



**St. Matthew's**  
Roman Catholic High School  
VOLUNTARY ACADEMY

# Prevent Strategy

We **Pray**  
We **Care**  
We **Achieve**



## What is the Prevent strategy?

Prevent is part of the Government's counter-terrorism strategy, CONTEST. Its aim is to stop people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism. Prevent will address all forms of terrorism but continue to prioritise according to current threat levels. It's about minimising the risk of people supporting extremist ideologies which expose violence and terrorism, as such, Prevent is an early intervention tool most commonly in the form of education, dialogue and mentoring, aiming to reduce the likelihood of terrorist or other violent actions in the future.

Prevent is just one of the four elements which make up the Government's Counter Terrorism Strategy comprising of four key elements:

- **Purse:** To stop terrorist attacks
- **Protect:** to strengthen our physical infra-structure against a terrorist attack
- **Prepare:** to mitigate the impact of a terrorist attack
- **Prevent:** to stop people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorists

## How does the Prevent strategy apply to schools?

All schools (as well as other organisations) have a duty to safeguard children from radicalisation and extremism. This means schools have a responsibility to protect children from extremist and violent views, in the same way we protect them from drugs or gang violence. Importantly, schools can provide a safe place for pupils to discuss these issues so that they better understand how to protect themselves

## What does this mean in practice?

Different schools will carry out the Prevent duty in different ways, depending on the age of the children and the needs of the community. Many of the things we already do in school to help children become positive, happy members of society also contribute to the Prevent strategy. Include information about your school's approach here, for example:

- Exploring other cultures and religions and promoting diversity
- Challenging prejudices and racist comments
- 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
- Protecting children from the risk of radicalisation, such as using filters on the internet or vetting visitors who come into school



## Frequently Asked Questions

### 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 the response to the Prevent strategy. British values include:

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

### 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 also about teaching children values such as tolerance and mutual respect. Schools should 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. The intention is to 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** – an action that endangers or causes serious violence to a person/people, causes serious damage to property, or seriously interferes or disrupts an electronic system, and is intended to 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

The Prevent duty: advice for schools and childcare providers, GOV.UK – DfE  
[Prevent duty guidance: England and Wales \(2023\) - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/672212/Prevent-duty-guidance-England-and-Wales-2023.pdf)

What is Prevent? [ACT Early](#) | [Prevent radicalisation](#)