

Radicalisation and Extremism

Radicalisation is a process by which an individual or group comes to adopt increasingly extreme political, social or religious ideals and aspirations that reject and/or undermine the modern day and expressions of freedom of choice.

The threats to children & young people take many forms. The internet, in particular social media, is being used to promote radicalisation and extremism. Often this glorifies violence, attracting and influencing many people including children and, in extreme cases, radicalising them.

Children can be trusting and not necessarily appreciate bias that can lead to them being drawn into these groups and adopt these extremist views. Sometimes, viewing shocking and extreme content online means that they become normalised to it.

Steam Mills Primary ensures that all pupils are fully aware of the risks of being online and e-safety is taught across the school. Pupils are provided with a safe online platform to access the internet and chat with their friends through the use of e-schools. We also regularly provide parents with information on e-safety. A copy of the e-safety policy and useful information are available from the school office.

What is Prevent?

Prevent is part of the UK's counter terrorism strategy, preventing people from becoming involved in, or supporting, terrorism. At the heart of Prevent is safeguarding people and communities and providing early intervention to protect and divert people away from being drawn into terrorism.

Prevent covers all forms of terrorism and extremism and some aspects of non-violent extremism.

All schools have a duty to have "due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism" under Section 26 of the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015. This duty is known as Prevent Duty.

The Risks

Radicalisation and extremism targets vulnerable people, often exploiting their sense of anger or injustice. There are a number of factors that could make someone vulnerable to carrying out or supporting violent criminal or terrorist acts. These can include:

- Low self-esteem
- Family breakdown
- Peer pressure
- Isolation
- Loss
- Lack of knowledge
- Mental health

The signs

As a parent, you are in a position to identify and support someone who may be vulnerable to becoming involved in extremism or terrorism.

Some of the signs to look out for are:

- Short tempered/angry
- New-found arrogance
- Withdrawn
- Depressed
- Fixated on a subject
- Asking inappropriate questions
- Change of routine
- Use of the internet

All of us at times may experience feelings, or influences such as these. In truth they will look a lot like other troubling behaviour and the likelihood that terrorism is driving them is very small. However, we need to accept that this is a possibility, no matter how small.

Someone displaying these types of behaviours may well be suffering from stress or battling an internal crisis. That still means that person may benefit from our support.

The important thing is to

Notice - the signs/concern

Check - the concern

Share - the concern

Support

While support for vulnerable people may come from within school, there will be times when the support needed is beyond that.

A referral may be made and concerns shared with a multi-agency panel chaired by the Local Authority, known as Channel. Support is then sought from expert intervention providers, someone who can challenge some of the thinking the vulnerable individual has been exposed to.

School

As a school, we are here to support all pupils, their families and the wider community.

Prevent Duty forms part of our safeguarding policy at Steam Mills Primary. We also promote fundamental British Values; challenging extremism within a safe place.

Staff receive training in order to recognise the signs of radicalisation and how to act upon them.

If you are concerned about or think someone you know is at risk please speak to a member of staff.

Further Information

Further information regarding Prevent is available online at:

www.gloucestershire.police.uk

www.gov.uk

www.gscb.org.uk

www.ltai.info

Steam Mills Primary School



Prevent Duty

A Parents' Guide