

The Prevention of Radicalisation and Extremism

The Prevent agenda published by the Government in 2011 is part of an overall counter-terrorism strategy. The aim of the Prevent strategy is to reduce the threat to the UK from terrorism by stopping people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism. The Act has been expressed as the need to 'prevent people from being drawn into terrorism'.

The Prevent strategy has three specific strategic objectives:

- responds to the ideological challenge we face from terrorism and aspects of extremism, and the threat we face from those who promote these views
- provides practical help to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism and ensure they are given appropriate advice and support
- works with a wide range of sectors (including education, criminal justice, faith, charities, online and health)

Since the 'Education and Inspections Act 2006' schools have a duty to promote community cohesion. Over the last few years global events have led to a growth of extremist viewpoints, including advocacy of violent extremism. Schools have an important part to play in both educating children and young people about extremism and recognising when pupils start to become radicalised. In March 2015 new statutory duties were placed on schools by the 'Counter Terrorism and Security Act,' (2015) which means they must aim to prevent children being drawn into extremism. Safeguarding our pupils at Fairfield from all risks of harm is an important part of our role, and protecting them from extremism is one aspect of that.

In 2015 the Prevent Duty (section 26) of The Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015 came into force. This duty places the responsibility on local authorities to have due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism.

- 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

The Role of the Curriculum

The Prevent Duty, the Department for Education's SMSC requirement, British Values Guidance and OFSTED's inspection criteria require schools to ensure pupils are aware of risks associated with extremism. At Fairfield we endeavour to do this through our broad, balanced and personalised curriculum.

Our curriculum promotes respect, tolerance and diversity. Our pupils (where appropriate) are encouraged to share their views and recognise what they are entitled to have their own beliefs, which should not be used to influence others. By building resilience and self esteem, our pupils are encouraged to be positive and not to be influenced by any negative pressure. We encourage our pupils to be independent and to share their thoughts and ideas. At Fairfield School we actively promote knowledge, skills and understanding to build the resilience of our pupils (where appropriate). These complement the key British Values of tolerance, respect, democracy and freedom of speech.

- Pupils are regularly taught about how to stay safe when using the internet and are encouraged to recognise that people are not always who they say they are online
- They are taught to seek adult help if they are upset or concerned about anything they read or see on the internet
- Pupils are supported in making choices so they understand the impact and consequences of their actions on others.
- Pupils learn about different faiths and visit places of worship wherever possible.

The links below provide further information about the Prevent Strategy and British Values