

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 covers all types of terrorism and extremism, including the extreme right wing, violent religious groups and other causes.

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. Under the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act, schools and other authorities have a duty to *'have due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism'*.

This means we have a responsibility to protect children from extremist and violent views in the same way we protect them from other dangers.

Importantly, we can provide a safe place for pupils to discuss these issues so they better understand how to protect themselves.

What does this mean in practice?

The Dharma Primary School has an approach to education that promotes the development of loving-kindness, mindfulness, self-awareness and respect for others.

Our school ethos, and the objectives that come out of it, mean that many of the things we already do at the Dharma Primary school (for instance, the ways in which we help children to become positive, happy members of society), also contribute to the Prevent strategy.

From our Ethos and Curriculum Policy:

'We would like our students to leave our school with a 'good heart', sound ethical values and a sense of responsibility combined with the academic and social skills that enable them to make a successful transition into secondary education. We hope our students will go on to act in ways that benefit themselves, their community, society and the world at large.'

Some of our approaches include:

- Exploring other cultures and religions and promoting diversity
- Challenging all types of prejudicial comments and behaviour
- Developing critical thinking skills and a strong, positive self-identity
- Promoting the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils, as well as British values such as democracy

We 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, or by vetting visitors who come into school to work with pupils.

How does Prevent relate to British values?

Schools have been required to promote British values since 2014, and this will continue to be part of our response to the Prevent strategy.

The Prevent strategy defines British values as:

- Democracy
- The rule of law
- Individual liberty and mutual respect
- Tolerance of different faiths and beliefs

Democracy

At our school, we are committed to developing the values of democracy. Our approach includes:

- A school council made up of pupil representatives from each class.

We value pupil voice at our school and the school council is one such opportunity for pupils to have their voices heard at school level. Pupils discuss the issues and concerns of importance to them and take these to a meeting with the Head teacher.

- An exploration of democracy during PSHE lessons
- Modelling fairness and inclusion throughout the school day
- Self-directed activities (collective decision-making) in many lessons
- Targeted educational visits
- Decision-making and discussion at community level, inclusive of parents and carers
- Debating sessions and teaching persuasive writing (during English lessons)

The Rule of Law

The school has its own rules called, 'The Five Precepts for our School and Community.' These provide a basis for positive behaviour and are discussed and interpreted by each class at the beginning of and throughout the year. Through class and school pujas (assemblies), pupils learn about them as an overall school approach and they form the basis for the guidelines of their behaviour.

Please see our Behaviour Policy and Anti-Bullying Policy for further information on our procedures and how we deal with inappropriate behaviour and bullying.

Our approach also includes:

- Collaborative discussion about why rules matter and rules in different contexts, for instance, in the playground.
- Collaborative rule-making in different context and as an aid to having children 'on-board'
- A school ethos that refers to appropriate/inappropriate behaviour, distinguishing right from wrong, and issues of responsibility for behaviours - in an age-appropriate way.
- Children learning about the importance of having rules and how these relate to laws, during PSHE lessons and pujas/assemblies. We use a range of PSHE resources to promote moral, spiritual, social and cultural awareness among our pupils.
- Physical Education lessons where we promote 'fair play', following and developing rules and being magnanimous in defeat.

- Clear rules for internet usage which have been discussed and developed in collaboration with pupils
- Stories with a moral message for eg. Buddha at bedtime, stories about good friends etc.

Our children have a well-developed sense of justice. They understand and are able to discuss why there need to be consequences for those who break the rules or laws.

Individual Liberty

We are a school that very much values our pupils as developing individuals. Alongside rules and accepting and valuing difference, we promote freedom of choice and the right to respectfully express views and beliefs. All opinions are listened to and children are actively encouraged to listen to each other's views and opinions.

Through the provision of a safe, supportive environment and empowering, creative education, we provide boundaries for our children to make choices safely; for example, choices around what learning challenge or activity to do.

In addition, we,

- Do not have a uniform at school, so pupils are free to express themselves through what they are wearing
- Celebrate and encourage pupils' creative work as a vehicle for personal expression and feelings and so boost self-confidence and self-esteem through this
- Discuss how to exercise personal freedoms and rights during PSHE
- Teach pupils about online safety through pujas and through lessons. This is so that they learn to keep themselves safe online whilst they exercise their rights and personal freedoms. Safeguarding is embedded in every aspect of life at the school.

Mutual Respect and Tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs

Our ethos is based on mutual respect and the development of positive qualities such as loving kindness and self-awareness. At The Dharma Primary School, we will actively challenge pupils, parents or staff who express opinions contrary to fundamental British Values, including extremist views.

Adults in our community actively model tolerance and respect for one another, with the children and in how we speak and treat one another. Our school is a fairly diverse community and, through our creative curriculum, we promote an awareness of different faiths, encouraging our pupils to recognise and understand these faiths. Our pupils naturally show tolerance for others and are ably supported in developing this trait by the staff.

In addition, we,

- Use class and school pujas to raise and discuss issues of bullying and prejudice.

- Allow children to gain a greater understanding of religious diversity and practices – actively promoting diversity through, for example, organising educational visits to different places of worship around Brighton.
- Introduce and teach topics encompassing different world religions, their festivals and celebrations
- Acknowledge and engage with a wide range of cultural events, for example, International Day of the Girl and the Brighton Festival
- Have on-site teacher training with monastics
- Message our ethos of respect and inclusivity through the Head teacher’s blog, the ‘Head’s Up’
- Actively include our parents and carers by inviting them to community events, including the twice-termly community meetings
- Have an inclusive and positive behaviour policy, where we seek to preserve and respect the differences that arise between and from pupils, whilst ensuring their safety and being clear about appropriate behaviours.
- Work with the wider community and charities, organising several activities each year where children interact with outside organisations including children from other schools.

Frequently Asked Questions

- ***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 about teaching children values such as tolerance and mutual respect. 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 ideological extremism. Some of these may be a bigger threat in our area than others.
We will give children the skills to protect them from any extremist views they may encounter, now or later in their lives.

KEY TERMS

- **Extremism** – vocal or active opposition to fundamental British values such as democracy, the rule of law and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs
- **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

Where to go for more 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 the Prevent Duty in our Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy downloadable from our website.

- **External sources**

The following sources may also be useful for further information:

1. Prevent duty guidance: for England and Wales, HM Government
www.homeoffice.gov.uk
2. Frequently asked questions, Prevent For Schools
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/protecting-children-from-radicalisation-the-prevent-duty>
http://www.preventforschools.org/?category_id=38
3. What is Prevent? Let's Talk About It
<http://www.ltai.info/what-is-prevent/>

Person Responsible for reviewing this strategy	CE/Head
Date of last review	---
Date of this review	06/17
Date of next review	06/19