

## About The Prevent Duty For Schools

In June 2015, The Department for Education specified that:

All schools are subject to a duty under section 26 of the Counter-Terrorism 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**.

Prevent is part of a counter terrorism strategy. Its aim is to stop people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism.

It encompasses all forms of extremism and recognises the threat from all forms of extremist ideologies: Animal rights, Environmental, Right-Wing, Al Qa'eeda, ISIL, Northern Ireland related terrorism, as well as the possibility of 'lone-actor' attacks (solitary individuals, not working as part of a group). These are all relevant to Prevent.

Schools and colleges have a duty of care to their pupils and staff, which includes safeguarding them from the risk of being drawn into terrorism.

Being drawn into terrorism includes not just violent extremism but also *non-violent extremism*, which can create an atmosphere conducive to terrorism and can popularise views that terrorists exploit.

Schools should be safe spaces in which children and young people can understand and discuss sensitive topics - including terrorism and the extremist ideas that are part of the terrorist ideology - and learn how to challenge these ideas.

The Prevent duty is entirely consistent with schools' existing responsibilities and should not be burdensome. Ofsted's revised common inspection framework for education, skills and early years, which came into effect from 1 September 2015, makes specific reference to **‘the need to have safeguarding arrangements to promote pupils' welfare and prevent radicalisation and extremism’**.

The associated handbooks for inspectors set out the expectations for different settings. The common inspection framework and handbooks are available here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/inspecting-safeguarding-in-early-years-education-and-skills-from-september-2015/inspecting-safeguarding-in-early-years-education-and-skills-settings>