

NEW PREVENT STRATEGY – MAY 2011



Brief comments and notes on Key Points affecting teaching, especially RE and our relationships with faith communities (SACREs) and the promotion of interfaith work

There will be a new focus around the **Three “I’s”**.

Challenging Extremist **Ideology**.

Concern and support for **Individuals** who may be vulnerable and drawn into violent/nonviolent extremism.

Work will be particularly focused on **Institutions** – where, it is shown, most radicalisation takes place. Mosques, Universities, Schools and prisons are mentioned.

There will be 25 target areas; none in the south west, but these areas will change over time.

There will be funding, through the Home Office, for the Police and for Local Authorities, Community activities and projects

Additional funding will also be provided from the Foreign Office for work abroad.

It is acknowledged that *Prevent* depends on a successful integration strategy but this, previously known as community cohesion, alone, will not meet *Prevent* objectives.

Prevent will be funded by the Home Office but also other Departments.

The Government emphasises the importance of keeping these two strategies, although related, separate.

Prevent and Integration Programmes are to be kept separate.

Prevent remains part of the Counter Terrorism Strategy - CONTEST.

Prevent should address all forms of terrorism but the major threat and therefore the current priority is Al Qa’ida influenced, extremism.

Interesting to note the Government’s new definition of extremism:

See PI07 – Glossary of terms

Extremism is vocal or active opposition to fundamental British values, including democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs. We also include in our definition of extremism calls for the death of members of our armed forces, whether in this country or overseas.”

The Government will address the challenges of extremism, integration and cohesion through other means, e.g. The Government’s new approach to promoting integration will be led by the Department for Communities and Local Government.

The following selected extracts will be of particular significance in RE and to SACRE...

Page 21 - 6.21

“A stronger sense of belonging and citizenship makes communities more resilient to terrorism ideology and propagandists. We believe that Prevent depends on integration, democratic participation and a strong interfaith dialogue.”

8 – This section deals with *Ideology*

Page 44 - 8.4 “Understanding the connection between ideology and theology and how the first can masquerade as the second is important.”

8.7 “... challenging ideologies is a collective responsibility.”

9 – This section deals with *Individuals*

10 – This section deals with *Institutions*

Page 65 - 10.13. “A third of publicly funded schools are associated with a specific faith group.”

10.15 “All schools are required by law to teach a broad and balanced curriculum which promotes the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils and prepares them for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of life. Publicly funded schools are required to promote community cohesion, a duty first introduced through the Education and Inspections Act 2006.

10.16 There are also safeguards against biased or unbalanced teaching and the promotion of partisan political views in publicly funded schools. These require that all reasonably practicable steps are taken to ensure that, where political or controversial issues are brought to pupils’ attention, they are offered a balanced presentation of opposing views

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10.45 “Schools can help protect children from extremist and violent views in the same ways they help to safeguard children from drugs, gang violence and alcohol etc.”

Page 70 -10.47 “... schools, the best environment in which to discuss terrorism”.

10.49 “...a Preventing Extremism Unit, including Counter Terrorism, has been established within Department for Education..

Page 71 - 10.53 “Publicly funded schools remain under a duty to promote community cohesion. The Education Bill, which is currently before Parliament removes the current duty on Ofsted to report on school’s contribution to community cohesion. However, the stronger focus on teaching and learning and a continuing focus on provision for pupils SMSC will enable Inspectors to identify inappropriate practice, including the promotion of messages that undermine community cohesion.

Page 71 - 10.55

“Over the lifetime of this strategy, DfE will undertake the following *Prevent*-related work in England:

- ensure that teachers and other school staff know what to do when they see signs that a child is at risk of radicalisation;
- continue to collaborate and encourage collaboration with policing and the development of products for teachers;
- as part of the planned changes to the inspection arrangements for maintained schools, give due weight to schools’ activities in support of our shared values, and for any concerns to be reflected in the report;
- strengthen the Independent School Standards to ensure that schools understand their obligations;
- establish a set of standards for teachers which clarifies obligations regarding extremism;
 - provide effective financial and non-financial ‘due diligence’ to minimise the risk that those with unacceptable views can set up Free Schools or gain control of academies or other publicly-funded schools;
- work with the Charity Commission to ensure that schools that are charities and under their jurisdiction comply with charity law;
- work to reduce the risk that children and young people are exposed to extremist views in out of school hours provision; and
- help children’s services work with schools and other agencies, including Channel, to identify children at risk of radicalisation and take necessary steps to protect them from harm.

Page 75 - 10.86 “...no single group should control prayer facilities,”

Page 76 - 10.87 “... much less done in Further Education Colleges where potential radicalisation can take place.”

Page 82 - 10.125 “ Importance of dialogue around terrorism/extremism with faith communities.”

10.126 “The Home Office will seek a broad dialogue with faith-based groups and institutions covering a range of counter-terrorism and security issues – not just confined to *Prevent*.”

10.127. “DCLG will continue to have the lead policy response for faith communities in England. The Department will support interfaith work which we judge can have a benefit for *Prevent*.”

The DCLG is also undertaking a series of Ministerial discussions with individual faith communities on developing Big Society and promoting integration.”

Page 82 - 10.129 – “Faith Leaders and especially Imams are able to engage with young people and talk to them about the issues they face and concerns they have.”

The Prevent Strategy can be viewed on and downloaded from the [Home Office website](#).