

Keeping Children Safe in Education updated, July 2015

On 22nd July 2015, the Department for Education published the revised [Keeping Children Safe in Education](#). You can find the document on the [Gov.uk](#) website. The changes in the revised statutory guidance relate to:

- **Children missing from education**
- **Female Genital Mutilation**
- **Prevent.**

All Headteachers, Principals, Chairs of Governors, Designated Safeguarding Leads, and Nominated Governors need to familiarise themselves with the new guidance, and ensure that any necessary amendments are made to policies and practice to ensure compliance.

We also recommend schools and academies share the shorter document (part one of the guidance) called [Information for all school and college staff](#) with every adult working in your setting, focussing on what they need to be aware.

These are the changes featuring in the new guidance:

- Two paragraphs about missing children have been removed (paragraphs 16 and 49 of the former guidance) as both topics are covered in more depth under the 'specific safeguarding issues' section (paragraph 29).
- 'Child missing from education' and 'Child missing from home or care' have been added to the list of 'specific safeguarding issues'.
- **'Further information on a Child Missing from Education'** has been added (p.13): all schools have a duty to inform the local authority of any pupil who is going to be deleted from the admission register, who fails to attend school regularly, or has been absent for a period of 10 school days or more. If a looked after child or a child subjected to a CP plan goes missing, schools need to refer them to the MASH within 48 hours. A referral to the MASH should also be considered for any child being withdrawn from school with the intent to be electively home educated where there are safeguarding concerns.

Safeguarding procedures must be followed when dealing with children that go missing from education, to help identify the risk of abuse and neglect, including sexual exploitation, and to help prevent the risks of their going missing in future.

The guidance also sets out that all staff need to be alert to signs to look out for and the individual triggers to be aware of when considering the risks of potential safeguarding concerns such as travelling to conflicts zones, FGM, or forced marriage.

- **'Further information on Female Genital Mutilation'** has been revised; the following has been included (p.14):

Indicators: the guidance now refers to the [Multi-Agency Practice Guidelines](#) for indicators of FGM. Chapter 9 of those guidelines (p.42-44) focuses on the role of schools and colleges.

Actions: currently if staff have a concern about a child, the school's safeguarding procedure needs to be implemented, i.e. informing the DSL and considering a referral to Children's Social Care (MASH) or the police.

'Mandatory Reporting Duty' will be introduced in October 2015: usual safeguarding procedures will remain when dealing with concerns regarding the potential for FGM to take place. However there will be a new statutory duty for all teachers, amongst other professionals, 'to report to the police where they discover that FGM appears to have been carried out on a girl under 18'. (The teacher in question will still be encouraged to discuss any such case with the DSL and involve Children's Social Care as appropriate.)

Please note that school staff should not be examining pupils.

- '**Further information on Preventing Radicalisation**' has been included in *Keeping Children Safe in Education* (p.15), in line with:
 - [Prevent Duty Guidance: for England and Wales](#), published in March 2015 as part as the UK's Counter Terrorism strategy. (see p.10-15 for schools, registered childcare providers and further education).
 - [The Prevent Duty, Departmental advice for schools and childcare providers](#), published in June 2015. This non-statutory departmental advice is for governing bodies, Headteachers / Principals, Designated Safeguarding Leads and school staff. The document clarifies what the *prevent* duty means for schools and what actions are necessary to demonstrate compliance with the duty. It also provides sources of information, advice and support.

In order for schools and academies to fulfil the Prevent duty, it is essential that staff are able to identify children who may be vulnerable to radicalisation, and know what to do when they are identified. Protecting pupils from the risk of radicalisation should be seen as part of schools' wider safeguarding duties, and is similar in nature to protecting children from other harms (e.g. drugs, gangs, neglect, sexual exploitation), whether these come from within their family or are the product of outside influences.

Schools and academies can also build pupils' resilience to radicalisation by promoting fundamental British values and enabling them to challenge extremist views. It is important to emphasise that the Prevent duty is not intended to stop pupils debating controversial issues. On the contrary, schools should provide a safe space in which children, young people and staff can understand the risks associated with terrorism and develop the knowledge and skills to be able to challenge extremist arguments.

The requirements on schools and academies are summarised by four themes:

1. Risk assessment

The statutory guidance makes clear that schools and academies are expected to assess the risk of children being drawn into terrorism, including support for extremist ideas that are part of terrorist ideology. This means being able to demonstrate both a general understanding of the risks affecting children and young people in the area and a specific understanding of how to identify individual children who may be at risk of radicalisation and what to do to support them.

Schools and childcare providers should have clear procedures in place for protecting children at risk of radicalisation. These procedures may be set out in existing safeguarding policies. It is not necessary for schools and childcare settings to have distinct policies on implementing the Prevent duty.

There are several ways to identify pupils at risk: specific background factors may contribute to vulnerability such as families and friends, internet and use of social media etc. School staff are encouraged to use their professional judgement in identifying children who might be at risk of radicalisation. An indicator might be to notice changes in children's behaviour.

2. Working in partnership

School staff should understand when it is appropriate to make a referral to the Channel programme. Channel is a programme which focuses on providing support at an early stage to people who are identified as being vulnerable to being drawn into terrorism. It provides a mechanism for schools to make referrals if they are concerned that an individual might be vulnerable to radicalisation. An individual's engagement with the programme is entirely voluntary at all stages.

The Prevent duty builds on existing local partnership arrangements. Local Safeguarding Children Boards (LSCBs) are responsible for co-ordinating what is done by local agencies for the purposes of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in their local area. Schools and academies should ensure that their safeguarding arrangements are in line with the WSCB.

3. Staff training

The statutory guidance refers to the importance of Prevent awareness training to equip staff to identify children at risk of being drawn into terrorism and to challenge extremist ideas. The Home Office has developed a core training product for this purpose – Workshop to Raise Awareness of Prevent (WRAP).

As a minimum, schools should ensure that the Designated Safeguarding Lead undertakes Prevent awareness training and is able to provide advice and support to other members of staff on protecting children from the risk of radicalisation. Staff should be equipped with necessary skills to identify children at risk and to challenge extremist ideas.

4. IT policies

The statutory guidance makes clear the need for schools to ensure that children are safe from terrorist and extremist material when accessing the internet in schools. Schools should ensure that suitable filtering is in place.

This links in with the importance of teaching children and young people about online safety in general.

Further resources

Information and training links have been included in [The Prevent Duty](#):

- the link to an [online general awareness training module on Channel](#) is provided, suitable for school staff to:
 - Explain how Channel links to the government's counter-terrorism strategy (CONTEST)
 - Describe the Channel process and its purpose

- Identify factors that can make people vulnerable to radicalisation
- Define safeguarding and risk ownership of the Channel process.
- [UK Safer Internet Centre website](#): for general advice and resources on internet safety;
- [Advice on promoting fundamental British values](#).
- The DfE has dedicated a helpline for schools to raise concerns relating to extremism directly:

Tel. **020 7340 7264** or email: counter.extremism@education.gsi.gov.uk.



Factsheet about
prevent.docx



prevent-duty-departm
ental-advice-v6.pdf



How_social_media_is
_used_to_encourage_



SWCTIU education
tool kit V2 (3).doc