

RONEC and the Prevent Duty

All education providers have a duty to safeguard their children, and that includes learners on work experience. Prevent is about safeguarding our children to keep them safe. The Prevent duty is not about preventing anybody from having political and religious views and concerns, but about supporting them to use those concerns or act on them in non-extremist ways.

What is the prevent duty?

Section 26 of the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 places a duty on maintained nursery schools such as RONEC to have “due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism”.

What is Extremism?

The government has defined extremism in the Prevent Duty as: “vocal or active opposition to fundamental British values”. This might include violent Islamist groups, the extreme right or left wing and other causes.

What is Radicalisation?

The process by which a person comes to support terrorism and extremist ideologies.

What are British Values?

British values are defined as “democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance for those with different faiths and beliefs”. RONEC promotes British values and encourages its children, families and staff to respect other people.

What is Safeguarding?

At the heart of Prevent is safeguarding children and adults and providing early intervention to protect and divert people away from being drawn into terrorist activity.

Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is defined as: protecting children from maltreatment; preventing impairment of children’s health or development ; ensuring that children grow up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care; and taking action to enable all children to have the best outcomes.

What are the signs of vulnerability?

There is no single way of identifying who is likely to be vulnerable to being drawn into terrorism. Factors that may have a bearing on someone becoming vulnerable may include:

- Loneliness or isolation leading to negative influence from other people or via the internet
- Drugs, gangs, violence and crime against them or their involvement in crime
- Family tensions and breakdown, poverty, homelessness and lack of self esteem
- Personal or political grievances or recent political or religious conversion
- Sexual exploitation, physical or mental abuse
- Mental health problems.

What is the School's role?

RONEC has a legal responsibility under the Prevent Duty to make sure that:

- all staff have undertaken training in the Prevent Duty
- All staff are aware of when it is appropriate to refer concerns about children to the School's Designated Safeguarding Lead (Alison Lentz - Head Teacher)
- RONEC staff exemplify the British Values mentioned previously, in their practice.

We have a statutory duty to "*prevent people from being drawn into terrorism*" and as such we need your help and support to comply with this duty. Many of the things we already do at RONEC help children to be positive, happy members of society, and these include:

- celebrating and promoting diversity
- challenging prejudices and racist comments and behaviours
- developing critical thinking skills and a strong, positive self-identity
- promoting personal, social and emotional well-being and development
- Active promotion of British values

We provide families with information so they understand how to protect themselves from extremist views contrary to British values, which they may encounter, now or later in their lives, helping to keep all members of their families safe.

We use a range of methods to protect children from the risk of radicalisation, such as:

- embedding British values into our teaching and learning practice
- ensuring all staff receive training
- providing awareness and information to families

All our staff are subject to DBS (Disclosure and Barring Service) checks.

When staff have concerns, they report them to the Designated Safeguarding Lead (Alison Lentz - Head Teacher), who would then determine what course of action to take and whether or not to make a referral to Channel. If you as a parent/ carer have a concern you can also report it to the Designated Safeguarding Lead.

What is Channel?

Channel is a programme that provides support to people who are identified as being vulnerable to being drawn into terrorism or extremism. It is a supportive approach and operates in the pre-criminal space. The programme uses a multi-agency approach to protect vulnerable people by:

- identifying individuals at risk

- assessing the nature and extent of the risk
- and developing the most appropriate support plan

For more information

You will find more details about the Prevent Duty:

- HM Government Prevent Duty guidance
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/prevent-duty-guidance>
- What is Prevent? Let's talk about it
<http://www.itai.info/what-is-prevent/>
- Extremism takes many forms and some may be a greater threat in some areas. Your local council and police will be able to advise you if you have specific concerns or questions.