

The logo for 'educate.against.hate' features the text 'educate.against.hate' in a bold, black, sans-serif font. The word 'hate' is underlined with a red line.

Prevent Strategy

Schools have a legal duty, called the Prevent duty, to “have due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism”. Schools already play an important role in keeping children and young people safe from harm.

Great Sankey Primary take their responsibility to keep children safe very seriously and work very hard to safeguard children from abuse, harm and exploitation. Protecting the children in our care against extremism and radicalisation should be treated in the same way as protecting them from other harms such as abuse, neglect and sexual exploitation, whether these come from within their family or are the product of outside influences.

Radicalisation has a similarly devastating effect on children, families and communities. Protecting our pupils from the influence of extremist ideas is therefore an important part of our school’s safeguarding role.

Young people are particularly vulnerable to radicalisation. Many children and young people look for answers to questions about identity, faith and belonging, and are in search of adventure and excitement. Extremist groups, whether Islamist or far-right, claim to offer the answers and promise vulnerable young people a sense of identity. Though instances are rare, even very young children may be exposed to extremism, both inside and outside the home, and online.

Many young people also spend a lot of time online which exposes them to additional risks. Extremist groups use of internet and social media has become a prolific way for them to spread their ideology. The IT systems in place in our school help to protect pupils from this, and a range of other online risks. More information is available in **the Keeping Children Safe in Education 2018** guidance.

By fostering a strong school ethos and values-based education, and actively promoting the fundamental British value of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs, we can increase our children’s resilience to extremist narratives and prepare them for life in modern Britain.

The Prevent duty is not about spying on our children and their families or carrying out unnecessary intrusion into a family life. It’s about ensuring that all staff know how to identify a concern, who to share that concern with and how to refer when we have concerns that a child (or family member) may be at risk of radicalisation for appropriate support.

To help, here are some useful resources that explain the Prevent duty in more detail.

Useful links:

- [Prevent duty: advice on promoting fundamental British values](#)
- [The Prevent duty: departmental advice for schools and childcare providers](#)
- [Keeping children safe in education](#)
- [Working together to safeguard children](#)