

Preventing extremism that can lead to terrorism statement

Background

How does the Prevent Duty apply to Exeter Maths School?

Since 2015, all schools and other organisations have a duty to safeguard children from radicalisation and extremism. This means protecting children and young people from extremist and violent views. Extremism can take many forms, including political, religious, and misogynistic ideologies, with varying levels of threat in different areas.

Exeter Maths School (EMS) is committed to providing a secure environment where students feel and are kept safe. All staff and adults at EMS understand that safeguarding is everyone's responsibility, regardless of their role or whether they work directly with children. This statement forms part of our broader safeguarding framework, supporting our statutory duties under Section 175 of the Education Act 2002 and our responsibilities under Keeping Children Safe in Education 2026.

The national Prevent Strategy, part of the UK government's wider counter-terrorism strategy (*Contest*), aims to reduce the threat of terrorism by preventing people from becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism. It has three main objectives:

- tackle the ideological causes of terrorism
- intervene early to support people susceptible to radicalisation
- enable people who have already engaged in terrorism to disengage and rehabilitate

A key element of Prevent is the multi-agency Channel programme, which provides support to people who are susceptible to radicalisation and at risk of being drawn into terrorism. Channel brings together relevant partners to provide tailored support where appropriate.

The school has regard to the Prevent Duty Guidance: England and Wales (2023), which came into force on 31 December 2023 and provides the current statutory guidance for specified authorities in England and Wales. The school will ensure that its Prevent arrangements remain proportionate to the risks identified within the school and its local community.

We recognise the importance of students accessing preventative education in reducing the risks of students being drawn into extremism and terrorism. We do this through our pastoral curriculum and whole-school approach by preparing students for life in modern Britain and promoting a culture in which extremist activity and the promotion of violence, hatred or intolerance are challenged appropriately. We are committed to develop students understanding of British Values: upholding the rule of law, democracy, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance, while enabling students to explore complex and potentially controversial topics in a safe, balanced and informed way. Students are encouraged to have respectful conversations and show critical thinking and mutual respect. All students are taught about keeping themselves safe, including online, and how to recognise situations where they

are others may be at risk of harm. Students are encouraged to raise concerns with trusted adult or to report concerns anonymously through Whisper.

Commitment

Exeter Maths School recognises the genuine threat posed by extremism leading to terrorism, including the exploitation of vulnerable individuals. We are committed to supporting the national Prevent Strategy, as well as working with Prevent Groups and Channel Panels across our four-county catchment area.

EMS further recognises -

- that under Section 26 of the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015, the school has a duty to have due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism” (the “Prevent Duty”);
- the need to address all forms of terrorism, prioritised according to intelligence about the threat they pose to our national security;
- the importance of protecting freedom of speech; but that preventing terrorism will, at times, mean challenging extremist ideas to stop people moving into terrorist-related activity;
- that preventing individuals from getting drawn into terrorism is part of safeguarding; that communications and community engagement concerning Prevent need to be objective and based on the risks; and
- that the government defines “extremism” as: “the promotion or advancement of an ideology based on violence, hatred or intolerance that aims to: negate or destroy the fundamental rights and freedoms of others; or undermine, overturn or replace the UK’s system of liberal parliamentary democracy and democratic rights; or intentionally create a permissive environment for others to achieve the results in (1) or (2).”
- the importance of education and awareness around extremism and violent terrorism for students. This will be delivered as part of the student pastoral programme.
- The lawful exercise of rights, including freedom of thought, conscience and religion, freedom of expression, freedom of association, and the right to engage in lawful debate, protest or campaign for a change in the law, is not extremism. Simply holding a belief, regardless of its substance, is protected under the law.

Vulnerability

Every individual is unique and may be vulnerable to radicalisation for different reasons. Influences may arise from family, community, wider society, or online environments. Risks may include travel abroad where terrorist groups operate, exposure to terrorist content online, persuasive individuals, peer pressure, and internet content.

Communities

We acknowledge that if misapplied, the Prevent agenda can have a detrimental effect on communities and community cohesion. Extremism leading to terrorism can originate from any

September 2026

background or ideology, including political, religious, or other beliefs, whether from within the UK or abroad.

There is no single profile of a terrorist. Communications and community engagement need to reflect this and focus on threats and risks objectively assessed, rather than perceptions and generalisations.

Training

EMS I will ensure that staff receive appropriate Prevent training, proportionate to their roles and responsibilities. Training will support staff to be able to understand the risks of radicalisation, recognise indicators that a student may be susceptible to radicalisation, know how to respond to concerns and understand the school's procedures for making a Prevent referral. Training will be refresher annually.

Implementation

In order to ensure this statement and the Prevent Duty are effectively implemented, EMS will assess and respond to the risks of students or staff being drawn into terrorism or exposed to extremist ideologies.

This will include consideration of:

- the use of school premises by external persons,
- external speakers, visitors, events and activities,
- the suitability and safeguarding of external organisations working with students,
- any local or emerging Prevent risks identified through relevant intelligence or safeguarding information.

Prevent considerations will form part of the school's wider safeguarding and risk-assessment arrangements. Where concerns are identified, appropriate action will be taken in accordance with the school's child protection and safeguarding procedures and relevant local Prevent referral arrangements.

Any concerns that a student or other individual may be susceptible to radicalisation should be raised as soon as possible with the DSL/DDSL and recorded on CPOMS. The DSL/DDSL will consider the concern and, where necessary, seek advice or make a referral through the appropriate local Prevent arrangements.

Useful Contacts

Devon County Council [Radicalisation and extremism - How children may be at risk \(dcfp.org.uk\)](https://www.dcfp.org.uk)

Devon and Cornwall Police Prevent site: [Prevent](https://www.prevent.gov.uk) | [Devon & Cornwall Police \(devon-cornwall.police.uk\)](https://www.devon-cornwall.police.uk)

Devon and Cornwall Police's secure [Partner Agency Information Sharing Form](#)

Safer Devon <https://saferdevon.co.uk/preventing-radicalisation/>

To report extremist online material, <https://www.gov.uk/report-terrorism>

Education against Hate, <https://educateagainsthate.com/>