

Pennyhill Primary School



Prevent Policy April 2025

Last reviewed on: April 2025

INTRODUCTION

The threat to the UK from international terrorism is substantial. The terrorist threats that we now face are more diverse than ever before, dispersed across a wider geographical area and often in countries without effective governance. We therefore face an unpredictable situation!

Dealing with violent extremism is nothing new. Throughout history there have been groups prepared to use violence to achieve their aims. A small minority of these seek to radicalise young people with an ideology, which justifies the use of violence through a distorted interpretation of a set of values (often associated with a religion).

In line with guidance from the Department for Education (DfE), Pennyhill Primary School has a zero tolerance acceptance of extremist behaviour and ensures that our care, guidance and curriculum empowers young people to reject violent or extremist behaviour.

Whilst it remains very rare for school age children to become involved in extremist activity, young people can be exposed to extremist influences or prejudiced views, including via the Internet, from an early age. Early intervention is a preferable way of tackling extremism.

PREVENT

Prevent is about safeguarding people and communities from the threat of terrorism. Prevent is 1 of the 4 elements of CONTEST, the Government's counter-terrorism strategy. It aims to stop people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism.

The Prevent Strategy focuses on three key areas, which are to:

- Respond to the ideological challenge of terrorism and the threat 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 childcare providers on preventing children and young people from being drawn into terrorism.

DEFINITIONS & INDICATORS

Radicalisation is defined as the act or process of making a person more radical or favouring of extreme or fundamental changes in political, economic or social conditions, institutions or habits of the mind. Extremism is defined as the holding of extreme political or religious views.

There are a number of behaviours, which may indicate a child is at risk of being radicalised or exposed to extreme views. These include;

- Spending increased time in the company of other suspected extremists.
- Changing their style of dress or personal appearance to accord with the group.
- Day-to-day behaviour becoming increasingly centred on 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 materials or symbols associated with extremist cause.
- Attempts to recruit others to the group/cause.
- Communication with others that suggests identification with a group, cause or ideology.
- Using insulting or derogatory names for another group.
- Increase in prejudice-related incidents committed by that person – these may include:
 - Physical or verbal assault. ○ Proactive behaviour
 - Damage to property
 - Derogatory name-calling
 - Possession of prejudice related materials
 - Prejudice related ridicule or name-calling
 - Inappropriate forms of address
 - Refusal to co operate
 - Attempts to recruit to prejudice-related organisations
 - Condoning or supporting violence towards others

AIMS

At Pennyhill Primary School we aim to:

- **Raise awareness** within school of the threat from violent extremist groups and the risks for young people.
- Provide **information** about what can cause violent extremism, about preventative actions taking place locally and nationally and where we can get additional information and advice.
- Help staff understand the **positive contribution** they can make to empower young people to create communities that are more resilient to extremism and **protecting the wellbeing** of particular pupils or groups who may be vulnerable to being drawn into violent extremist activity.
- Provide advice on **managing risks** and responding to incidents locally, nationally or internationally that might have an impact on the school community.

The school will use these principles to guide our work in all areas including building on our work in:

- Promoting British Values through the curriculum
- Promoting pupil wellbeing, equalities and community cohesion
- Building the resilience of the school, working with partners, to prevent pupils becoming the victims or causes of harm
- Working with other agencies and parents to build community networks of support for the school
- Ensuring diversity is celebrated and difference valued
- Ensuring children are safe from terrorist and extremist material when accessing the internet in school, through establishing appropriate levels of filtering

If you or anyone else is in immediate danger, you must contact the police by calling 999. You can report suspected terrorism online or contact the confidential AntiTerrorism hotline on 0800 789 321.

For further information on Prevent in Sandwell or if you have concerns of a nonurgent nature, you can contact the Prevent team by emailing: PreventInbox@sandwell.gov.uk

Support materials are available from:

<https://educateagainsthate.com/> <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/what-we-do/newsopinion/supporting-children-worried-aboutterrorism/> <https://www.lgfl.net/online-safety/resource-centre>

Further Information

- [Protecting children from radicalisation: The Prevent Duty](#)
- [Counter-Extremism Strategy](#)
- [Prevent Support Pack for Schools and Childcare providers](#)
- [Radicalisation and Extremism Policy](#)

Useful links

- [Lets Talk About It – Working together to prevent terrorism](#)