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Approved		
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Regulatory References	Revised Prevent Duty Guidance	Sept 7 th 2023
	Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 KCSIE 2023, pp. 142 and Annexe B.	Sections 26 & 29
New Review	01.04.2025	

The Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 (Section 26) places a duty on education and other children’s services to have “due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism”. The duty is known as the **Prevent Duty**.

All Stowe staff should read this policy in conjunction with our Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy, our Digital policy and our Equality Policy. All staff should be alert to pupils attempting to access online and via ‘apps’ material that could be used in an attempt to radicalise children or having extreme views, contrary to British values (see below).

The following guidance is written with regard to Section 26 of the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015; which defines extremism as: **‘the vocal or active opposition to our fundamental values, including the rule of law, individual liberty and the 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’**.

Radicalisation **‘refers to the process by which a person comes to support terrorism and extremist ideologies associated with terror groups’**.

The most significant threats are currently ***from terrorist organisations in Syria and Iraq, and Al-Qaeda associated groups***. However, terrorists associated with the ***extreme right*** in UK, Europe and North America also pose a continued and growing threat.

There is no place for extremist views of any kind in our School. Our pupils see our School as a safe place where they can explore controversial issues safely and where our teachers encourage and facilitate this. As a School, we recognise that extremism and exposure to extremist views can lead to poor outcomes for children and so should be addressed as a safeguarding concern. We also recognise that if we fail to challenge extremist views we are failing to protect our pupils. All visiting speakers have to be approved by management and meet the Visiting Speakers’ Policy.

Any concerns about a child suspected of involvement in extremist groups, terrorism or who could be vulnerable to radicalisation must be reported to the DSL (Designated Safeguarding Lead). The DSL is aware of their duty to report such concerns to 'Channel' under the Prevent Strategy and to Social Services.

Preventing Radicalisation

Children are vulnerable to extremist ideology and radicalisation. Similar to protecting children from other forms of harms and abuse, protecting children from this risk should be a part of a schools' or colleges' safeguarding approach.

Extremism is "the promotion or advancement of an ideology based on violence, hatred or intolerance, that aims to:

1. negate or destroy the fundamental rights and freedoms of others; or
2. undermine, overturn or replace the UK's system of liberal parliamentary democracy and democratic rights; or
3. intentionally create a permissive environment for others to achieve the results in (1) or (2)"

Radicalisation refers to the process by which a person comes to support terrorism and extremist ideologies associated with terrorist groups.

Terrorism is an action that endangers or causes serious violence to a person/people; causes serious damage to property; or seriously interferes or disrupts an electronic system. The use or threat **must** be designed to influence the government or to intimidate the public and is made for the purpose of advancing a political, religious or ideological cause.

Contact details:

In an emergency call 999 and Social Services First Response Team and Police (MASH)

Tel: 0845 4600 001 or 01296 383962 or email secure-cypfirstresponse@buckscc.gcsx.gov.uk

Police (Thames Valley): Preventreferrals@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk

Out of Hours Service: Tel: 0800 999 7677

For non-emergency advice and support phone: 0207 340 7264

E-mail: counter-extremism@education.gsi.gov.uk

Stowe School

DSL: Mike Rickner 01280 818108; mrickner@stowe.co.uk; 07467 949767

DDSL: Jenny Tompkins (DDSL) - jtompkins@stowe.co.uk, 07770 380847

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Identifying pupils at risk of Radicalisation: There is no single way of identifying who is likely to be vulnerable to being drawn into terrorism. Factors that may have a bearing on someone

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becoming vulnerable may include: peer pressure, influence from other people or via the internet. Bullying, crime against them or their involvement in crime, anti-social behaviour, family tensions, race/hate crime, lack of self-esteem or identity and personal or political grievances. Examples of influences that make individuals **vulnerable** to engagement with an extremist group, cause or ideology include:

- feelings of grievance and injustice
- feeling under threat
- a need for identity, meaning and belonging
- a desire for status
- a desire for excitement adventure
- a need to dominate and control others
- susceptibility to indoctrination
- a desire for political or moral change
- opportunistic involvement
- family or friends involvement in extremism
- being at a transitional time of life
- being influenced or controlled by a group
- relevant mental health issues
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Example indicators that an individual *is* engaged with an extremist group, cause or ideology include:

- spending increasing time in the company of the suspected extremists
- changing their style of dress or personal appearance to accord with the group
- their day-to-day behaviour becoming increasingly centred around an extremist ideology, group or cause
- loss of interest in other friends and activities not associated with the extremist ideology, group or cause
- possession of material or symbols associated with an extremist cause (e.g. swastika for neo-Nazi groups)
- attempts to recruit others to the group/cause/ideology

Intent to cause harm: Not all those who become engaged by a group, cause or ideology go on to develop an intention to cause harm, so this dimension is considered separately. Intent factors describe the mind-set that is associated with a **readiness to use violence** and address what the individual would do and to what end. They can include:

- over-identification with a group or ideology
- ‘them and us’ thinking
- dehumanisation of the enemy

- attitudes that justify offending
- harmful means to an end
- harmful objectives

Example indicators that an individual has an ***intention to use violence*** or other illegal means include:

- clearly identifying another group as threatening, in what they stand for and blaming that group for all social or political ills
- using insulting or derogatory names or labels for another group
- speaking about the imminence of harm from the other group and the importance of action how
- expressing attitudes that justify offending on behalf of the group, cause or ideology
- condoning or supporting violence or harm towards others
- plotting or conspiring with others.

Capability to cause harm: Not all those who have a wish to cause harm on behalf of a group, cause or ideology are capable of doing so, and plots to cause widespread damage take a high level of personal capability, resources and networking to be successful. What the individual is capable of is therefore a key consideration when assessing risk of harm to the public.

Example indicators that an individual is capable of directly or indirectly causing harm include:

- having a history of violence
- being criminally versatile and using criminal networks to support extremist goals
- having occupational skills that can enable acts of terrorism (such as civil engineering, pharmacology or construction)
- having technical expertise that can be deployed (e.g. IT skills, knowledge of chemicals, military training or survival skills)

Warning signs and indicators that radicalisation may be about to take place, and/or contact with extremist groups have already taken place, can be found on the Safeguarding section of the VLE.

The Department has published advice for schools on the **Prevent Duty**. The advice is intended to complement the Prevent guidance and signposts other sources of advice and support.

Educate Against Hate, a website launched by the Her Majesty's Government, has been developed to support and equip school and college leaders, teachers, and parents with information, tools and resources (including on the promotion of fundamental British values) to help recognise and address extremism and radicalisation in young people. The platform provides information on and access to training resources for teachers, staff and school and college leaders, some of which are free such as Prevent e-learning, via the Prevent Training catalogue.

The aim is to “tackle the ideological causes of terrorism”. The ideological component of terrorism is what sets it apart from other acts of serious violence.

Stowe will ensure the appropriateness of any filtering and monitoring systems are in place and will be informed in part, by the risk assessment required by the Prevent Duty.

Channel

Channel is a voluntary, confidential support programme which focuses on providing support at an early stage to people who are identified as being vulnerable to being drawn into terrorism. Prevent referrals may be passed to a multi-agency Channel panel, which will discuss the individual referred to determine whether they are vulnerable to being drawn into terrorism and consider the appropriate support required. A representative from the school or college may be asked to attend the Channel panel to help with this assessment. An individual’s engagement with the programme is entirely voluntary at all stages.

Guidance on Channel is available at: [Channel guidance](#).

Training

Free training is offered to Stowe Staff via the Educare Programme – Prevent (October 2018) and all new staff are required to complete and pass it before the first Exeat of the Michaelmas term.

The School’s Designated Safeguarding Lead (and any deputies) should be aware of local procedures for making a Channel referral. As a Channel partner, the School may be asked to attend a Channel panel to discuss the individual referred to determine whether they are vulnerable to being drawn into terrorism and consider the appropriate support required. If this is the case the member of staff attending the conference will conduct training prior to attendance.

Further Information

[Prevent duty guidance](#)- Home Office guidance. The Home Office has developed three e-learning modules:

- [Prevent awareness e-learning](#) offers an introduction to the Prevent duty.
- [Prevent referrals e-learning](#) supports staff to make Prevent referrals that are **robust, informed and with good intention**.
- [Channel awareness e-learning](#) is aimed at staff who may be asked to contribute to or sit on a multi-agency Channel panel.
- [Educate Against Hate](#), is a government website designed to support school teachers and leaders to help them safeguard their students from radicalisation and extremism. The platform provides free information and resources to help school staff identify and address the risks, as well as build resilience to radicalisation.
- [Prevent duty: additional advice for schools](#) and childcare providers - DfE advice

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- [Educate Against Hate website](#) - DfE and Home Office advice
- [Prevent for FE and Training](#) - Education and Training Foundation (ETF). The ETF Online Learning environment provides online training modules for practitioners, leaders and managers, support staff and governors/Board members outlining their roles and responsibilities under the duty.
- The ETF Online Learning environment provides online training modules for practitioners, leaders and managers, to support staff and governors/Board members in outlining their roles and responsibilities under the duty. London Grid for Learning have also produced useful resources on Prevent (Online Safety Resource Centre - London Grid for Learning (lgfl.net))

September 2023 Revision:

1. A. Status and scope of the duty

1.1 Statutory guidance issued under section 29 of the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015.

Section 26 of the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 (the Act) places a duty on certain bodies (“specified authorities” listed in Schedule 6 to the Act), in the exercise of their functions, to have “due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism”. This guidance is issued under section 29 of the Act. The Act states that the authorities subject to the provisions must have regard to this guidance when carrying out the duty.

The list of specified authorities subject to the provisions can be found in Schedule 6 to the Act. Further details can be found in the sector-specific sections of this guidance.

The duty applies to specified authorities in England and Wales, and Scotland. Counter terrorism is the responsibility of the UK Government. However, many of the local delivery mechanisms in Wales and Scotland, such as health, education and local government, are devolved. We will ensure close cooperation with the Scottish and Welsh Governments in implementing the Prevent duty where there are interdependencies between devolved and non-devolved elements. There is separate guidance for specified authorities in Scotland.

The duty does not confer new functions on any specified authority. The term “due regard” as used in the Act means that the authorities should place an appropriate amount of weight on the need to prevent people being drawn into terrorism when they consider all the other factors relevant to how they carry out their usual functions. This purpose of this guidance is to assist authorities to decide what this means in practice.

2. B. Introduction

The Prevent strategy, published by the Government in 2011, is part of our overall counter-terrorism strategy, CONTEST. The aim of the Prevent strategy is to reduce the threat to the UK from terrorism

by stopping people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism. In the Act this has simply been expressed as the need to “prevent people from being drawn into terrorism”.

The 2011 Prevent strategy has three specific strategic objectives:

- respond to the ideological challenge of terrorism and the threat we face from those who promote it
- prevent people from being drawn into terrorism and ensure that they are given appropriate advice and support
- work with sectors and institutions where there are risks of radicalisation that we need to address.

Terrorist groups often draw on extremist ideology, developed by extremist organisations. Some people who join terrorist groups have previously been members of extremist organisations and have been radicalised by them. The Government has defined extremism in the Prevent strategy 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”.

The Prevent strategy was explicitly changed in 2011 to deal with all forms of terrorism and with non-violent extremism, which can create an atmosphere conducive to terrorism and can popularise views which terrorists then exploit. It also made clear that preventing people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism requires challenge to extremist ideas where they are used to legitimise terrorism and are shared by terrorist groups. And the strategy also means intervening to stop people moving from extremist (albeit legal) groups into terrorist-related activity.

Our Prevent work is intended to deal with all kinds of terrorist threats to the UK. The most significant of these threats is currently from terrorist organisations in Syria and Iraq, and Al Qa’ida associated groups. But terrorists associated with the extreme right also pose a continued threat to our safety and security.

Islamist extremists regard Western intervention in Muslim-majority countries as a ‘war with Islam’, creating a narrative of ‘them’ and ‘us’. Their ideology includes the uncompromising belief that people cannot be both Muslim and British, and that Muslims living here should not participate in our democracy. Islamist extremists specifically attack the principles of civic participation and social cohesion. These extremists purport to identify grievances to which terrorist organisations then claim to have a solution.

The white supremacist ideology of extreme right-wing groups has also provided both the inspiration and justification for people who have committed extreme right-wing terrorist acts. In fulfilling the duty in section 26 of the Act, we expect all specified authorities to participate fully in work to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism. How they do this, and the extent to which they do this, will depend on many factors, for example, the age of the individual, how much interaction they have with them, etc. The specified authorities in Schedule 6 to the Act are those judged to have a role in protecting vulnerable people and/or our national security. The duty is likely to be relevant to fulfilling other responsibilities such as the duty arising from section 149 of the Equality Act 2010.

This guidance identifies best practice for each of the main sectors and describes ways in which they can comply with the duty. It includes sources of further advice and provides information on how compliance with the duty will be monitored. Sector-specific guidance for Further Education and Higher Education institutions subject to the Prevent duty has been published separately and should be read alongside this guidance.

3. C. A risk-based approach to the Prevent duty

In complying with the duty all specified authorities, as a starting point, should demonstrate an awareness and understanding of the risk of radicalisation in their area, institution or body.

This risk will vary greatly and can change rapidly; but no area, institution or body is risk free.

Whilst the type and scale of activity that will address the risk will vary, all specified authorities will need to give due consideration to it.

There are three themes throughout the sector-specific guidance, set out later in this document: effective leadership, working in partnership and appropriate capabilities.

3.1 Leadership

- Stowe's ELT and in particular the D(D)SL will:
- establish or use existing mechanisms for understanding the risk of radicalisation. This will be done via Educare Training and Updated Safeguarding Training.
- ensure staff understand the risk and build the capabilities to deal with it
- communicate and promote the importance of the duty; and
- ensure staff implement the duty effectively.

3.2 Working in partnership

Prevent work depends on effective partnership. Stowe School will be compliant with the duty via demonstrating evidence of productive co-operation, in particular with local Prevent co-ordinators, the police and local authorities, and co-ordination through existing multi-agency forums, for example Community Safety Partnerships.

3.3 Capabilities

Via Educare and Stowe training, colleagues will understand what radicalisation means and why people may be vulnerable to being drawn into terrorism as a consequence of it. They are aware of what the government means by the term "extremism" and the relationship between extremism and terrorism (see section B, above).

Colleagues understand the measures available to prevent people from becoming drawn into terrorism and how to challenge the extremist ideology that can be associated with it.

They understand how to obtain support (via DSL) for people who may be being exploited by radicalising influences.

Stowe School realises its duty to ensure we provide appropriate training for colleagues involved in the implementation of this duty. Such training is now widely available on Educare.

3.4 Sharing information

The Prevent programme must not involve any covert activity against people or communities. But specified authorities may need to share personal information to ensure, for example, that a person at risk of radicalisation is given appropriate support (for example on the Channel programme). Information sharing must be assessed on a case-by-case basis and is governed by legislation. To ensure the rights of individuals are fully protected, it is important that information sharing agreements are in place as per our GDPR policy. When considering sharing personal information, Stowe School will take account of the following:

- necessity and proportionality: personal information should only be shared where it is strictly necessary to the intended outcome and proportionate to it. Key to determining the necessity and proportionality of sharing information will be the professional judgement of the risks to an individual or the public;
 - consent: wherever possible the consent of the person concerned should be obtained before sharing any information about them;
 - power to share: the sharing of data by public sector bodies requires the existence of a power to do so, in addition to satisfying the requirements of the Data Protection Act 1998 and the Human Rights Act 1998;
 - Data Protection Act and the Common Law Duty of Confidentiality: in engaging with non-public bodies, the specified authority should ensure that they are aware of their own responsibilities under the Data Protection Act and any confidentiality obligations that exist.
- ☐ There may be some circumstances where specified authorities, in the course of Prevent related work, identify someone who may already be engaged in illegal terrorist-related activity. People suspected of being involved in such activity must be referred to the police.

4. D. Monitoring and enforcement

Stowe School will comply with this duty and will be expected to maintain appropriate records to show compliance with their responsibilities and provide reports when requested.

4.1 Central support and monitoring

- ☐ The Home Office currently oversees Prevent activity in local areas which have been identified as priorities for this programme, and will provide central monitoring for the new duty. The Home Office shares management (with local authorities) of local Prevent co-ordinator teams.
- ☐ The Home Office will:
- draw together data about implementation of Prevent from local and regional Prevent co-ordinators (including those in health, further and higher education), the police, intelligence agencies and other departments and inspection bodies where appropriate;
 - monitor and assess Prevent delivery in up to 50 Prevent priority areas;
 - maintain contact with relevant departments and escalate issues to them and inspectorates where appropriate;

- support the Prevent Oversight Board, chaired by the Minister for Immigration and Security, which may agree on further action to support implementation of the duty. Where a specified body is not complying with the duty, the Prevent Oversight Board may recommend that the Secretary of State use the power of direction under section 30 of the Act. This power would only be used when other options for engagement and improvement had been exhausted. The power would be used only to ensure the implementation and delivery of the Prevent duty. It is also capable of being exercised in respect of Welsh specified authorities, and would be used following consultation with Welsh Ministers.

[Working together to safeguard children](#)

[Keeping children safe in education](#)

Risk assessment

Stowe School will assess the risk of children being drawn into terrorism, including support for extremist ideas that are part of terrorist ideology. This will be based on an understanding, shared with partners, of the potential risk in the local area.

Specified authorities will need to demonstrate that they are protecting children and young people from being drawn into terrorism by having robust safeguarding policies in place to identify children at risk, and intervening as appropriate. Institutions will need to consider the level of risk to identify the most appropriate referral, which could include Channel or Children's Social Care, for example. These policies should set out clear protocols for ensuring that any visiting speakers – whether invited by staff or by children themselves – are suitable and appropriately supervised.

Working in partnership

In England, governing bodies and proprietors of all schools and registered childcare providers should ensure that their safeguarding arrangements take into account the policies and procedures of the Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB). In Wales, Local Service Boards provide strategic oversight. Stowe School does this.

Colleague training

Stowe will make sure that colleagues 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 and are shared by terrorist groups. They know where and how to refer children and young people for further help. Prevent awareness training will be a key part of this.

IT policies

Stowe School will ensure children are safe from terrorist and extremist material when accessing the internet in school, including by establishing appropriate levels of filtering via Fortiguard and SENSO

Michael Rickner (DSL)
July 2023