

7 things schools need to know about extremism, radicalisation, and the Prevent Duty.



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The UK government recently placed a legal duty on schools to have due regard for the need to prevent people being drawn into terrorism. Whilst it is the government's intention for these efforts to become part of wider safeguarding measures in schools, there are areas of the new duty that will require specialist knowledge.

Here are seven key points from the new **Prevent Duty** that teachers and school staff need to be aware of.

1. Risk assessments are the start.

Understanding how and where young people can be put at risk of extremism and radicalisation is the critical first step in addressing the threat. As an organisation, schools are now required to carry out risk assessments that will help them to measure the responses that they need to implement in order to protect their students.

2. Policies and procedures need to be in place.

As with other safeguarding concerns, system need to be put in place that show people how to respond to the risks that they identify. With the rapid evolution of extremist influence techniques it is critical that any policies and procedures that are employed are well understood and regularly reviewed.

3. Staff must be appropriately trained.

Developing an awareness of the Prevent strategy, how to respond to the risks, and how to identify someone at risk from extremism and radicalisation is an essential element of the new duty. Staff should receive training that gives them knowledge, skills, and awareness, and those in leadership positions may require additional training to ensure that they have a full grasp on the new duty.

4. IT access must be safe.

Extremist groups make huge efforts to promote their messages through the internet and social media. Whilst freedom to access online information about the world must be given to young people, schools must ensure that they are protected from exposure to violent extremist material.

5. Efforts will be monitored.

In order to ensure that the new duty is being implemented in schools, Ofsted will consider the policies and procedures implemented and will look at a school's response mechanisms for when someone is considered to be at risk from extremism and radicalisation.

6. Knowledge is the key.

As is the case with implementing any new system, developing proper understanding is crucial to the overall success of the scheme. Extremism and radicalisation is a specialist field that is rapidly evolving and constantly being debated, so presenting the most relevant points for use by teachers and school leadership is critical.

7. Support is available.

Finally, knowing who to talk to and where to access specialist support is a critical part of the duty. Local Prevent coordinators, Police counter-terrorism units, safeguarding boards, and private organisations are all able to provide support services to your organisation's efforts.

For training courses that cover safeguarding against extremism and radicalisation, please see our [Prevent Strategy Awareness Training](#).



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At Victvs we specialise in providing holistic solutions to risk management and safeguarding against extremism and radicalisation. With our innovative training packages, and expert instructors, we can assist you in ensuring that your school meets or exceeds the standards set out in the Prevent Duty.

For more information on the Prevent Duty or to speak to us about a free initial consultation, please contact us on 01600 891 548.