

Preventing extremism that can lead to terrorism statement

Background

How does the Prevent Strategy apply to schools?

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, just as we do from drugs or gang violence. Extremism can take many forms, including political, religious, and misogynistic ideologies, with varying levels of threat in different areas.

At Exeter Mathematics School, we aim to equip students with the skills to protect themselves from extremist views they may encounter now or in the future. We also provide a safe space for students to explore and discuss these issues, helping them understand how to stay safe.

Exeter Mathematics School 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.

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:

1. Responding to the ideological challenge of terrorism and the threat from those who promote it;
2. Preventing people from being drawn into terrorism and ensuring they receive appropriate support;
3. Working with institutions and sectors where risks of radicalisation need to be addressed.

A key element of Prevent is the multi-agency Channel programme, which identifies and supports individuals at risk of being drawn into terrorism.

We contribute to this effort through our pastoral curriculum and whole-school approach to preventative education, preparing students for life in modern Britain and promoting a culture of zero tolerance for sexism, misogyny/misandry, homophobia, biphobia, and sexual violence or harassment.

Commitment

Exeter Mathematics 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.

Exeter Mathematics School further recognises:-

- that under the Counter Terrorism & Security Act 2015 we have duty to pay “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: “Vocal or active opposition to fundamental British values, including democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs. We also include in our definition of extremism calls for the death of members of our armed forces, whether in this country or overseas”.
- the importance of education and awareness around extremism and violent terrorism for students. This will be delivered as part of the student pastoral programme.
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There is no place at Exeter Mathematics School for extremist views that oppose fundamental British values or may lead to terrorism. We are committed to remaining lawful and promoting values such as tolerance, democracy, and liberty, while enabling students to explore complex topics like terrorism and violence in a safe and informed way.

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. Vulnerability can involve risks such as travel abroad, inappropriate fundraising, 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 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

Exeter Mathematics School will ensure that appropriate staff receive Prevent training to understand the risks of radicalisation and how to identify and support those who may be vulnerable.

Implementation

In order to ensure this policy is effectively implemented, we will consider things such as: the use of our premises including prayer rooms; platforms for radical speakers and events; use of social media and internet; and where charitable collections end up.

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