

# Radicalisation: information for all staff

## Issue

Radicalisation refers to the process by which a person comes to support terrorism and forms of extremism. Extremism is vocal or active opposition to fundamental British values, such as democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, and mutual respect and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs.

## What to do

### If you have a concern

- If you are concerned about a pupil, you should follow the school's normal safeguarding procedures, including discussing it with the designated safeguarding lead (DSL). You should **always** take action if you are worried

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*[Insert local procedures here]*

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- The Department for Education has a dedicated telephone helpline to enable school staff to raise concerns about extremism directly: 020 7340 7264. You can also email [counter.extremism@education.gov.uk](mailto:counter.extremism@education.gov.uk)
- Call 999 or the confidential anti-terrorist hotline on 0800 789 321 if you:
  - Think someone is in immediate danger
  - Think someone may be planning to travel to join an extremist group
  - See or hear something that may be terrorist related

### Prevent

Schools have a duty to prevent children from being drawn into terrorism, under [section 26 of the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015](#). You should have access to [appropriate training](#) to equip you to identify children at risk, if needed.

You should also help your students to stay safe online at school and at home.

## What to look for

There is no single way of identifying an individual who is likely to be susceptible to an extremist ideology. Radicalisation can occur quickly or over a long period. Staff should be alert to changes in pupils' behaviour.

Signs that a pupil is being radicalised can include:

- Refusal to engage with, or become abusive to, peers who are different to themselves

- Becoming susceptible to conspiracy theories and feelings of persecution
- Changes in friendship groups and appearance
- Rejecting activities they used to enjoy
- Converting to a new religion
- Isolating themselves from family and friends
- Talking as if from a scripted speech
- An unwillingness or inability to discuss their views
- A sudden disrespectful attitude towards others
- Increased levels of anger or secretiveness, especially around internet use
- Expressions of sympathy for extremist ideologies and groups, or justification of their actions
- Accessing extremist material online, including on Facebook and Twitter
- Possessing extremist literature
- Being in contact with extremist recruiters and joining, or seeking to join, extremist organisations

Children who are at risk of radicalisation may have low self-esteem, or be victims of bullying or discrimination, but these signs can also be part of normal teenage behavior. You should have confidence in your instincts and seek advice if something feels wrong.

## Where to go next

- [Resources, Educate against hate](http://educateagainsthate.com/school-leaders/?filter=guidance-and-training-school-leaders)  
http://educateagainsthate.com/school-leaders/?filter=guidance-and-training-school-leaders
- [The Prevent duty, GOV.UK – DfE \(Adobe pdf file\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/439598/prevent-duty-departmental-advice-v6.pdf)  
https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\_data/file/439598/prevent-duty-departmental-advice-v6.pdf
- [Why we're doing more to protect children from radicalisation, NSPCC](https://www.nspcc.org.uk/what-we-do/news-opinion/why-doing-more-protect-children-radicalisation/)  
https://www.nspcc.org.uk/what-we-do/news-opinion/why-doing-more-protect-children-radicalisation/

## Questions for staff

- Do we know how to identify pupils at risk and how to refer pupils for further help?
- How can we foster an environment in which the signs of radicalisation can be identified easily and swiftly?
- What can our school do on a day-to-day basis to counter the background factors which can contribute to vulnerability and susceptibility to extremist ideology?
- What worries might you have about reporting concerns about a pupil?
- What would you do if you had reported concerns and you were not confident about the action taken on these?

## Sources

The information in this factsheet is based on the following sources:

- [Keeping children safe in education, GOV.UK – DfE \(Adobe pdf file\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/550511/Keeping_children_safe_in_education.pdf)  
https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\_data/file/550511/Keeping\_children\_safe\_in\_education.pdf
- [What are the warning signs of radicalisation? Educate against hate](http://educateagainsthate.com/parents/what-are-the-warning-signs/)  
http://educateagainsthate.com/parents/what-are-the-warning-signs/
- [Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015: section 26, legislation.gov.uk](http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2015/6/section/26)  
http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2015/6/section/26