



## **George Carey Church of England Primary School Guide to Radicalisation and preventing extremism**

### **What is radicalisation?**

Radicalisation refers to the process by which a person comes to support terrorism and forms of extremism leading to terrorism. It is usually a process not an event. During this process, there will be opportunities to intervene in order to reduce the risk of the individual being attracted to extremist ideology and causes and safeguard him/her from the risk of radicalisation. It is important to be able to recognise the factors that might contribute towards the radicalisation of an individual. Some factors that lead an individual to becoming radicalised are no different to those that might lead to involvement with or being vulnerable to other activity such as gangs, drugs and sexual exploitation, for example.

### **Who does it affect?**

Those involved in extremist activity come from a range of backgrounds and experiences. There is no single profile of what an extremist looks like or what might drive a young person towards becoming radicalised. It can affect impressionable young boys and men and also impressionable young girls and women.

### **What factors might contribute towards radicalisation?**

Below are some of the factors that might contribute towards an individual becoming radicalised. These are included in the **Channel Vulnerability Assessment Framework**. This is not an exhaustive list and the presence of any of these factors does not necessarily mean that he/she will be involved in extremist activity. However, a combination of many of these factors may increase the vulnerability to extremist activity:

- Feelings of grievance and injustice
- A need for identity, meaning and belonging
- A desire for excitement and adventure
- Susceptibility to indoctrination
- A need to dominate and control others
- A desire for political or moral change
- Family or friends' involvement in extremism
- Being at a transitional time of life
- Being influenced and controlled by a group
- Relevant mental health issues
- Over-identification with a group or Ideology
- Dehumanisation of the enemy
- Feeling under threat
- A desire for status
- Opportunistic involvement
- Attitudes that justify offending
- Harmful means to an end
- Harmful objectives
- 'Them and Us' thinking

## **What does the law say about radicalisation and extremism?**

The **Prevent Strategy 2011** aims to stop people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism. It tackles all forms of extremism including Al Qaida influenced extremism and far right extremism. From 1 July 2015, statutory guidance issued under section 29 of the **Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015** requires a range of specified authorities to have 'due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism'. This duty is known as the Prevent Duty. The specified authorities include those judged to have a role in protecting vulnerable children and young people and adults.

## **What can schools do?**

### **Notice**

Practitioners should make themselves aware of the factors that might drive somebody towards extremism so they are able to notice them should they present themselves. However, staff using their skill, expertise, and professional judgement is crucial in not stigmatising individuals that may display some of the vulnerability factors highlighted.

### **Check**

If a member of staff is concerned about an individual (child or adult) who is being drawn towards extremist activity, they should report their concerns to the Headteacher or Designated Safeguarding Lead or the Deputy.

### **Share**

Where it is recognised that an individual (child or adult) is indeed at risk of radicalisation and involvement in extremist activity, a referral should be made to the local authority's Channel Programme. Channel is a multi-agency partnership and a voluntary Government funded programme which aims to safeguard children and adults from being drawn into terrorist activity. 'Channel' can provide a support plan and specific interventions to protect people at risk including mentoring support.

If you want to find out more about Channel please use the following link.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/channel-guidance> or call 1010 to discuss your concerns

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