

Prevent and Countering Extremism in Young People

Advice and Guidance for Parents and Carers

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Why is this relevant to you?

- any child could be susceptible to extremist narratives
- there are some factors that may make some children more susceptible than others
- extremist groups tap into young people's insecurities and claim to offer answers and promise a sense of identity that young people often seek
- as part of their recruitment strategy, extremist groups also work to undermine the authority of parents and guardians

[Click or tap here for more information on Prevent and its relevance to you as a parent or carer](#)

Definitions and Key Terms

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."

Terrorism is...

"an action or threat designed to influence the government or intimidate the public. Its purpose is to advance a political, religious or ideological cause."

Radicalisation is...

"the term commonly used to describe the processes by which a person adopts extremist views or practices to the point of legitimising the use of violence."

Fundamental British Values are...

Democracy
The Rule of Law
Individual Liberty
Respect and Tolerance for Different Faiths and Beliefs



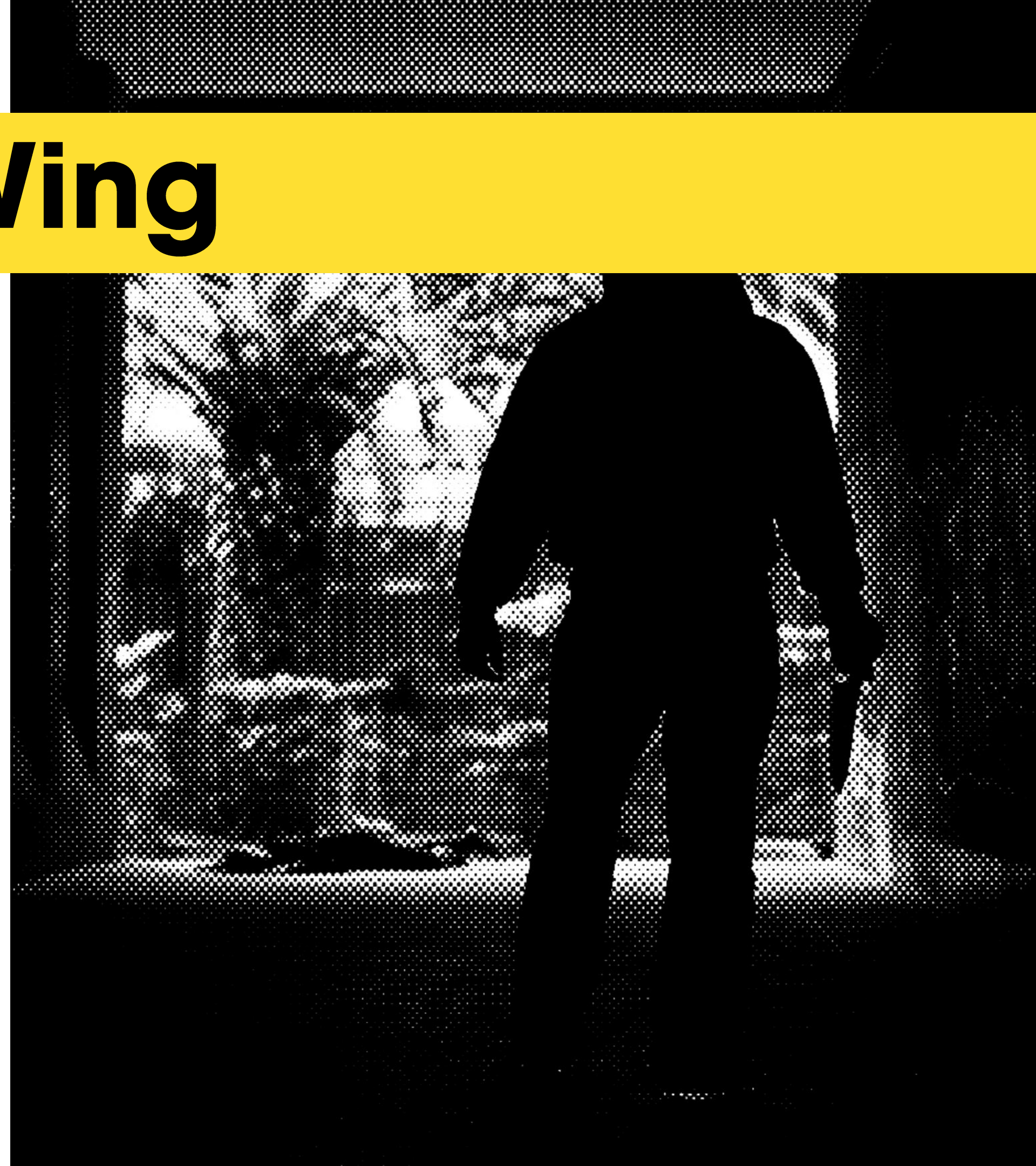
Talking about and promoting these values is encouraged in education settings as this helps to build resilience to radicalisation in young people.

Extreme Right-Wing

This category covers sub-ideologies, including Cultural Nationalism, White Nationalism and White Supremacism. These themselves span a range of extreme beliefs such as antisemitism, anti-Islam, neo-Nazi, ethno-nationalism or anti-establishment.

Examples of Extreme Right-Wing attacks include:

- **2017 Finsbury Park Attack**
- **2016 Murder of Jo Cox MP**
- **2011 Norway Attacks in Oslo**
- **2019 Christchurch Mosque Shooting in New Zealand**



Islamist Extremism

Islamist extremist inspired acts of terrorism are perpetrated or inspired by politico-religiously motivated groups or individuals who support and use violence as a means to establish their interpretation of an Islamic society.

Examples of Islamist Extremist attacks include:

- **2001 9/11 Plane Attacks**
- **2005 London Transport Bombings**
- **2017 Manchester Arena Attack**
- **2019 Sri Lanka Easter Bombing**



Left-Wing, Anarchist and Single-Issue Extremism

Also known as LASI Extremism and can include environmentalists, the extreme left-wing, or animal rights movements that advocate violence.

Extreme Left-Wing: Extremists who believe in using violence and serious criminality to abolish existing systems of Government and replacing them with anarchist, socialist or communist systems.

Anarchist Extremism: Extremists who believe in using violence to replace current systems of Government and law enforcement with a system that prioritises complete liberty and individual freedom.

Single-Issue Extremism: Extremists who endorse violence and serious criminality focused on a specific topic, such as animal rights.

Mixed, Unstable, and Unclear (MUU) Ideologies

Mixed - ideology presented involves a combination of elements from multiple forms of extremist ideologies.

Unstable - shifts between different ideologies.

Unclear - individual does not present a coherent ideology yet may still be vulnerable to being drawn into terrorism.

Prevent and Channel

What is Prevent?

Prevent is part of the government's counter-terrorism strategy, CONTEST.

The purpose Prevent is at its heart to safeguard and support vulnerable people to stop them from becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism.

[**Click or tap here for further information on CONTEST and Prevent**](#)



Prevent has three specific objectives

1

**Tackle the causes of
radicalisation and
respond to the
ideological challenge
of terrorism**

2

**Safeguard and
support those most at
risk from
radicalisation through
early intervention,
identifying them and
offering support**

3

**Enable those who
have already engaged
in terrorism to
disengage and
rehabilitate**

What is Channel?

A voluntary, confidential programme which safeguards people identified as susceptible to being drawn into terrorism.

It is a multi-agency process involving partners from the local authority, the police, education, health providers, and others.

Channel is a support programme - **not a criminal sanction.**

A Channel referral can come from anyone who is concerned about a person they know who might be at risk of radicalisation, including family members, friends, school leaders, or colleagues.

The Channel Process

When someone makes a referral, lots of agencies work together to offer support where they consider it necessary and proportionate to do so. The Channel process is as follows:

- 1** Referrals are assessed to see if they are suitable for Channel or if alternative support would be more appropriate.
- 2** If suitable for Channel, all relevant partners attend a Channel panel meeting to decide if intervention is necessary.

Please note: the individual who has been referred to Prevent is informed and must give their consent (or via a parent or guardian if they are children) before an intervention can take place.
- 3** If intervention is required, an appropriate tailored support package is developed.
- 4** The support package is closely monitored and reviewed regularly by the Channel panel.

What kind of support does Channel offer?

Help with education and career advice

Dealing with mental or emotional health issues

Dealing with drug or alcohol abuse

And theological or ideological mentoring from a Channel intervention provider (a specialist mentor)

[Click or tap here for further information about Channel](#)

Did you know?

Between April 2021 and March 2022...

The most common Prevent referrals are for Extreme Right-Wing Terrorism. Of those discussed at a Channel panel, 57% go on to be adopted as a Channel case.

36% of all Prevent referrals were made by the education sector and 3% were made by friends and family of individuals

76% (4,848) of referrals were deemed not suitable for Channel consideration and exited the process prior to a Channel panel discussion; of which the majority were signposted to other support services (3,754; 77%)

Individuals aged 15 and under made up 37% of all Prevent referrals that went on to receive channel support

Indicators and Factors

Warning Signs

There is no single route to radicalisation. However, there are some behavioural traits that could indicate a child has been exposed to radicalising influences. These are listed on the next slide.

It is important to remember that this is not an exhaustive list of indicators of radicalisation and evidence of these behaviours may not necessarily indicate that a young person is being or has been radicalised. If your child is displaying any of these behaviours and you believe it is a cause for concern you should try to discuss this with your child, or seek support from one of the avenues detailed at the end of this resource.

Warning Signs

Possible indicators that a young person has been or is being radicalised include....

Beginning to isolate themselves from family and friends

Refusing to listen to different points of view

Unwilling to engage with and becoming abusive towards individuals who are different

Embracing conspiracy theories

Legitimising the use of violence to defend ideology or cause

Drawing and graffitiing extremist symbols and imagery

Producing or sharing terrorist material offline or online

Being sympathetic to extremist ideologies and groups

Becoming increasingly argumentative

Being secretive and reluctant to discuss their whereabouts

Changing friends and appearance, and distancing themselves from old friends

The Online Space

With the growth of the internet, social media, gaming platforms, and chat platforms, extremist individuals and groups have taken up this opportunity to radicalise and recruit others in the online space.

It's important that you're aware of your child's online activity and digital footprint, and that you can support them in developing critical thinking skills that will allow them to build up their resilience to radicalisation and extremist content.

The next slide shows some possible indicators that a young person may have been or is being radicalised online.

Warning Signs

The Online Space

Possible indicators that a young person has been or is being radicalised include...

**Accessing
extremist
content
online**

**Joining or
trying to join
an extremist
group or
organisation**

**Changing
their online
identity**

**Being
sympathetic
to extremist
ideologies
and groups**

Going Too Far?

Going Too Far? is an interactive classroom resource developed by the Department for Education and London Grid for Learning.

The resource aims to help young people understand their online behaviour and the risks this may bring.

You may find it useful to access the resource to help you promote critical thinking skills to your child so that they are able to challenge extremist narratives and consider the consequences of their online actions.

[Click or tap here to be taken to the Going Too Far? resource](#)

Susceptibility

Children from all kinds of backgrounds can be radicalised. The examples to the right show some factors that may make some young people more susceptible to radicalisation and extremist narratives than others.

Feeling socially isolated

Questioning their place in society

Difficulty in understanding the consequences of their actions

Difficulty in interacting socially and lacking empathy

Experiencing racism or discrimination

Low self-esteem

Issues with family and at home

Becoming distanced from their cultural or religious background

Experiencing a traumatic event

Struggling with a sense of identity and belonging

Practical Tips and Guidance

A black and white halftone photograph showing a man and a woman looking at a smartphone together. The man is on the left, and the woman is on the right. They are both looking down at the phone, which is held by the woman. The image has a grainy, dotted texture.

What can you do?

Talking to your child about extremism and giving them the facts will help them to challenge extremist arguments.

Be honest with them and talk to them about extremism and radicalisation on a regular basis.

Teach your children to understand that just because something appears on a website, it doesn't mean it's factually correct.

Talk to your child about online safety.

Starting Conversations

It can sometimes be difficult to start serious conversations with young people. Here are some tips on how to get started, but remember - **you know your child best and what works for you**

Choose somewhere your child feels at ease and make it a time when you're unlikely to be interrupted.

Perhaps start the conversation when something relevant to extremism comes up on TV.

Ask them what they know about the subject and what their opinions are

Ask questions that don't result in a yes or no answer.

Take care to listen to them and let them answer without interrupting.

Encourage them to ask you questions

Talk about your own views on extremism.

Try not to react if they say something you don't expect. Ensure that they know that they're not being told off.

Starting Conversations

Watch the below video to see how three parents answered their children's questions about terrorism



Let's Discuss

Let's Discuss is a series of resources produced by the Department for Education.

They are designed to support teachers in facilitating difficult classroom conversations on the Extreme Right-Wing, Islamist Extremism, LASI Extremism, and Fundamental British Values.

You may find it useful to access the resource to determine how you can open up a conversation about extremism with your child at home.

Click or tap the buttons below to be taken to each Let's Discuss resource.

**Let's Discuss:
Extreme Right
Wing**

**Let's Discuss:
Islamist
Extremism**

**Let's Discuss:
Extreme Left-
Wing, Anarchist
and Single Issue
Extremism**

**Let's Discuss:
Fundamental
British Values**

Further Guidance, Resources, and Support

Guidance

Click or tap on each of the boxes below to be taken to different pieces of government guidance regarding Prevent, counter-extremism, and the safeguarding of children.

[Prevent Duty
Guidance -GOV.UK](#)

[Keeping Children
Safe in Education -
GOV.UK](#)

[Counter-terrorism
strategy
\(CONTEST\) 2018 -
GOV.UK
\(\[www.gov.uk\]\(http://www.gov.uk\)\)](#)

[Working Together
to Safeguard
Children - GOV.UK](#)

Resources

Educate Against Hate is a government website that hosts practical advice, support and resources to help school leaders, teachers, and parents to protect children from extremism and radicalisation. Click or tap the boxes below to be taken to some of our hosted resources or tap the logo to be taken to the Educate Against Hate website to explore all of the support we have to offer.

[Online Media Literacy Resources](#)

[Prevent: An Introduction](#)

[NSPCC](#)

[Prevent Myth-buster](#)

[Talking to Your Teenager about Radicalisation](#)

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Support

If you are worried that your child is being radicalised, you have a number of options. Talking to your child is a good way to gauge if your instincts are correct, but you might prefer to share your concerns with someone else first.

Raise the issue with your child's teachers, a friend or a close family member

Organise a meeting with the designated safeguarding lead at your child's school

Contact your local police or local authority for advice and support

You can report concerns to the Government Anti-Terrorist Hotline on 0800 789 321

If you think someone is about to carry out an act of terrorism, dial 999

If you have concerns, but there is no immediate danger, dial 101

If you have concerns regarding extremism within an education setting, including allegations against institutions and staff, you can anonymously report these to us at the Department for Education by clicking or tapping here

You can contact your local Prevent Education Officer for support using the below details:

You can also share your concerns and seek support and guidance by visiting the ACT Early website, or contacting their support line on 0800 011 3764