



Prevent Guidance for Heltwate Staff

Written by D Shaw - April 2016

Adapted from DoF 'The Prevent Duty,' June 2015

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Governor with responsibility for this guidance: Mr Chris Marshall

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Heltwate School fully recognises the responsibility it has under Section 157/175 of the Education Act 2002, to have arrangements for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of the children in its care.

We are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of the children and young people in our care and expect all staff, visiting students and volunteers to share wholeheartedly in this commitment.

Introduction

From 1 July 2015, all schools, registered early years childcare providers and registered later years childcare providers (referred to in this advice as ‘childcare providers’) were subject to a duty under section 26 of the Counterterrorism and Security Act 2015, in the exercise of their functions, to have “due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism”. This duty is known as the **Prevent Duty**. It applies to a wide range of public-facing bodies – these bodies to which the duty applies must have regard to the statutory guidance.

At Heltwate School, it is essential that staff are able to identify children who may be vulnerable to radicalisation and exploitation and know what to do when concerns are identified.

Protecting children from the risk of radicalisation should be seen as part of the school’s wider safeguarding duties and is similar in nature to protecting children from other forms of harms (e.g., drugs, gangs, neglect, sexual exploitation), whether these come from within their family or are the product of outside and environmental influences. We should also strive to build pupil’s resilience to radicalisation by constantly promoting fundamental British Values and enabling them to be confident in challenging extremist views, by nurturing a strong sense of community and belonging.

All staff must consistently challenge extremist and radical views, whenever they may arise. It is important to emphasise that the Prevent Duty is not intended to stop our pupils debating controversial issues, where they are able to do so.

On the contrary, in Key Stages 3, 4 & 5, we will always strive to provide a safe environment in which young people and staff can debate and understand the risks associated with terrorism and exploitation and develop the knowledge and skills they need to be able to challenge extremist arguments in the wider community. In Key Stages 1& 2, we support our student’s understanding by developing a strong appreciation of diversity and uniqueness, and we endeavour to constantly promote an ethos where students feel valued, because of who they are as individuals.

All staff and selected visitors with access to our students are DBS checked according to current legislation.

Risk assessment

All classroom-based staff are expected to continually assess the risk of children being drawn into terrorism, including support for extremist ideals that are part of terrorist ideology.

This means being able to demonstrate both a general understanding of the risks affecting children and young people in the school, and a specific understanding of how to identify individual children who may be at risk of radicalisation and exploitation and what to do to support them, if required.

As with managing other safeguarding risks, staff should be alert to changes in a child's behaviour which could indicate that they may need help or protection from harm. Staff should use their professional judgement in identifying children who might be at risk of radicalisation and act proportionately, which may include making a referral to the 'Channel' program where needed.

Channel is a programme which focuses on providing support at an early stage to individuals who are identified as being vulnerable to being drawn into terrorism. It provides a mechanism for schools to make referrals if they are concerned that an individual might be vulnerable to radicalisation. An individual's engagement with the programme is entirely voluntary at all stages

Staff training

The statutory guidance refers to the importance of Prevent awareness training to equip staff to be able to identify children at risk of being drawn into terrorism and to challenge extremist ideas where needed and Heltwate School is committed to ensuring and promoting the holistic wellbeing of the students in our care.

ALL staff and members of the Governing Board undertake safeguarding training annually to ensure that they are aware of current and best practices. Any important updates are also immediately made available and highlighted to staff as and when they arise.

The Designated Safeguarding Lead/Head teacher, as our SPOC has undertaken PREVENT awareness training, is the school's Prevent lead, and is able to provide advice and support to other members of staff on protecting children from the risk of radicalisation, when and if required. Other members of the safeguarding team have also undertaken this training, in a supporting role.

IT policy

The statutory guidance makes clear the need for schools to ensure that children are safe from terrorist and extremist material when accessing the internet in schools. Schools should ensure that suitable filtering is in place. More generally, schools have a key role to play in trying to equip children and young people to stay safe online, in school, at home and in the community. Internet safety is an integral to the school's ICT curriculum and can also be embedded in PSHE and RSE. General advice and resources for teachers on internet safety are available on the UK Safer Internet Centre website at <https://saferinternet.org.uk/>. As with other online risks of harm, every teacher at Heltwate needs to be aware of the risks posed by the online activity of extremist and terrorist groups.

Building children's resilience to radicalisation

Schools can build pupils' resilience to radicalisation and exploitation by providing a safe environment to debate and discuss controversial issues and to help them to understand how they can influence, participate in decision-making, and support their own safety, where possible, by making sensible and safe choices.

Schools are already expected to promote the spiritual, moral, social, and cultural development of pupils and within this, fundamental British Values.

At Heltwate School, we promote fundamental British Values by means of our Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE) curriculum, providing pupils with effective means and time to explore sensitive or controversial issues, and by equipping them with the knowledge and skills to understand and manage challenging or difficult situations.

We encourage our pupils where appropriate, to recognise and manage risk, make safer choices, and recognise when pressure from others threatens their personal safety and wellbeing, and to know how and when to seek help if needed. We also consistently encourage our pupils to develop positive character traits, such as resilience, determination, self-esteem, and confidence in their opinions.

Our Citizenship curriculum, where appropriate, helps to provide pupils with the knowledge, skills and understanding to prepare them to play a full and active part in society and equips them to explore political and social issues critically, to debate, and to make reasoned arguments where appropriate.

In Citizenship lessons, some pupils will learn about democracy, governmental processes and how laws are made and upheld. Our students are also taught to appreciate the diverse national, regional, religious, and ethnic identities in the United Kingdom and about the need for mutual respect, appreciation and understanding within society.

What to do if you have a concern

If a member of staff at Heltwate has a concern about a particular pupil, they should follow the school's normal safeguarding procedures, including discussing with the school's designated safeguarding and Prevent lead, or a member of the safeguarding team, and if it is deemed necessary, with Children's Social Care Services.

Staff can also contact the local police force or dial 101 (the non-emergency number) to raise their concerns. The police will talk to you in confidence about your concerns and help you gain access to support and advice as appropriate or required.

The Department for Education also has dedicated a telephone helpline (020) 7340 7264 to enable staff and governors to raise concerns relating to Extremism. Concerns can also be raised by email to counter.extremism@education.gsi.gov.uk.

This guidance was originally ratified by the Governing Board in April 2016 and has been subsequently reviewed to ensure it remains relevant.