

Understanding the Prevent Duty

Guidance for Lancashire Schools

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What does Prevent
require us to do?

Who is
vulnerable ?

Who do I
contact ?


What is
extremism?

What is
terrorism?



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**‘Safeguarding
vulnerable people
from radicalisation
is no different from
safeguarding them
from other forms
of harm.’**

**Home Office
The Prevent Strategy**

Overview

From July 2015 the Counter Terrorism and Security Act placed a statutory duty on schools, Local Authorities and other specified authorities and institutions, to prevent people being drawn into terrorism and extremism.

Since 2012, it has been required by law for teachers “not to undermine fundamental British values, including democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect, and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs.”

The updated Ofsted inspection framework published in January 2018 sets out expectations on preventing extremism. It directs inspectors to examine a school’s response to extremist behaviour when considering the behaviour and safety of pupils, as well as the effectiveness of the leadership and management of the school in preventing extremism. The Government has said that it intends to strengthen these provisions in the near future.

Teacher training has always highlighted the vital role teachers have in ensuring the safety and well-being of the students in their care; and adhering to statutory requirements is no different from adhering to the normal safeguarding procedures.

Exposure of children/young people to extremist ideologies can hinder their social development and educational attainment alongside posing a very real risk that they could support or partake in an act of violence. Radicalisation of young people can be compared to grooming for sexual exploitation or gang membership. Therefore, we approach the Prevent strategy in the same manner we would child sexual exploitation or gang membership. If a member of staff is concerned about the safety of a student they should inform the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) in the school. They could also talk to the family (unless the family is implicated in potential extremism). and other professionals working with the young person if appropriate about the concerns and get their views

What is extremism?

Extremism is the vocal or active opposition to our fundamental values, including democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and the mutual respect and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs. We also regard calls for the death of members of our Armed forces as extremist.

Source: Counter Extremism Strategy – October 2015

What is terrorism?

Terrorism is defined as action designed to influence the government, intimidate the public. Its purpose is to advance a political, religious or ideological cause, that endangers or causes serious violence or harm to people, property, or seriously disrupts or interferes with an electronic system.

Source: Terrorism Act 2006

It is important to note that the Prevent Duty should not limit conversations about these things taking place in the classroom. In fact, effective implementation of the duty should enable discussions about these issues to flourish. By providing a safe space for students to discuss controversial issues, teachers can help them build the resilience and critical thinking skills they need to challenge extremist arguments and see them for what they are: simplistic narratives that don't stand up to close scrutiny.

Myth Busting

Many people are confused about what the Prevent Duty actually requires schools and teachers to do.

Some teachers have expressed concerns that they have to 'spot the signs of non-violent extremism'.

Prevent does not say that teachers are required to spot signs of extremism. Instead the Prevent Duty acknowledges that, after close family and friends, it's likely that school staff would be in the best position to notice if a child/young person was behaving in manner which implied something was troubling or upsetting them. There is no definite checklist of behaviours or warning signs, just as there isn't for other child protection issues. Children/young people behave in any number of differing ways when something has a profound effect upon them. Think about a young person you know and how they reacted to a difficult situation, and then compare their reactions to someone else who has also been through a similar ordeal.

People often respond differently. What the Prevent Duty acknowledges, is that teachers, as a part of their daily routine, will try to ensure children/young people in their care are kept safe from harm and that teachers are well placed to spot signs of physical and emotional trauma/harm.

If a teacher notices some significant change in the behaviour or temperament of a child/young person, they should do what they always do ie. talk to them to check if everything is alright. If, during the conversation something is disclosed which makes them fear for the safety of the young person, the teacher should do exactly what they would in any other situation - speak to the DSL in the school and explain their concerns.

This should be treated in the same way that teachers have dealt with other safeguarding issues for many years.

Myth Busting

Teachers are required, and encouraged, to talk about and educate children/young people on the issues concerning sexual relationships, including grooming, consent and the law. However, if a child/young person discloses something during these discussions which makes the teacher concerned that the child/young person is being exploited, the teacher has a legal duty to pass it onto the DSL in the school. This is exactly the same procedure for issues around extremism. An educator's, the first priority should always be to ensure the safety and well-being of children/ young people in their care.

Effective Prevent work in schools should encourage discussion in the classroom about controversial issues and children/young people should feel that it is a safe space to discuss things that concern them. Teachers should feel confident about referring on when they feel a child is at risk.

Prevent is about supporting all children/young people and ensuring their safety

Good Practice

As stated, effective implementation of the Prevent Duty should encourage open and healthy debate about controversial issues in schools. This does not mean that all members of staff are suddenly expected to become experts on terrorism related issues.

Instead, best practice would see schools identifying which members of staff would be most at ease talking about these issues with students should questions arise in the classroom. They might be Citizenship or RE teachers, or even members of staff who have an interest in these topics. Students and staff members would then know who to turn to should some difficult questions arise.

For example, it is perfectly acceptable for a teacher to say to a student who has asked a question about an extremist group 'That's a really interesting question, but unfortunately it's not something I know a huge amount about. I know Miss/ Mr is interested in this topic. I'll get them to come and speak to you about it, and if it's ok

I'd like to sit in as I'd like to find out more about it myself.'

By getting the other member of staff to speak to the child/young person, it ensures the conversation takes place. By asking to be part of that conversation it demonstrates to the child/young person that you are interested in their views (they probably approached you because they feel more comfortable talking to you than anyone else).

It's essential that members of staff know where they can turn to get additional support. If you feel you want even more specialist discussions, then contact the Local Authority (see Contacts at the back of this booklet).

Who is vulnerable?

Across the country, we take the view that anyone can become vulnerable to extremist narratives.

There is often a huge discrepancy between what parents and teachers consider to be typical extremist propaganda and what it is that young people might actually be exposed to. Below are two examples of materials put on the internet by extremist groups.

The first is a post by the far-right political party Britain First. They use popular campaigns like this to try to expand their influence. This is despite the British Legion, which runs the Poppy Appeal, saying publicly that it does not authorise the use of the poppy for “political or partisan use”.



When people see the poppy, they share it without knowing that the image was put up by a group that is not associated with the campaign. It is ‘click-bait’. This means, it’s a social media post that is designed to get as many ‘likes’ and ‘shares’ as possible. Most of their posts have no mention of their political views, instead they are deliberately chosen to appeal to as many people as possible. Once someone has liked or shared a post like this, it then means that whenever the group posts another item on social media it will automatically reach those people. Their posts will then, become more aggressive in tone, and often become Islamophobic.

The second post is from Daesh (also known as ISIS, ISIL or IS). Most people assume that Daesh propaganda is aimed at inciting ultra-violence when, in fact, it posts more about ‘state building’ and its ‘charity work’ than it does about violence.

If a young person finds propaganda online, much of what they see will

Who is vulnerable?

appeal to them because it echoes their views on a range of issues and makes them believe they are supporting groups that are doing good and supporting the oppressed.



In short, even intelligent, compassionate and charitable young people can be vulnerable to extremist narratives. If a young person sees posts that talk about the virtues of these groups, if they don't know how to evaluate critically such sources of information and they don't think they can talk to a trusted adult about the views being expressed, they can easily be led into thinking that such groups are virtuous.

Who is vulnerable?

Identifying those children/young people who may be at risk is difficult, Children/young people today have open and unrestricted access to extensive information so we need to teach skills of critical thinking, and questioning the validity of sources.

We need to ensure that they know they have a voice; that they can have differing beliefs and views to others, that they are valued members of society who can make an impact on society and bring about change for the better.



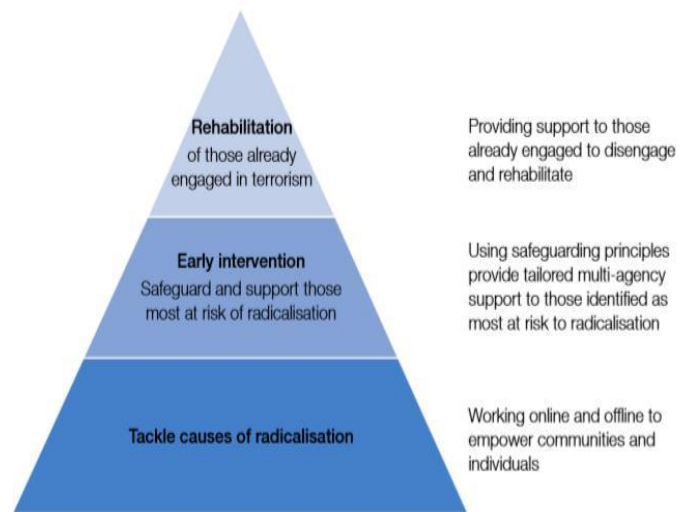
A lot of good work will already take place in your school regarding this.

Most Prevent work happens in the universal provision tier. For example, if schools have debate clubs, good SMSC and RE, safe spaces for debate, mentors, school councils, good ICT e-safety classes etc they can demonstrate that all children are listened to, valued and given the opportunity to become critical thinkers who will be resilient to extremist narratives.

Universal Provision

As previously stated, all educational professionals are now required by law to refer any concern they have regarding young people being drawn into violent extremism.

For school staff, the main message is to inform the (DSL) of your concern. They will use their expertise and experience to decide if it needs to be referred further. Vulnerable children can sometimes be drawn into a range of risky or extreme situations which may include drug or alcohol abuse, offending, exploitation by others or becoming victims or perpetrators of violent behaviour. Often, we have no way of knowing what risks they may be vulnerable to or could come across, so it is important we deal with their needs holistically to protect them, make them more resilient and provide them with skills and positive avenues of support to enable them to deal with these hazards and resist negative influences.



Concerns about an individual child or group of children becoming violent, or being drawn into violent extremism, or being drawn into this in the future should be treated initially using the same procedures as we would for all vulnerable children. Sometimes the support may be similar to that provided to other vulnerable children and sometimes more specifically, focussed interventions may be appropriate.

Referral Pathways

If you are concerned that a child or young person be at risk of being involved in or being drawn into violent extremism in the future:

1. Consider a phone call to the Police Prevent team for initial advice. Talk to the family **if appropriate** or other professionals who may be involved with or working with the child/young person/family about your concerns and seek their views.
2. Seek consent to complete an early intervention assessment (CAF) to get an holistic perspective of the situation and determine if there are additional needs and how these could be met.
3. Contact other relevant agencies and seek to engage them in a Team around the Family (TAF) approach to support the child/young person and their family. Always make sure the Police Prevent team are updated with actions taken.
4. If your concerns continue and the TAF approach does not appear to be achieving

positive outcomes and meeting the desired goals, use the Prevent referral form and inform the Police Prevent team that a referral is being made and forward to

concern@lancashire.pnn.police.uk

If you have evidence or reason to believe that a child or young person may already be engaged in or drawn towards violence or violent extremism or in contact with others who engage in or promote violence, make the Prevent referral immediately on the Referral form to the police and notify Police Prevent team by phone of the referral being made. In considering such cases the Channel Panel discussion will include representatives from appropriate agencies eg Children's Social Care, Education, Police, Local Authority who will all contribute advice and guidance.

You can make a referral without the parent's consent eg where you believe the child/young person or others are at serious risk of harm or in order to prevent serious crime where sharing information may be counter-productive to managing a situation.

Prevent Referral Form

Information will be kept secure and confidential and will only be disclosed to those parties who have a legal and legitimate need to know.

Please note completed forms will be at OFFICIAL SENSITIVE Level.

Please complete the below details and email this form to:

concern@lancashire.pnn.police.uk

Please complete all details to the best of your knowledge. Leave blank if unknown.

Your details:

Date of referral			
Surname			
Forenames		Relationship to individual	
Contact no.			
Email			
Professional role (if applicable)			
Address			

Person or Place of Concern

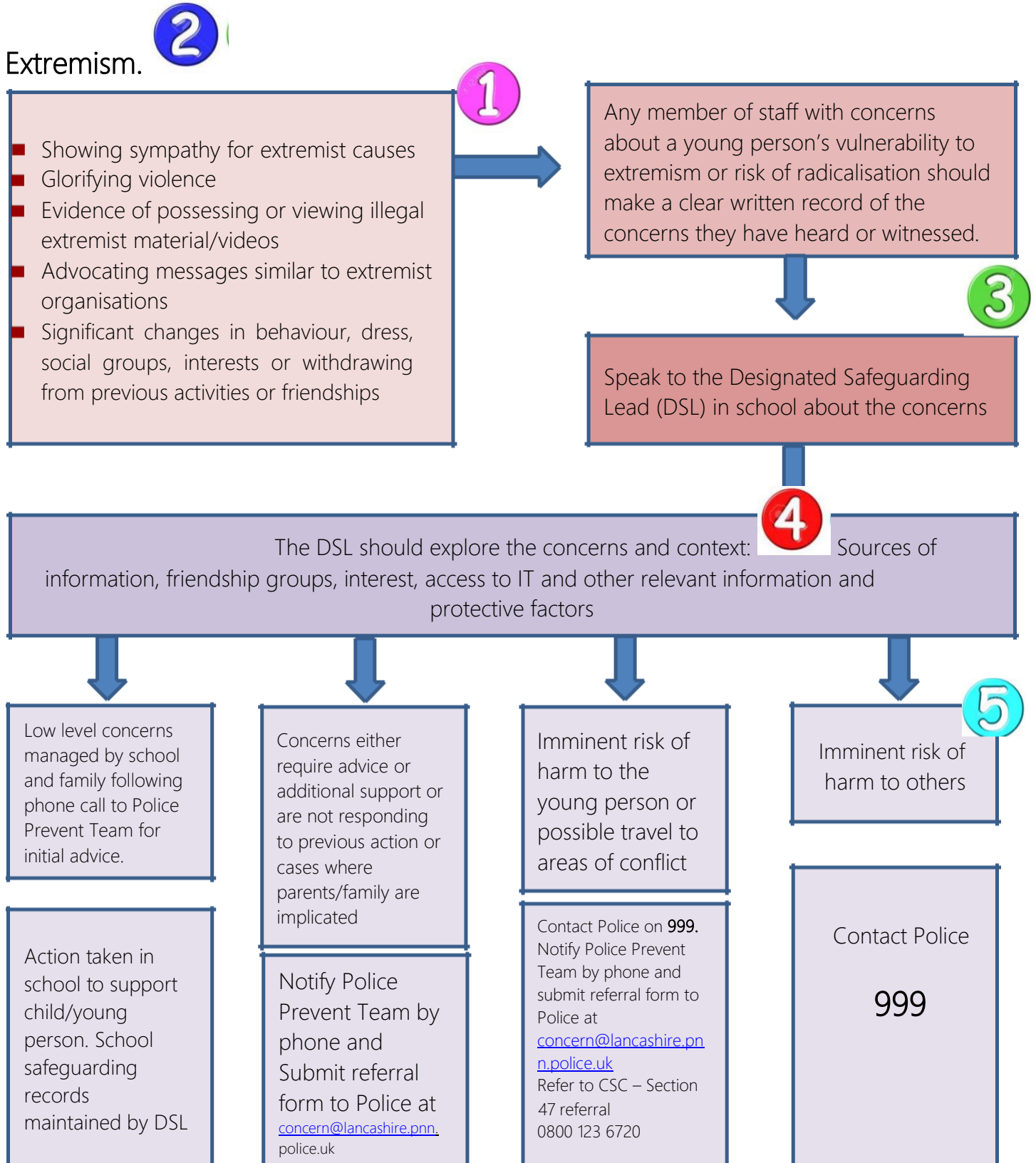
Please include as much detail as possible.

IDEOLOGY CT/DE (Please select one of the boxes opposite) **See below for guidance on these options	<input type="checkbox"/> Anti-Islamic <input type="checkbox"/> Anti-Semitic <input type="checkbox"/> Islamist <input type="checkbox"/> XRW <input type="checkbox"/> Kurdish <input type="checkbox"/> XLW		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Loyalist <input type="checkbox"/> Republican <input type="checkbox"/> Sikh <input type="checkbox"/> Tamil <input type="checkbox"/> Animal rights <input type="checkbox"/> Environmental <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Please specify below)		
Institution/Sector (only app if place of concern)			
Surname		D.O.B	
Forenames		Gender	
Contact no.			
email			
Social Media Username			
Ethnicity		Nationality	
Religion		Place of Birth	
Address			

Referral Pathways

Do all staff know how to identify when a child/young person may be at risk of engaging in extremism and how to respond?

Referral Routes for Safeguarding concerns related to Radicalisation and/or



Prevent Duty Expectations

Area	Duties as set out in statutory guidance for Schools and Early Years provision
Risk Assessment	Schools and Early Years providers are expected to assess the risk of children being drawn into terrorism, including support for 'extremist ideas that are part of a terrorist ideology'. Statutory guidance states that this should be based on an understanding, shared with local partners, of the potential risk in the area. Schools are expected to refer pupils who show early signs of being influenced by extremist narratives.
Safeguarding policies and procedures	Schools and Early Years providers will need to evidence that they are protecting children from being drawn into terrorism by having safeguarding policies in place to identify children at risk and intervene as appropriate. Policies should include clear protocols for ensuring that any visiting speakers are suitable and appropriately supervised.
'Safe Spaces' for discussion	The guidance highlights the role of schools as safe spaces where children can understand and discuss sensitive topics, including terrorism, extremist ideas and how to challenge these ideas. However, the guidance also highlights existing duties on schools to forbid political indoctrination and secure a balanced presentation of political issues.
Curriculum	The statutory guidance re-states the requirement on publicly funded schools to teach a broad and balanced curriculum. It confirms that independent schools, academies and free schools must comply with Independent School Standards, which include the requirement to promote fundamental British values (defined in the guidance as democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, and mutual respect and tolerance for those with different faiths and beliefs).

Prevent Duty Checklist

	yes	no	Comments/evidence	Further action	date
Does your safeguarding policy make explicit that the school sees protection from extremism & radicalisation as a safeguarding issue?	✓			Yes, section in safeguarding policy VG Prevent lead and all staff trained 2023. Governor lead Janet Leaver trained Summer 2023.	
Are the lead responsibilities for Prevent clearly identified in the policy?				Burnley Faith centre checks on faith visitors	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prevent Safeguarding Lead? Prevent Governor Lead? Prevent Curriculum Lead? Responsibility for checking visitors to school? Responsibilities for checking premises use by external agencies? Responsibility for ensuring commissioned services are complying with the Prevent Duty? Responsibility for record keeping to demonstrate compliance with the Prevent Duty? 				Angela Johnstone to check premises use	
Have all school staff received training on Prevent?				All staff trained Summer 2023	
Has the Designated Safeguarding Leads and Back Ups been trained?				Governor training Strategic Safeguarding and Specific Prevent training lead Summer 2023	
Have Governors received training on Prevent?					
Does your induction programme cover Prevent issues?				Induction 2023-2024 no new staff – Prevent in staff handbook	
Does your safeguarding policy make explicit how Prevent concerns should be reported within school?				Reporting/concerns on Cpoms and then specific reporting form template in safeguarding portfolio on One Drive. VG DSL and prevent lead	
Have you checked that all staff know what they should do if they have a Prevent concern and who it should be reported to?					
Do you have a clear statement about how the Prevent agenda is addressed preventatively through the curriculum and other activities?				Prevent statement needs writing (ND) Autumn 2023 as part of Equality mark work.	
Have the Prevent curriculum interventions been mapped across the age range and subject areas?					
Is there a clear statement about the range of interventions the school can offer individuals at risk?				Updates to training in Sept 2023 KCSIE staff training	
Is there a clear understanding of information sharing and when cases should be referred to the police/MASH?					
Has the school ensured its internet security systems prevent access to unauthorised or extremist websites?				Monitoring and filtering weekly shows no access To extremist sites.	

Is there a clear vetting policy on the use of school premises and facilities by external agencies/ groups?

Is there a clear visitor's policy that ensures visitors are vetted and adhere to the school value's and promote community cohesion?

Are you sure your commissioned services are aware and adhering to the Prevent Duty?

Do you keep appropriate records to enable you to demonstrate your compliance with the Prevent Duty?

'Radicalisation' is defined as the process by which people come to support/promote extremism or terrorism or and in some cases, to then participate in terrorist activity.

'Extremism' is vocal or active opposition to fundamental British Values including **Democracy, Rule of Law, Individual Liberty and Mutual Respect and Tolerance of those with different faiths or beliefs**. This also includes calling for the death of our Armed Forces.

Since the publication of the **'Prevent Strategy'**, there has been an awareness of the specific need to safeguard children, young people and families from violent extremism. There have attempts to radicalise vulnerable children and young people to hold extreme views including views justifying political, religious, sexist or racist violence, or to steer them into a narrow and rigid ideology that is intolerant of diversity and leaves them vulnerable to future radicalisation.

Keeping children safe from these risks is a safeguarding matter and is approached in the same way as safeguarding children and young people from any other risks. Children and young people should be protected from messages of all violent extremism including but not restricted to eg those linked to extreme Islamist ideology or to Far Right/White Supremacist Ideology, Irish Nationalist and Loyalist Paramilitary groups and extremist Animal Rights groups.

'Prevent' in the context of counter terrorism is intervention before any criminal offence has been committed and is with the intention of preventing individuals or groups from committing crimes

Prevent Resources

For a range of resources available to teachers/leaders/parents, please visit the website

www.educateagainsthate.com

The screenshot shows the homepage of the website. At the top, there is a navigation bar with social media icons (Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, Email) and a menu with five items: Teachers (yellow), Parents (red), School Leaders (blue), About (black), and Blog (black). Below the navigation bar is the logo "educate.against.hate". The main content area features a large white box with the text: "This website gives teachers, parents and school leaders practical advice and information on protecting children from ~~extremism and radicalisation~~." Below this, there are four columns representing different user groups: Teachers' hub, Parents' hub, School Leaders' hub, and About. Each column has a list of topics with expandable arrows.

to ensure you get the best experience on our website [More info](#)

[f](#) [t](#) [▶](#) [✉](#)

[Teachers](#) [Parents](#) [School Leaders](#) [About](#) [Blog](#)

educate.against.hate

This website gives teachers, parents and school leaders practical advice and information on protecting children from ~~extremism and radicalisation~~.

Teachers' hub

- > Extremism and radicalisation
- > Prevent duty

Parents' hub

- > Extremism and radicalisation
- > Safeguarding advice and support

School Leaders' hub

- > Extremism and radicalisation
- > Prevent duty

About

Children often take risks, explore new things and push boundaries as they become more independent.

Useful links and contacts

The Prevent duty Departmental advice for schools and childcare providers	https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/439598/prevent-duty-departmental-advice-v6.pdf
The Prevent Duty Guidance	https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/445977/3799_Revised_Prevent_Duty_Guidance__England_Wales_V2-Interactive.pdf
Promoting fundamental British values as part of SMSC in schools	https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/380595/SMSC_Guidance_Maintained_Schools.pdf
Educate against Hate	www.educateagainsthate.com
Prevent awareness e-learning	http://www.elearning.prevent.homeoffice.gov.uk
Prevent Referrals e-learning	https://www.elearning.prevent.homeoffice.gov.uk/preventreferrals
Channel Awareness e-learning	https://www.elearning.prevent.homeoffice.gov.uk/channelawareness
Lancashire CSC Care Connect	0300 123 6720
Burnley Prevent Education Officer	07970 819719
Police Prevent Team	01282 472329 concern@lancashire.pnn.police.uk

