

# The Prevent strategy

## **What is the Prevent duty?**

The Counter-Terrorism and Security Act, which came into force on 1 July 2015, requires certain authorities, including schools, to "have due regard to the need to prevent people being drawn into terrorism". This is known as the 'Prevent duty'.

The duty covers all types of extremism, whether political, religious or ideological.

## **What does it mean for Pebble Brook?**

The duty to protect pupils from the risk of radicalisation is part of our schools' wider safeguarding duties, similar to the responsibility to protect pupils from harm caused by, for example, drugs, gangs, neglect or sexual exploitation.

The Prevent duty is consistent with our existing duties, such as the requirement to abide by the Equality Act 2010, promote 'fundamental British values', secure a balanced presentation of political issues and promote community cohesion.

## **What does Pebble Brook do?**

We have checked to ensure that our existing safeguarding procedures are robust and take the risk of radicalisation into account, including with regard to visiting speakers. We have appropriate internet filtering systems in place to ensure pupils are not exposed to harmful content online and we monitor accounts.

We have looked at our local risk of young people being drawn in to terrorism and understand that our vigilance level is high.

All staff have been trained twice in the past 18 months to help them identify children at risk of being drawn into terrorism, challenge extremist ideas, and know how to act if they have a concern.

The government says it is also very important that schools are "safe spaces" for pupils to discuss sensitive topics, including terrorism and extremist ideas. They should also be taught how to recognise and manage risk, think critically and make reasoned arguments.

**What should staff do if they have a concern?**

The government's Educate Against Hate website says that where a member of staff has a concern, he/she should follow the school's usual safeguarding procedures. Concerns should be discussed with the designated safeguarding lead, who may decide to involve other agencies such as the LA or local police. This is exactly what happens at Pebble Brook.

The LA or police may suggest that the pupil is referred to Channel, the government's programme for identifying and supporting those at risk of being drawn into terrorism, or to social services.

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