




Yewstock School

# Prevent Policy

<b>Date reviewed by P&amp;C</b>	<b>15.11.2021</b>	<b>Policy Type</b>	<b>School</b>
<b>Date adopted by FGB</b>	<b>29.11.2021</b>	<b>Review Cycle</b>	<b>Annually</b>
<b>Date of next Review</b>	<b>14.11.2022</b>	<b>Signed by Chair of Governors</b>	
			



## The Prevent Duty

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.

For more information please see: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/prevent-duty-guidance/revise-prevent-duty-guidance-for-england-and-wales>

## Definitions

**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. Included in the definition of extremism are calls for the death of members of the armed forces, whether in this country or overseas. Terrorist groups very often draw on extremist ideas developed by extremist organisations.

**Terrorism** can occur anywhere in the world with atrocities carried out in support of various ideologies and campaigns. There is no single definition of terrorism but it commonly refers to criminal acts intended to provoke a state of terror in the general public and the unlawful use of violence and intimidation, especially against civilians, in the pursuit of political aims.

**Radicalisation** is the action or process of causing someone to adopt radical positions on political or social issues. Young people can become vulnerable to radicalisation and terrorism for a variety of reasons and if exposed to extremist rhetoric may adopt more fundamental views. This is the radicalisation process in which someone adopts extreme views and actions, and this can lead to acts of violent extremism.



## Risk Assessment

Identification:

There is no such thing as a 'typical extremist' and those involved in extremism come from a range of backgrounds and experiences.

Most individuals, even those who hold radical views, do not become involved in violent extremism.

Numerous factors can contribute to and influence the range of behaviours that are defined as violent extremism. It is important to consider these factors in order to develop an understanding of the issue. It is also necessary to understand those factors that build resilience and protect individuals from engaging in violent extremist activity.

It is important to be cautious in assessing these factors to avoid inappropriately labelling or stigmatising individuals because they possess a characteristic or fit a specific profile.

It is vital that all professionals who have contact with vulnerable individuals are able to recognise those vulnerabilities and help to increase safe choices.

It is necessary to remember that violent behaviour operates on many levels in the absence of protective factors and that individuals largely act within the context of their environment and experiences.

Research shows that indicators of vulnerability can include:

*Identity Crisis* - Distance from cultural / religious heritage and uncomfortable with their place in the society around them;

*Personal Crisis* - Family tensions; sense of isolation; adolescence; low self-esteem; disassociating from existing friendship group and becoming involved with a new and different group of friends; searching for answers to questions about identity, faith and belonging;

*Personal Circumstances* - Migration; local community tensions; events affecting country or region of origin; alienation from UK values; having a sense of grievance that is triggered by personal experience of racism or discrimination or aspects of Government policy;

*Unmet Aspirations* - Perceptions of injustice; feeling of failure; rejection of civic life;



## Yewstock School

*Criminality* - Experiences of imprisonment; poor resettlement/reintegration; previous involvement with criminal groups.

However, this list is not exhaustive, nor does it mean that all young people experiencing the above are at risk of exploitation for the purposes of violent extremism.

More critical risk factors could include:

- Being in contact with extremist recruiters;
- Articulating support for violent extremist causes or leaders;
- Accessing violent extremist websites, especially those with a social networking element;
- Possessing or accessing violent extremist literature;
- Using extremist narratives and a global ideology to explain personal disadvantage;
- Justifying the use of violence to solve societal issues;
- Joining or seeking to join extremist organisations;
- Significant changes to appearance and/or behaviour.

Indicators:

There is no one profile of individuals who are vulnerable to radicalisation or extremism, but a number of factors may indicate that a young person is at risk. These include:

- Articulating extremist views, whether extreme right-wing or AQ/ISIS influenced.
- Inappropriate interest in videos and internet material relating to Syria and Iraq; for example films of beheadings etc.
- Expressing interest in travelling to Syria & Iraq.
- Certain extreme right-wing groups are associated with football violence and other criminality.

Actions:

### **Referral to the Channel Process**

Channel was first piloted in 2007 and rolled out across England and Wales in April 2012. Channel is a programme which focuses on providing support at an early stage to people who are identified as being vulnerable to being drawn into terrorism. The programme uses a multi-agency approach to protect vulnerable people by:

- a. identifying individuals at risk;
  - b. assessing the nature and extent of that risk;
- and



c. developing the most appropriate support plan for the individuals concerned.

The earlier the safeguarding Channel intervention the more likely it is to be effective, so make the referral at the earliest opportunity.

Once a referral is made, the Police will undertake necessary background checks and risk assessments and where appropriate a multi-agency Channel Panel will be arranged to develop an action plan for the young person involved. For young people, Children's Social Care will always be involved in these Panels.

Where a young person is already open to Children's Social Care, existing safeguarding processes will be utilised.

### **Referral to Children's Services**

As with other safeguarding or child protection issues, where a professional has any concerns that a child may be at risk of significant harm they must refer to Social care, indicating the primary reason for referral but also the concerns about radicalisation. A referral to Channel panel would not taken precedence over a Safeguarding referral. Social care will then discuss matters with the police and decide how best to address the radicalisation issues as part of the plan to work with the child and family.

### **Taking immediate action**

If there is an immediate threat to life always dial 999.

Members of the public can call 101 to report any concerns. All calls are dealt with sensitively and you can ask to speak with a Prevent officer if you prefer.

Alternatively call our team directly during office hours on 01202 229337.

If you are from a partner agency (Prevent Duty partners only), please make a Prevent referral by completing the form below and emailing it to: [PreventReferrals@Dorset.pnn.police.uk](mailto:PreventReferrals@Dorset.pnn.police.uk).

### **Safeguarding Procedures**

Yewstock School is a safe space that allow pupils to understand and discuss sensitive topics such as terrorism and extremist ideas and enable pupils to challenge these ideas.

At Yewstock, we have robust safeguarding policies in place to ensure that pupils at risk are identified and supported. Where there is a concern, we consider the level of risk and decide which agency to make a referral to. This could include Channel, the government's programme for



## Yewstock School

identifying and supporting individuals at risk of being drawn into terrorism, or children's social services. Yewstock School sets out protocols in our safeguarding policy for ensuring that visiting speakers are suitable and appropriately supervised. We ensure our safeguarding arrangements take into account the policies and procedures of the local safeguarding children board (LSCB).

### **Online Safety**

At Yewstock, we have measures in place to protect pupils from terrorist or extremist material when using the internet at school, according to the Home Office guidance. This includes setting up appropriate filtering systems.

### **Teaching and Learning**

At Yewstock, we teach a "broad and balanced curriculum" that promotes pupils' spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development and prepares them for life's opportunities, responsibilities and experiences. We also promote community cohesion. Pupils are given the opportunity to explore sensitive or controversial issues and recognise and manage risk, make safer choices, and recognise when pressure from others threatens their personal safety and wellbeing. We also aim to equip pupils to think critically and make reasoned arguments and teach them about topics such as democracy and the need for mutual respect.

### **Training**

At Yewstock, we ensure staff are given training that enables them to identify pupils at risk of being drawn into terrorism, and challenge extremist ideas. Our staff also know where and how to refer pupils for further help. Staff are alert to changes in children's behaviour which could indicate that they may be in need of help or protection (as with other safeguarding risks). Staff use their professional judgement in identifying children who might be at risk of radicalisation and act proportionately. Training around Prevent is available through Pan Dorset, usually delivered through a one-hour WRAP session (Workshop to Raise Awareness of Prevent).