

# PROTECTING CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE FROM EXTREMISM AND RADICALISATION

## WHAT IS EXTREMISM AND RADICALISATION?

In our settings we promote fundamental British Values. This helps to build resilience in young people. We develop the belief that everyone is unique and that we have a right to be respected and a responsibility to respect others.

**Extremism** is the active opposition to these values, including democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, respect and tolerance for different faiths and beliefs.

**Radicalisation** is the term used to describe the processes by which a person adopts extremist views or practices, to the point of legitimising the use of violence.



How Stoke-on-Trent schools are 'Building Resilience in Children'.

## WHY DO PARENTS NEED TO KNOW ABOUT RADICALISATION?

Children of any gender, race or background can be radicalised. Some children and young people may be more susceptible to extremist narratives than others. Below are some factors that may make some young people more susceptible to radicalisation than others.

- Feeling that they have limited or no friendships.
- Feeling that they do not belong.
- Feeling worthless.
- Difficulty in making relationships, lacking empathy.
- Difficulty in understanding the consequences of their actions.
- Problems within the family home.
- Experiencing racism or discrimination.
- Experiencing a traumatic event.
- Becoming distanced from their cultural or religious backgrounds.



How is extremism relevant to me as a parent?



## THE ONLINE SPACE?

With the growth of the internet, social media and gaming platforms, extremist individuals have taken the opportunity to radicalise and recruit young people.

It is vitally important that as a parent or carer, you are aware of your child's online activity.

Support them in developing decision making skills that will allow them to question and be confident to make good choices and decisions. Always make it clear to your child that should they see anything online that worries them or makes them feel unsafe, that they should talk to you, so that you are able help.



InternetMatters.org - supporting families online.



## INDICATORS OR SIGNS.

The following may be signs that a child/ young person may have been exposed to extremist narratives.

- Isolating themselves from family and friends.
- Refusing to listen to different view points.
- Refusing to talk or be involved with or being abusive to individuals who are different.
- Believing that it can be right to use violence to defend beliefs or a cause.
- Embracing conspiracy theories.
- Feeling badly treated/persecuted.
- Being sympathetic to extremist viewpoints.
- Changing friendship groups, distancing themselves from old friends or family.
- Drawing symbols and images connected with extremist views or groups.

It is important to remember that this is not an exhaustive list and that these signs may not always mean that a child or young person is being exposed to extremist narratives. If you believe that any of these behaviours are worrying you, talk to your child or ask for support.

## WHAT IS PREVENT AND CHANNEL?

At the heart of the government's **Prevent** strategy is the desire to safeguard and support young people and prevent them from being harmed as a result of exposure to extremist views and radicalisation.

**Channel** is a voluntary, confidential programme which safeguards people who may be at risk of radicalisation. Lots of agencies work to provide personalised support to young people.

## WHAT CAN YOU DO IF YOU ARE WORRIED?

Talk to your child, be open and honest, remember you know your child best. This can help you decide if you are right to have concerns. There are many ways to seek help.

- Talk to your child's teacher, a friend or family member.
- Speak with the Designated Safeguarding Lead at your child's setting.

You can contact:

- The ACT Early support line on 0800 011 3764
- The Children's Advice and Duty Service in Stoke-on-Trent can be contacted on 01782 235100



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