

## Educatus UK – PREVENT Policy

### Policy Statement

Educatus UK take their responsibility to safeguard students from the risk of radicalisation very seriously. We recognise the importance of ensuring that all staff are aware of the risks, the procedure to raise concerns and the contents of the Contest strategy.

### Prevent Lead Contact Details

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### Definitions

#### Extremism:

“Extremism is the vocal or active opposition to our fundamental values, including democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, and respect and tolerance for different faiths and beliefs. We also regard calls for the death of members of our armed forces as extremist.”

*(Counter-Extremism Strategy, HM Government, 2015)*

#### Terrorism:

“In the UK we define terrorism as a violent action that:

- Endangers a person’s life, other than that of the person committing the action
- Involves serious violence against a person
- Causes serious damage to property
- Creates a serious risk to the public’s health and safety
- Interferes with or seriously disrupts an electronic system”

*(Educate Against Hate, HM Government, 2022)*

### Legislation

Contest is the United Kingdom’s strategy for countering terrorism and came into force in 2011. The aim of the strategy is to reduce the overall risk to the UK and its interests from terrorism and is organised around four main concepts:

- **Pursue:** to stop terrorist attacks;
- **Prevent:** to stop people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism;
- **Protect:** to strengthen our protection against a terrorist attack; and
- **Prepare:** to mitigate the impact of a terrorist attack.

*(Contest: The United Kingdom's Strategy for Countering Terrorism, HM Government, 2011)*

The Prevent strategy, revised in 2011, focuses on protecting people from effect of radicalisation. The framework aims to:

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

*(Prevent Strategy, HM Government, 2011)*

In 2015, the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act came into force. This legislation made clear the responsibilities of schools and colleges to have 'due regard' to the requirement to prevent children and young people from being recruited into terrorism. This duty is known as the 'Prevent duty'.

Keeping Children Safe in Education, 2022, further highlights the responsibilities of schools and colleges to protect children from harm, including the potential harm caused by radicalisation. There is additional reference to the role of the Relationship and Sexual Health Education (RSHE) playing a key role in preparing students for life in 'modern Britain' and reinforcing British Values.

## **Channel**

Channel is a confidential and entirely voluntary programme used to safeguard those individuals who have been identified as being vulnerable to being drawn into terrorism. Channel works on the basis of a multi-agency approach and includes participation of the police, the local authority, education, health providers and other relevant services.

A referral to Channel, in the case of possible early-stage radicalisation, aims to support the individual by means of educational, vocational, mental health means.

Anyone can make a referral to Channel when they are concerned about a person they know being drawn into extremism.

## **Recognising the signs and vulnerabilities of radicalisation**

Staff must be aware of increased risks of radicalisation in children and young people. Some children are more vulnerable than others. Some factors that may increase vulnerability are identified by the UK Government's 'Educate Against Hate' (2022) website:

- Struggling with a sense of identity.
- Becoming distanced from their cultural or religious background.
- Questioning their place in society.
- Family issues.
- Experiencing a traumatic event.
- Experiencing racism or discrimination.
- Difficulty in interacting socially and lacking empathy.
- Difficulty in understanding the consequences of their actions.
- Low self-esteem.

Staff also need to be aware of the potential signs that a young person may be being drawn into extremism, these include:

- Becoming increasingly argumentative.
- Refusing to listen to different points of view.
- Unwilling to engage with children who are different.
- Becoming abusive to children who are different.
- Embracing conspiracy theories.
- Feeling persecuted.
- Changing friends and appearance.
- Distancing themselves from old friends.
- No longer doing things they used to enjoy.
- Converting to a new religion.
- Being secretive and reluctant to discuss their whereabouts.
- Sympathetic to extremist ideologies and groups.

Online behaviours:

- Changing online identity.
- Having more than one online identity.
- Spending a lot of time online or on the phone.
- Accessing extremist online content.
- Joining or trying to join an extremist organisation.

*(Educate Against Hate, HM Government, 2022)*

### **Staff Awareness**

All Educatius UK staff will complete the **Prevent awareness e-learning course** run by the UK Government every two years. This can be accessed here:

<https://www.elearning.prevent.homeoffice.gov.uk/edu/screen1.html>

Staff will also complete a **Level 2 Safeguarding Children and Young People course** every two years. Whilst not specifically relevant to the Prevent duty, the core elements of safeguarding remain constant.

The Educatius UK Prevent Policy will be distributed to all host families annually, along with the following resources:

- <https://educateagainsthate.com/>
- Channel and Prevent Multi-Agency Panel guidance:  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/channel-and-prevent-multi-agency-panel-pmap-guidance>

### **Procedure for dealing with concerns**

It is important that all Educatius UK staff are aware of the process for dealing with any concerns they might have that a student may be being drawn into extremism.

- 1) An Educatius UK staff member receives a report regarding noted indicators of radicalisation in a student. This report may come from another student, a host family member, a school staff member or another source.
- 2) As per the Educatius UK Safeguarding Policy, the Educatius UK staff member records the report in writing and notifies the Prevent Lead.
- 3) The Prevent Lead will hold an emergency response meeting with relevant staff to discuss the concern, the factors leading to the report, assess the threat to the student and others, and possible next steps. A written report will be created to record the discussion and outcome.
- 4) Where necessary, the Prevent Lead will make a referral to a statutory agency for further review and possible intervention where a child or young person may be at risk of harm.
- 5) Educatius UK will continue to support relevant agencies with any investigation or the initiation of any support to the young person.