

THE PREVENT STRATEGY

AT

OUR LADY & ST JOSEPH CATHOLIC ACADEMY



What is the Prevent Strategy?

Prevent is a government strategy designed to stop people supporting any extreme cause or becoming terrorists or supporting terrorist causes. The Prevent Strategy covers all types of terrorism and extremism, including the extreme right wing, violent groups and other causes.

How does the Prevent Strategy apply to Schools?

From July 2015 all schools have a duty to safeguard young people from radicalisation and extremism. This means we all have a responsibility to protect young people from extremist and violent views the same way we keep them safe through E-safety or protect them from drugs.

Importantly, we can provide a safe place for pupils to discuss these issues so they learn how to protect themselves.

Key Terms

Extremism - vocal or active opposition to fundamental British values such as democracy, the rule of the law and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs.

Ideology - a set of beliefs

Terrorism - a violent action against people or property, designed to create fear and advance a political, religious or ideological cause.

Radicalisation - the process by which a person comes to support extremism and terrorism

What does this mean at our school?

Many of the things we already do at Our Lady & St Joseph Catholic Academy, including the clear teaching of our Christian Values, help our children become positive, happy members of society. Our curriculum and variety of school activities also contribute to the Prevent Strategy. At Our Lady & St Joseph Catholic Academy we:

- Challenge prejudices and racist comments
- Learn about a variety of religions through our RE teaching
- Develop a strong, positive self-esteem for all pupils
- Promote the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils
- Promote British values such as democracy through our school council

We will also protect young people from the risk of radicalisation, for example, by using filters on the internet to make sure they can't access extremist and terrorist material, or by vetting visitors who come into school to work with people.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Is extremism really a risk in our area?

Yes, the internet reaches everywhere. Extremism can take many forms, including political or religious extremism. Extreme views are often promoted online and although our E-safety teaching repeatedly shows children the dangers of talking to people whom they do not know in real life, extreme views are often spread gradually through on-line chat which at first appears harmless and friendly. Such forums can be very attractive to children anywhere whose self-esteem is not high, as they can be easily groomed to believe they are talking to similarly aged children, who may in fact be adults with a variety of dangerous motives for befriending children. These motives may include sexual predation or the spreading of an extremist viewpoint. We will teach children ways to keep safe online and to protect them from any extremist views they may encounter, now or later in their lives.

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
- Mutual respect
- Tolerance of different faiths and beliefs

How does this relate to Our Lady & St Joseph Catholic Academy?

At Our Lady & St Joseph Catholic Academy we are committed to upholding and giving students the opportunity to demonstrate the British values of democracy, individual liberty, the rule of law, mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs and those without faith. Students are able to explore these through our behaviour code based on our Christian values, assemblies, extra-curricular opportunities and throughout other aspects of the curriculum.

These values are embedded within our Christian values. Through modelling and encouraging pupils to live these values we endeavour to enable pupils to develop their self-knowledge, self-esteem and self-confidence. The school is committed to establishing a strong ethos supported by effective relationships throughout the school. All teachers aim to give pupils the opportunity to develop and demonstrate skills and attitudes that will allow them to participate fully in and contribute positively to life in modern Britain.

Isn't my child too young to learn about extremism?

The Prevent Strategy is not just about discussing extremism, which may not always be appropriate for younger pupils. It is also about teaching children values such as fairness, teamwork and respect. The school will make sure any discussions are suitable for the age and maturity of the pupils involved.