

March 2015 : Prevent Strategy, British Values and Schools

In 2011 the UK government introduced the Counter Terrorism Strategy - **CONTEST**. The four elements of that were : **Protect, Prevent, Prepare and Pursue**.

The requirements of this and the introduction of the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 require certain bodies to “have due regard to the need to prevent ‘individuals’ being drawn into terrorism”.

Schools are defined as being one of those ‘certain bodies’.

The approach used by schools needs to be a risk-based one. BUT it is expected that no area of the UK will be considered to be completely risk free and therefore all schools should consider the stated expectations.

*The three themes of these **expectations** are :*

- Effective Leadership
- Working In Partnership
- Appropriate Capabilities

Those in leadership should make sure that :

- they develop or use existing mechanisms for understanding the risk of radicalisation
- ensure staff understand the risk and build the capabilities to deal with it
- communicate and promote the importance of the duty; and
- ensure that their staff implement this duty effectively.

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Therefore, staff should :

- know what radicalisation means and why some individuals may be vulnerable to it ...
- know what extremism is and the relationship between extremisms and terrorism ...
- where to get support for those that may be exploited by radicalising influences ...
- be trained in this area as a priority.

The teaching of **British Values** is therefore extremely important.

Some Useful Definitions

Extremism : *vocal or active opposition to fundamental British values, including democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs. We also include in our definition of extremism calls for the death of members of our armed forces, whether in this country or overseas.*

Radicalisation : *is a process by which an individual or group comes to adopt increasingly extreme political, social, or religious ideals and aspirations that (1) reject or undermine the status quo or (2) reject and/or undermine contemporary ideas and expressions of freedom of choice.*

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Three overlapping circles in yellow, blue, and green are positioned at the bottom of the page. The yellow circle is on the left, the blue one in the middle, and the green one on the right. They are all contained within a light blue, stylized human figure shape.

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