BRIGHSTONE C.E. PRIMARY SCHOOL

Prevent Strategy

What is the Prevent strategy?

- Prevent is a government strategy designed to stop people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorist or extremist causes.
- The Prevent strategy aims to tackle the ideological causes of terrorism, enable early intervention to support people susceptible to radicalisation and enable those that have engaged to rehabilitate.

How does the Prevent strategy apply to schools?

- From July 2015 all schools (as well as other organisations) have a duty to safeguard children from radicalisation and extremism. This means we have a responsibility to protect children from extremist and violent views the same way we protect them from any other harm.
- Importantly, we can provide a safe place for pupils to discuss these issues, at an appropriate level so they better understand how to protect themselves.
- The Prevent Duty Guidance was updated in January 2024 and schools have been encouraged to revise their procedures as part of their wider safeguarding responsibilities.

What does this mean in practice at Brighstone C.E. Primary school?

Many of the things we already do in school to help children become positive, happy members of society also contribute to the Prevent strategy. These include:

- Building positive and trusting relationships with pupils.
- Having our well embedded 3 school values which underpin all aspects of school life; I can live respectfully, I can be resilient and I can have healthy relationships, all live through our Conscious Community.
- Ensuring a dynamic and positive safeguarding culture in which all children are encouraged to 'speak out to stay safe.'
- Exploring other cultures and religions and promoting diversity within and across all aspects of our curriculum.
- Challenging prejudices, anti-social behaviour and racist comments.
- Educating children about the importance of respecting the protected characteristics as set out in the Equality Act 2010.
- Developing critical thinking skills and a strong, positive self-identity.
- Challenging pupils, building resilience and self-confidence to participate in real-life decision making.
- Promoting the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils.
- Embedding and promoting British values across all aspects of school life.
- Promoting online safety within classrooms and the wider community to encourage that the children are as safe in the online world as they are the real world.

We will also protect children from the risk of radicalisation, for example by using filters on the internet to make sure they can't access extremist and terrorist material, and by monitoring the activities of the children when using computing equipment to be confident that they are not researching or actively seeking inappropriate material.

We also vet visitors who come into school to work with pupils and ensure that the content of their presentations are appropriate for the age of the children and the needs of the community.

Isn't my child too young to learn about extremism?

The Prevent strategy is not just about discussing extremism itself, which may not be appropriate for younger children. It is also about teaching children values such as tolerance and mutual respect. This is what we will focus on at Brighstone C.E. Primary school.

The school will make sure any discussions are suitable for the age and maturity of the children involved.

Is extremism really a risk in our area?

Extremism can take many forms, including political, religious and misogynistic extremism. Some of these may be a bigger threat in our area than others. We are also mindful that children may face threats in the online world and this is why we teach a comprehensive programme of esafety to ensure that the children are aware of what to do if they see something online that worries or scares them.

We will endeavour to give children the necessary skills to protect them from any extremist views they may encounter, now or later in their lives.

Further information

Contact the school - If you have any questions or concerns about the Prevent Strategy and what it means for your child, please do not hesitate to contact the school.

See our policies - You will find more details about radicalisation in our safeguarding policy, available on our website. We also have information about spiritual, moral, social and cultural development and British values on our school website.

External sources - The following sources may also be useful for further information:

- Prevent duty guidance: for England and Wales, HM Government
- What is Prevent? Let's Talk About It
- NSPCC – Protecting Children from Radicalisation

Key Terms

Extremism – *vocal or active opposition to fundamental British values.*

Ideology – *a set of beliefs*

Terrorism – *a violent action against people or property, designed to create fear and advance a political, religious or ideological cause*

Radicalisation – *the process by which a person comes to support extremism and terrorism*