



The Vyne Community School

Prevent Strategy

Reviewed: November 2025

Next Review: November 2026

To be read alongside the following policies:

Safeguarding Policy

Child Protection Policy

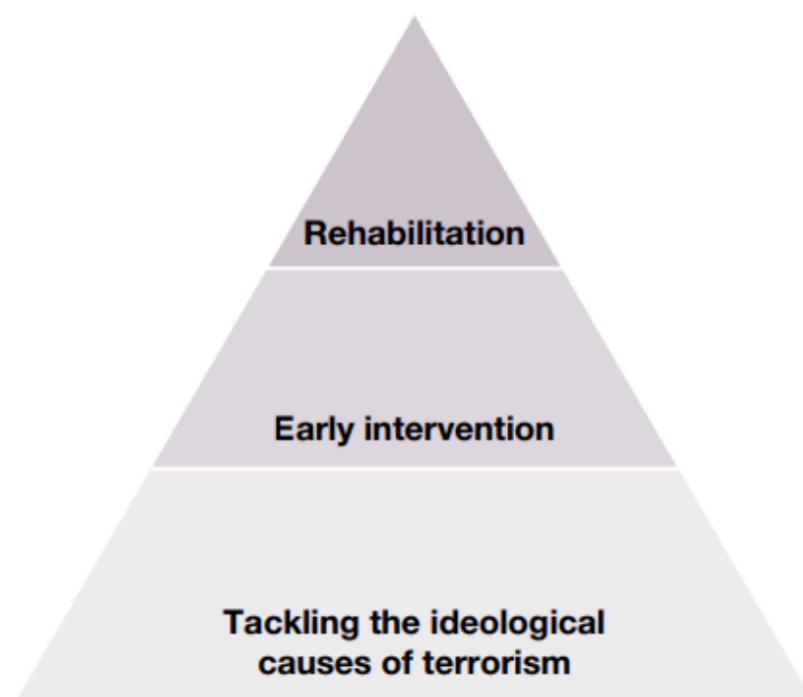
Introduction

The overall aim of the Home Office's counter-terrorism strategy, CONTEST, is to reduce the risk from terrorism to the UK, its citizens and interests overseas, so that people can go about their lives freely and with confidence.

The objectives of Prevent are outlined in the statutory [Prevent Duty Guidance \(2023\)](#), which are to:

- tackle the ideological causes of terrorism,
- intervene early to support people susceptible to radicalisation,
- enable people who have already engaged in terrorism to disengage and rehabilitate.

This can be shown in the Prevent delivery model below.



The Prevent Duty sits alongside the safeguarding duties of professionals to protect people from a range of other harms, such as substance abuse, involvement in gangs, and physical and sexual exploitation. The duty helps to ensure that people who are susceptible to radicalisation are supported as they would be under safeguarding processes.

Policy Statement on Extremism, Radicalisation, and the Prevent Duty

The Vyne Community School is a diverse and inclusive community committed to fulfilling its statutory duty under Section 26 of the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 (the "Prevent duty") and the revised Prevent duty guidance for England and Wales (2023). This duty requires us to have due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism. We have a zero-tolerance approach to extremist behaviour. Our care, guidance, and curriculum empower young people to reject violent or extremist ideologies and behaviours.

Key Definitions

- **Extremism** is defined as 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. This also includes opposition to other aspects of the statutory guidance, such as hatred of others on the basis of their Protected Characteristics.
- **Radicalisation** is defined as the act or process of encouraging, promoting, or supporting extremist views or actions in others, including forms of extremism that lead to terrorism.

Identifying Risks and Indicators

Young people can be exposed to extremist or prejudiced views, including via the internet, from a young age. Early intervention is the most effective way of tackling this risk. Staff are trained to be alert to potential signs that a pupil may be at risk of being drawn into terrorism. These signs, while not definitive in isolation, may include:

- Expressing support for terrorist or extremist groups.
- Possession of or expressing interest in extremist materials, symbols, or narratives.
- Significant or sudden changes in behaviour, friendships, or appearance.
- Becoming increasingly isolated, distant, or showing a loss of interest in regular school activities and existing friendships.
- Verbalising discriminatory or hateful views toward others based on their identity (e.g., race, religion, sexual orientation).
- Spending excessive time online viewing or engaging with extremist content.

Our Prevent Duty Implementation

We utilise the following actions to ensure compliance with the principles outlined in the revised Prevent duty guidance (2023):

- **Designated School Lead:** The Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL), Vickie Rodgers, holds ultimate responsibility for the implementation and delivery of the Prevent duty within the school, supported by other members of the Senior Leadership Team.
- **External Engagement and Referrals:** We engage with essential partners, including the Local Authority Prevent Lead and Prevent police officers. Where a concern about radicalisation is identified, the DSL will follow safeguarding procedures and consider

making a referral to the appropriate authorities for assessment, as per the statutory guidance.

- **Channel Panels:** Where a referral is deemed appropriate for further support, we cooperate fully with the local authority-led Channel panels in accordance with Section 38 of the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015.
- **Staff Training:** All staff receive appropriate and timely training to equip them with the knowledge and confidence to identify a learner who may be at risk of radicalisation and to know how to respond and refer internally.
- **DSL Specialist Training:** The DSL receives more in-depth, specialist training on current terrorist and extremist ideologies, making referrals, and engaging with Channel. This training is reviewed and updated at least every two years.
- **Curriculum:** Our curriculum supports the promotion of fundamental British values and equips learners with the knowledge, skills, and values required to be responsible, resilient, and active citizens in modern Britain. This includes promoting critical thinking and digital literacy to safely navigate and challenge extremist narratives online.
- **Safeguarding and Online Safety:** We maintain robust safeguarding policies and ensure appropriate filtering and monitoring systems are in place to prevent our IT systems from being exploited by radicalisers and to protect pupils from harmful online content.
- **External Speaker Policy:** We maintain a rigorous system for vetting external speakers and events held on school premises to ensure they do not introduce radicalising influences or promote extremist views that could undermine fundamental British values.
- **Community Cohesion:** We actively work with parents, carers, and the wider community to build a cohesive and supportive network, reinforcing messages of mutual respect, tolerance, and pupil wellbeing.

Role of the DSL

In line with the revised Prevent duty guidance (2023), the DSL holds responsibility for managing and overseeing all Prevent-related concerns, referrals, and internal procedures.

Managing a Concern and Referral Process

If a member of staff has a concern that a pupil may be vulnerable to radicalisation or extremist views (including those that could lead to terrorism), they must immediately report this to the DSL following the school's internal safeguarding procedures.

If the DSL assesses that there is a reasonable cause to suspect a person may be at risk of being drawn into terrorism, a referral will be made to the relevant external partners:

1. **Non-Urgent Referrals:** The DSL will complete the appropriate Prevent referral form and submit it to the Local Authority and/or Police Prevent Team. For Hampshire, referrals are sent by email to: PreventReferralsHampshire@hampshire.police.uk. The Police will assess the risk and determine suitability for consideration by the Channel panel for support.

2. **Urgent Concerns (Immediate Risk):** If there is an immediate threat to life or property, the DSL or staff member must contact the Police by dialling 999.
3. **Advice and Consultation:** For non-urgent advice or consultation regarding a potential risk, the DSL may contact the Police by dialling 101 or the regional non-emergency number (e.g., 0865 555618) and asking to speak to the Prevent Supervisor.
4. **DfE Helpline:** Staff and governors may also contact the Department for Education (DfE) dedicated Prevent helpline for advice or to raise concerns: 020 7340 7264.

The Role of the Curriculum

Our curriculum is a critical element in fulfilling the Prevent duty by building pupil resilience to radicalisation and providing a safe space for the discussion of sensitive issues.

Promoting Fundamental British Values and Resilience

Our Personal Development and broader curriculum actively promotes mutual respect, tolerance, and diversity through the teaching of Fundamental British Values (democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs).

We are committed to providing a broad and balanced curriculum that:

- Prepares pupils for life in modern Britain by ensuring they have the knowledge, skills, and values to be responsible, active citizens.
- Encourages critical thinking so that pupils can safely challenge and reject extremist ideologies and discriminatory views.
- Fosters open dialogue where pupils are encouraged to share their views and understand that, while they are entitled to their own beliefs, those beliefs must not be used to incite hatred or undermine fundamental British values.

Online Safety and Digital Literacy

Pupils are regularly taught about how to stay safe online as a crucial element of safeguarding against radicalisation. Education in this area ensures that pupils:

- Understand the risks of online grooming and the tactics used by radicalisers and extremists.
- Develop digital literacy skills to evaluate the reliability and bias of online sources.
- Are encouraged to seek adult help immediately if they are upset or concerned about anything they read, see, or are asked to do on the internet.