

**Prevent and Countering**

**Extremism in Young**

**People**

**Advice and Guidance for Parents**

**and Carers**

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**Who is this guidance**

**for?**

This guidance explains the importance and relevance of Prevent,

Channel and Counter-Extremism efforts to parents and carers of young

people. This guidance is for:

parents, carers and guardians of children and young people

This guidance will help them:

understand what Prevent is

understand what Channel is and the support available for young

people who may be susceptible to radicalisation and extremism

understand key terminology and definitions relating to extremism and radicalisation

understand how to initiate and engage in difficult conversations

with young people

identify potential indicators of radicalisation in young people

identify potential factors that may make some young people more

susceptible to radicalisation

understand where to go for support if they feel a young person may

be at risk of being drawn into radicalisation

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**Why is this relevant to you?**

Any child could be susceptible to extremist narratives.

There are some factors that may make some children more 

susceptible than others.

Extremist groups tap into young people's insecurities and claim to

offer answers and promise a sense of identity that young people

often seek.

As part of their recruitment strategy, extremist groups also work to

undermine the authority of parents and guardians.

Scan here for more

information on Prevent

and its relevance to

you as a parent or

carer

**Definitions and key terms**

**Extremism is...**

"the vocal or active opposition to our fundamental values, including democracy, the rule of

law, individual liberty, and respect and tolerance for different faiths and beliefs." **Terrorism is...**

"an action or threat designed to influence the government or intimidate the public. Its

purpose is to advance a political, religious or ideological cause."

**Radicalisation is...**

"the term commonly used to describe the processes by which a person adopts extremist

views or practices to the point of legitimising the use of violence. "

**Fundamental British Values include...**

Democracy

The Rule of Law

Individual Liberty

Respect and Tolerance for Different Faiths and Beliefs

Talking about and promoting these values is encouraged in education settings as this helps

to build resilience to radicalisation in young people.

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**Forms of extremism**

**Form of**

**Extremism Definition Examples of Attacks** 2017 Finsbury Park Attack

Extreme Right-Wing

Islamist

Extremism

Covers sub-ideologies, including Cultural Nationalism, White Nationalism and White Supremacism. These themselves span a range of extreme beliefs such as antisemitism, anti-Islam, neo-Nazi, ethno nationalism or anti-establishment.

Islamist extremist inspired acts of terrorism are perpetrated or inspired by politico-religiously motivated groups or individuals who support and use violence as a means to establish their interpretation of an Islamic society.

2016 Murder of Jo Cox MP 2011 Norway Attacks in Oslo

2019 Christchurch

Mosque Shooting in New Zealand

2001 9/11 Plane Attacks 2005 London Transport Bombings

2017 Manchester Arena Attack

2019 Sri Lanka Easter Bombing

Extreme Left-Wing: extremists who believe in using violence and serious criminality to abolish existing systems of government and replacing them with anarchist, socialist or communist systems.

Left-Wing,

Anarchist and Single Issue (LASI) Extremism

Anarchist Extremism: extremists who believe in using violence to replace current systems of Government and law enforcement with a system that prioritises complete liberty and individual freedom.

Single-Issue Extremism: extremists who endorse violence and serious criminality focused on a specific topic, such as animal rights.

Mixed: ideology presented involves a combination of elements from multiple forms

Mixed, of extremist ideologies.

Unstable,

and Unclear Unstable: shifts between different ideologies.

(MUU)

Ideologies Unclear: individual does not present a coherent ideology yet may still be vulnerable to being drawn into terrorism.

Incel and Extreme Misogyny

Incel is the term adopted by a world-wide online community to describe a group of involuntarily celibate men. It is a form of extreme misogyny but followers of this ideology also target attractive or sexually active men as well as women.

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**PreventScan here for more** 

**information on**

**CONTEST and**

**Prevent**

Prevent is part of the government's counter-terrorism strategy, CONTEST.

The purpose of Prevent is at its heart to safeguard and support vulnerable people to stop

them from becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism.

Prevent has three specific objectives:

Tackle the causes of radicalisation and respond to the ideological challenge of

terrorism.

Safeguard and support those most at risk from radicalisation through early

intervention, identifying them and offering support.

Enable those who have already engaged in terrorism to disengage and rehabilitate.

**Channel Scan here for more** 

**information about**

**Channel**

Channel is a voluntary, confidential programme which safeguards people identified as

susceptible to being drawn into terrorism.

It is a multi-agency process involving partners from the local authority, the police,

education, health providers, and others.

Channel is a support programme - not a criminal sanction.

A Channel referral can come from anyone who is concerned about a person they know

who might be at risk of radicalisation, including family members, friends, school leaders, or

colleagues.

Channel can offer a number of different types of support, such as:

help with education and career advice

dealing with mental or emotional health issues

dealing with drug or alcohol abuse

theological or ideological mentoring from a Channel intervention provider (a specialist mentor)

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**The Channel Process Scan here for more**



**information about Channel**

When someone makes a referral, lots of agencies work together to offer support where

they consider it necessary and proportionate to do so. The Channel process is as follows:

Referrals are assessed to see if they are suitable for Channel or if alternative support

**1**

would be more appropriate.

If suitable for Channel, all relevant partners attend a Channel panel meeting to decide if

**2**

intervention is necessary.

Please note: the individual who has been referred to Prevent is informed and must give their consent (or via

a parent or guardian if they are children) before an intervention can take place.

**3**

If intervention is required, an appropriate tailored support package is developed.

**4**

The support package is closely monitored and reviewed regularly by the Channel panel.

**Did you know?**

**Between April 2021 and March 2022...**

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The most common Prevent referrals are for Extreme Right-Wing Terrorism. Of those discussed at a Channel panel, 57% go on to be adopted as a Channel case.

**36%** of all Prevent referrals were made by the education sector and 3% were made

by friends and family of individuals.

**76**% (4,848) of referrals were deemed not suitable for Channel consideration and exited the

process prior to a Channel panel discussion; of which the majority were signposted to other support services (3,754; 77%)

Individuals aged 15 and under made up **37%** of all Prevent referrals that went on to

-

receive channel support

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**Indicators**

There is no single route to radicalisation. However, there are some behavioural traits that

could indicate a child has been exposed to radicalising influences. For example:

Beginning to isolate themselves from family and friends

Becoming increasingly argumentative

Legitimising the use of violence to defend ideology or cause

Unwilling to engage with and becoming abusive towards individuals who are different Embracing conspiracy theories

Feeling persecuted

Changing friends and appearance and distancing themselves from old friends

Producing or sharing terrorist material offline or online

Being secretive and reluctant to discuss their whereabouts

Being sympathetic to extremist ideologies and groups

Drawing and graffitiing extremist symbols and imagery

**The Online Space**

With the growth of the internet, social media, gaming platforms, and chat platforms,

extremist individuals and groups have taken up this opportunity to radicalise and recruit

others in the online space.

It's important that you're aware of your child's online activity and digital footprint, and that

you can support them in developing critical thinking skills that will allow them to build up

their resilience to radicalisation and extremist content.

Some possible indicators that a young person has been or is being radicalised online

include:

Accessing extremist content online

Joining or trying to join an extremist group or organisation

Changing their online identity

Being sympathetic to extremist ideologies and groups

**It is important to remember that the above is not an exhaustive list of indicators of radicalisation and evidence of these**

**behaviours may not necessarily indicate that a young person is being or has been radicalised. If your child is displaying any**

**of these behaviours and you believe it is a cause for concern you should try to discuss this with your child, or seek support**

**from one of the avenues detailed at the end of this resource.**

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**Going Too Far?** 

Going Too Far? is an interactive classroom

resource developed by the Department for

Education and London Grid for Learning.

The resource aims to help young people

understand their online behaviour and the

risks this may bring.

You may find it useful to access the resource to help you promote critical 

thinking skills to your child so that they are able to challenge extremist

narratives and consider the consequences of their online actions.

Scan the QR code to the right to be taken to the Going Too Far? resource.

**Susceptibility**

Children from all kinds of backgrounds can be radicalised. Below are some factors that

may make some young people more susceptible to radicalisation and extremist narratives than others.

Feeling socially isolated

Struggling with a sense of identity and belonging

Questioning their place in society

Issues within the family and at home

Experiencing a traumatic event

Experiencing racism or discrimination

Difficulty in interacting socially and lacking empathy

Difficulty in understanding the consequences of their actions

Low self-esteem

Becoming distanced from their cultural or religious background

**It is important to remember that the above is not an exhaustive list of vulnerabilities that can make young people more**

**susceptible to radicalisation and presence of these vulnerabilities in a young person may not necessarily indicate that**

**they are likely to be radicalised.**

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**What can you do?**

Talking to your child about extremism and giving them the

facts will help them to challenge extremist arguments.

Be honest with them and talk to them about extremism

and radicalisation on a regular basis.

Teach your children to understand that just because

something appears on a website, it doesn't mean it's

factually correct.

Talk to your child about online safety.

**Starting Conversations**

It can sometimes be difficult conversations with young people. Here are some

tips on how to get started, but remember - you know your child best and what

works for you.

Choose somewhere your child feels at ease and make it a time when you're

unlikely to be interrupted

Perhaps start the conversation when something relevant to extremism

comes up on TV

Ask them what they know about the subject and their opinion on it

Ask questions that don't result in a yes or no answer

Take care to listen to them and let them answer without interrupting

Encourage them to ask you any questions

Talk about your own views on extremism

Try not to react if they say something you don't expect. Ensure that they

know that they're not being told off

Scan the QR code to watch a video of how three parents answered their

children's questions about terrorism.

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**Let's Discuss**

Let's Discuss is a series of resources

produced by the Department for

Education.

They are designed to support teachers

in facilitating difficult classroom

conversations on the Extreme Right

Wing, Islamist Extremism, LASI

Extremism, and Fundamental British

Values.

You may find it useful to access the

resource to determine how you can

open up a conversation about

extremism with your child at home.

**Let's Discuss:**

**Extreme Right-Wing **

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**Let's Discuss:**

**Islamist Extremism **

Scan the QR codes to access each **Let's Discuss:**

**Let's Discuss:**

Let's Discuss resource. **Fundamental British Values**

**LASI Extremism**

**Further Available Support**

If you are worried that your child is being radicalised, you have a number of options.

Talking to your child is a good way to gauge if your instincts are correct, but you might

prefer to share your concerns with someone else first. For example, you could...

Raise the issue with your child's teacher, a friend, or a close family member

Organise a meeting with the designated safeguarding lead at your child's school

Contact your local police or local authority for advice and support

You can report concerns to the Government Anti-Terrorist Hotline on 0800 789 321

If you think someone is about to carry out an act of terrorism, dial 999

If you have concerns, but there is no immediate danger, dial 101

You can also share your concerns and seek support and guidance by visiting the ACT

Early website, or contacting their support line on 0800 011 3764

If you have concerns regarding extremism within an education setting, including allegations

against institutions and staff, you can anonymously report these to us at the Department

for Education by searching 'Report Extremism in Education' on Google.

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