk of children being drawn into terrorism, including support for extremist ideas that are part of terrorist ideology. The general risks affecting children and young people may vary from area to area, and according to their age. It is important that schools and childcare providers understand these risks so that they can respond in an appropriate and proportionate way.

There is no single way of identifying an individual who is likely to be susceptible to a terrorist ideology. As with managing other safeguarding risks, staff should be alert to changes in children's behaviour which could indicate that they may be in need of help or protection without

unnecessary intrusion into family life but as with any other safeguarding risk, they must take action when they observe behaviour of concern, i.e. inform the Nursery safeguarding officer.

What to do if you have a concern

If a member of staff in a school has a concern about a particular pupil they should follow the school's normal safeguarding procedures. If an individual has a concern, they can also contact the local police force or dial 101 (the non-emergency number). They can talk to you in confidence about your concerns and help you gain access to support and advice.

¹"Radicalisation" refers to the process by which a person comes to support terrorism and forms of extremism leading to terrorism. During that process it is possible to intervene to prevent vulnerable people being drawn into terrorist-related activity.

² "Extremism" is 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, whether in this country or overseas. Terrorist groups very often draw on extremist ideas developed by extremist organisations.