

### THE PREVENT DUTY - Governors' Responsibilities

On 1 July 2015 all maintained schools and academies became subject to a duty under the Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015, in the exercise of their functions, to have “*due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism*”. This duty is known as Prevent.

The aim of Prevent is not to discourage people from having political or religious views, but to help counter extreme ideologies that radicalise vulnerable people and to reduce the threat to the UK from terrorism. Prevent works at the pre-criminal stage by using early intervention to encourage individuals and communities to challenge extremist and terrorist ideology and behaviour.

So how does Prevent apply to a governing body?

The Governance Handbook says that governors play a vital role in ensuring that schools are implementing their Prevent duty to protect children from the risks of extremism and radicalisation. Governors must recognise that even very young children can be influenced by extremist views and the DfE advice applies to a Primary school as much as any other.

All governors and board members have a legal responsibility to ensure that everyone in their schools are aware of the Prevent Duty and follows the guidance. Governing bodies should actively engage with schools on this by asking questions about how the school safeguards it pupils from, and builds their resilience to, the risks of extremism and radicalisation.

As well as ensuring that all staff in schools have undertaken training in the Prevent Duty, governors need to make sure all provider staff understand what to do if they suspect a pupil is being affected by extremist views. They need to be assured that

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policies and procedures to implement the Prevent Duty are in place and acted on where appropriate. Specifically, the designated Safeguarding Governor needs to understand the school's responsibilities, and include discussion of the issue as part of a governor's meeting, and annually review the Child Protection and Safeguarding [Policy](#) to make sure it includes reference to the Prevent Duty.

In recognition of how seriously DSAT takes this responsibility, on 4<sup>th</sup> January 2016 all DSAT staff - senior leaders, teachers, support and administrative staff -joined together to attend a Workshop to Raise Awareness of Prevent (WRAP) delivered by Leicestershire County Council's Safeguarding Team. This addressed the aims of Prevent; it challenged staff to think about who may be vulnerable to terrorism and how to recognise when a vulnerable individual may be in need of help, and when it is appropriate to refer concerns and know where to look for that help and support if concerned.

[Click for Prevent audit check list for governors](#)

#### 3 SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES OF THE PREVENT STRATEGY:

- Respond to the ideological challenge of terrorism and the threat the UK faces from those who promote it
- Prevent people from being drawn into terrorism and ensure that they are given appropriate advice and support
- Work with sectors and institutions where there are risks of radicalisation that we need to address