



The Prevent Strategy: Information for Parents @ St Anne's

What is the Prevent Strategy?

Prevent is a government strategy designed to stop people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorist or extremist causes. It covers all types of terrorism and extremism, including the extreme right wing, religious extremists and other causes.

How does the Prevent Strategy apply to schools?

All schools 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 that we educate them about drugs & alcohol. Importantly, school is a safe place for pupils to discuss issues so that they are better equipped 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 racism; Developing critical thinking and building self-esteem; Promoting the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils, as well as British Values such as democracy.

We also protect children by using filters on the internet and vetting all visitors who come into school. Different schools will carry out their duties in different ways, depending on the age of the children and the needs of the community.

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

The Prevent Strategy is not just about discussing extremism – it is about teaching children the values of tolerance and respect – at age appropriate levels.

Is extremism really a risk in Sutton?

Extremism can take many forms, including political, religious and misogynistic extremism. Some of these may be a bigger threat in our area than others.

We will help children to protect themselves from any extremist views that they encounter – now or later on in life.

More Information:

Prevent duty guidance: for England & Wales, HM Government

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file417943/Prevent_Duty_Guidance_England_Wales.pdf



Practical Tips for Parents about keeping children safe online:

Find out what APPS/websites your child is using and work through the safety and privacy features. Make sure they understand the point of these and how to use them. Don't be put off by believing your child knows more than you: the tools are actually quite easy to manage.

Ask them to show you which social media apps they use and what they like about them. Talk about how they use them and what makes them so engaging. **Explain** how you can use privacy settings to make sure only approved friends can see posts & images. **Check if any of their apps have 'geo-location' enabled**, sharing their location unintentionally. **Show them how to report offensive comments** or block people who upset them. **Check 'tagging' settings** so that when others are posting or sharing photos online, your child's identity is not revealed. Also, get people's consent before sharing photos.

Encourage your child to **come and talk to you** if they see anything that upsets them.

In a mobile age, children can't be completely protected, even by the best privacy controls; another child may use different settings. So it's important to keep talking to your child about the implications of social media. Getting a sense of what they think is a useful place to start; you may be surprised by how much thought they may have given to the issues.

Encourage your child to think carefully about the way they, and others behave online, and how they might deal with difficult situations.

People may not always be who they say they are online: how can this create problems?

Why is it unwise to meet anyone in the real world that you've only ever met online?

Even if you think your messages are private, remember that words and images can always be captured and broadcast.

People present themselves differently online – do they really look like that? Are they always having that good a time?

Be aware that screens, and especially being anonymous, can lead people to say things they wouldn't say to someone's face.

What does being a good friend and a likeable person online look like?

There can be pressure to be part of a particular group online or to be seen to be following a certain set of ideas. How can you take a step back and make your own decisions?

Remember: Many social media sites have age restrictions – eg Snapchat is designed for 13+ yet more than half of our 8 year olds are using it – do you know what your child is using? From discussions, it is clear that there is a 'competition' element in the number of 'friends' or 'likes' – regardless of who these people are!