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~~hate~~**

**Teachers. Helping to
build resilience against
~~extremist~~ views.**

What is the threat from extremism and terrorism in the UK?

The government is determined to defeat extremism and terrorism in all its forms. This includes extremism: violent and non-violent, Islamist and far right.

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The greatest current challenge comes from the global rise of Islamist ~~extremism~~. We see this in the violence of Al Qa'ida (AQ) and Daesh (also referred to as Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), Islamic State or IS).

But Islamist extremism is not the only threat. There are numerous active extreme right-wing groups that share an intense hostility to minorities and a belief that violence between ethnic and religious groups is inevitable. Alongside antisemitism and racism, hostility to Islam has now become a common element of extreme-right ideology.

Why is extremism relevant to me as a teacher?

As teachers, you play a crucial role in keeping children and young people safe from extremism. You can help do this by being aware of the warning signs of radicalisation, understanding your responsibilities and knowing what action to take if you are concerned.

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Children of all ages are vulnerable to a range of risks as they grow up. Though instances are rare, even young children may be exposed to extremism, both inside and outside the home, or online.

Teachers already help safeguard pupils from the harms they may face such as drugs, gangs and sexual ~~exploitation~~. Just like these harms, radicalisation can have a devastating effect on individuals, families and communities. Protecting pupils from the influence of extremist ideas is therefore an important part of teachers' overall safeguarding role.

How do people become radicalised?

There is no single model to radicalisation. Every person is different and the process is unique for each individual.



Vulnerabilities — personal factors that make an individual susceptible.

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Radicaliser — an individual who encourages others to develop a belief.

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Ideology — an individual is exposed to an idea, ideology or set of beliefs that appears credible and appeals to the person in question.

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Absence of protective factors that intervene in the process of radicalisation.

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Vulnerable to radicalisation.

Which children and young people are vulnerable to radicalisation?

It is possible for any child to be exposed to extremist influences. Children from very different backgrounds have been radicalised, including children from stable homes, who were doing well at school. However, it's important to keep things in perspective and remember that for most young people, the risk that they will become involved with extremist groups is very low.

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To be in the best position to protect your child, you should be aware of the factors that may make them more vulnerable to radicalisation. These could include:

- Struggling with their sense of identity**
- Difficult circumstances such as family tensions, low self-esteem or experiencing a traumatic event**
- Troubling external factors such as community tensions, events affecting their region of origin, or having friends or family who have joined extremist groups abroad**
- Involvement with criminal groups, experiences of imprisonment and/or poor reintegration into society**

What are the warning signs?

There is no single route to radicalisation. It can occur quickly, or over a longer period of time. Sometimes there are clear warning signs, and in other cases changes in personality or behaviour are less obvious.

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Possible warning signs of radicalisation include:

- Changes in attitudes and opinions, including a susceptibility to conspiracy theories, argumentativeness or aggression, and a refusal to engage with peers who are different to themselves**
- Changes in behaviour and peer group, including distancing themselves from friends, conversion to a new religion, a significant change of appearance and rejecting activities they used to enjoy**
- Secretive behaviour, including changes in online identity**
- Support for ~~extremist~~ ideologies and groups**

What should I do if I have a concern about a child?

If you have concerns that one of your pupils is being, or has been, radicalised you should follow your school's standard safeguarding procedures. This includes discussing the issue with your school's designated safeguarding lead.

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You can also contact your local police force or dial 101 (the non-emergency number) or speak to your local authority. They can help you gain access to support and advice.

The Department for Education also has a counter-extremism helpline which you can call for advice on 020 7340 7264.

If you think someone is in immediate danger, trust your instincts and call 999 or the confidential Anti-Terrorist Hotline on 0800 789 321.

For more information:

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