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The Achieve and Learn Trust believes that nothing is more important than safeguarding the young people in our schools.

This half term we will be looking at how we can ensure that our school communities are cohesive and that we all work together to tackle hate in all its forms. Racism, Homophobia, Misogyny, Misandry and all other forms of hate are not tolerated in the schools which form the Achieve and Learn Trust. Schools should be safe places, where everyone feels they belong. Children who feel safe are children who want to come to school and who learn effectively.

Worried about Your Child's Views?

It can be hard to know what to do if you're worried someone close is expressing extreme views or hatred, which could lead to them harming themselves or others. Working with other organisations, the [police](#) protect vulnerable people from being exploited by extremists through a Home Office programme called [Prevent](#).

Act early and share your concerns in confidence. You won't be wasting anyone's time and you won't ruin lives, but you might save them. Radicalisation is the process by which a person comes to support terrorism and extremist ideologies. If you are worried someone close to you is becoming radicalised act early and seek help. The sooner you reach out, the quicker the person you care about can be protected from being groomed and exploited by extremists.

Police forces across the country have specially trained Prevent officers who work with professionals in health, education, local authorities and charities, as well as faith and community groups to help vulnerable people move away from extremism. They are here to listen and offer help and advice. Receiving support is voluntary.

Friends and family are best placed to spot the signs, so trust your instincts and share your concerns in confidence.

They can help if you act early. You won't be wasting police time and you won't ruin lives, but you might save them.

To find out more about how to help someone close to you visit [ACT Early](#).

Why might a young person be drawn towards extremist ideologies?

- They may be searching for answers to questions about identity, faith and belonging
- They may be driven by the desire for 'adventure' and excitement
- They may be driven by a need to raise their self-esteem and promote their 'street cred'
- They may be drawn to a group or individual who can offer identity, social network and support
- They may be influenced by world events and a sense of grievance resulting in a need to make a difference

How does Prevent protect people from radicalisation?

Radicalisation means someone developing extreme views or beliefs in support of terrorist groups or activities. Prevent helps to guide people away from radicalisation, and the dangers it presents.

Some of the help offered through Prevent's support programme, Channel, includes:

- Mentoring and ideological interventions
- Mental health support such as counselling
- Education or career development support
- Online safety training for parents

Being supported through Channel is voluntary, confidential, and won't go on someone's criminal record.

Get help if you're worried about someone being radicalised, visit [GOV.UK/PREVENT](#)



SOME VULNERABILITY FACTORS



RELATIONAL

- Family disaffiliation
- Network of contacts in radical circles
- Distancing from circle of friends



PERSONAL

- Troubled adolescence or difficult transition to adulthood
- Difficult life events (death of a loved one, job loss, etc.)
- Existential or spiritual crisis (pre- or post-conversion)



SOCIAL IDENTITY

- Other- or self-imposed social isolation
- Identity malaise
- Sense of being stigmatized or discriminated due to one's beliefs or origin



PSYCHOLOGICAL

- Psychological frailty or disorders
- Psychological rigidity
- Episodes of psychological distress



EXTERNAL

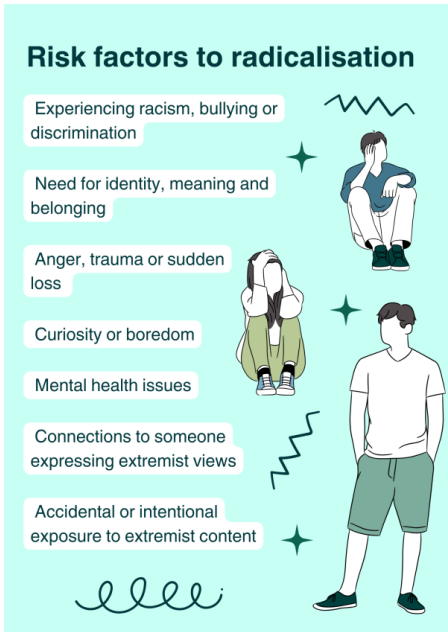
- Polarized and polarizing societal debates
- Government positioning on poorly understood national and international issues
- Highly sensationalized public and media discourse
- Extremist discourse and propaganda that is readily accessible

How can Radicalisation Happen?

On-line The internet provides entertainment, connectivity and interaction. Children may need to spend a lot of time on the internet while studying and they use other social media and messaging sites such as Facebook, Youtube, Twitter, Instagram, Vine or Whatsapp. These can be useful tools but we need to be aware there are powerful programmes and networks that use these media to reach out to young people and can communicate extremist messages.

Peer Interaction Young people at risk may display extrovert behaviour, start getting into trouble at school or on the streets and mixing with other children who behave badly but this is not always the case. Sometimes those at risk may be encouraged, by the people they are in contact with, not to draw attention to themselves. As part of some forms of radicalisation parents may feel their child's behaviour seems to be improving: children may become quieter and more serious about their studies; they may dress more modestly and mix with a group of people that seem to be better behaved than previous friends.

TV and media The media provide a view on world affairs. However, this is often a very simple version of events which are in reality very complex. Therefore children may not understand the situation fully or appreciate the dangers involved in the views of some groups.



Recognising the Signs of Radicalisation

Do

Take them seriously

Ask them questions and listen to what they have to say

Raise your concerns with them, even if you're worried about how they will react

Create a safe space for them to be honest with you

Learn about who they are hanging out with online and in-person

Encourage them to practice good online safety including thinking critically and do research using trustworthy sources

Remind them that not everyone is who they say they are online and dangerous people prey on youth

Help them find positive ways to feel empowered or part of a community such as through sport or creative outlets

Remind them that extremists do not represent the majority and their views are based on hatred

Don't

Judge them or call them stupid or misinformed

Dismiss their views as racist, misogynistic etc.

Try counter narratives, even though you might disagree with what they're saying

Keep things to yourself and not seek help

