Leigh Primary School

The Prevent Strategy

Leigh Primary School guiding principles underpin our teaching and experiences at Leigh Primary School. They are ACT RIGHT: Resilience, Independence, Good communication, Healthy minds and bodies and Teamwork.

At Leigh Primary School we are committed to an ethos of high expectations and endeavour to treat our children as individuals, inspired with confidence and self-belief to reach their full potential as British citizens. We aim to achieve this through our strong our Relationships, Sex and Health Education, our assemblies, Votes for Schools program and the teaching of Religious Education. We additionally, use stories and books to teacher moral principles, concepts and values through our weekly storybook assemblies.

What is the Prevent Strategy?

Prevent is a government strategy designed to stop people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorists or extremist causes.

The Prevent strategy covers all types of terrorism and extremism, including political and religious extremism.

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 with or disrupts and electronic system and is intended to advance a politically, religious or ideological cause
Radicalisation	The process by which a person comes to support extremism and terrorism

How does the Prevent Strategy apply to schools?

From July 2015 all schools (as well as other organisations) have a duty to safeguard children from radicalisation and extremism.

This means we have a responsibility to protect children from extremist and violent views in the same way we protect them from drugs or violence. Importantly, we 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?

Many of the things we already do in school to help children become positive, happy members of society also contribute to the Prevent strategy. These include:

- 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 and tolerance.
- We will also protect children from the risk of radicalisation, for example by using filters on the internet to make sure that they can't access extremist and terrorist material, or by vetting visitors who come into school to work with pupils.
- Strong Online Safety Curriculum to safeguard children from online influences.

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 our 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 democracy, human rights, tolerance and mutual respect.

Leigh Primary School will make sure that any discussions are age and maturity appropriate for the children involved.

Is extremism really a risk in this area?

Extremism can take many forms, including political, religious and ideological extremism. Some of these may be a bigger threat than others in our area. We aim to give children the skills, values and therefore the resilience to protect themselves from any extremist views they may encounter, now or later in their lives.

Where to go for more information:

If you have any questions or concerns about the Prevent strategy and what it means for you child, please do not hesitate to email office@leigh.kent.sch.uk, for the attention of Mrs Short/Mrs Halfhide Designated Safeguarding Leads.

There is further information about Prevent and Radicalisation in our Safeguarding/Child Protection Policy, available on the website.

External sources

Revised Prevent duty guidance for England and Wales, HM Government Advice template (publishing.service.gov.uk)

Frequently asked questions: Help & FAQs (preventforschools.org)