

Rutlish School



Radicalisation and Extremism Information for Parents/Carers

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There have been many reports in the media recently of young people being targeted by adults who hold extreme views that advocate violence.

At Rutlish we pride ourselves on celebrating and promoting our diverse community with its many different ethnicities and religions. We also recognise however that in today's world young people are faced with many pressures as they grow up and can often be influenced by strong feelings expressed by others in connection with a range of complex issues. Our overriding concern is that all our students feel safe and also express tolerance towards all cultures and religions even when personal views may be different.

The PREVENT strategy, is designed to protect people potentially at risk of being radicalised. There are a number of indicators that may possibly indicate that an individual may be being adversely targeted by an extremist group or cause, such as:

- Suddenly changing how they dress or their appearance.
- High absence rate from school with no clear reason.
- Losing interest in friends or activities not associated with a particular ideology, with their behaviour becoming focused on an extreme idea or cause.
- Possessing or being associated with material or symbols associated with an extremist cause, being in communication with suspected extremists, use of internet or other social media sites associated with extremism.

Rutlish School fully endorses the PREVENT strategy in that:

“Schools can help to protect children from extremist and violent views in the same ways that they help to safeguard children from drugs, gang violence or alcohol. Their purpose must be to protect children from harm and to ensure that they are taught in a way that is consistent with the law and our values. “

“Schools have an important role to play in Prevent, particularly in ensuring balanced debate as well as freedom of speech. They also have a clear responsibility to exercise their duty of care and to protect the welfare of their students. Staff can identify and offer support to students who may be drawn into extremism.”

Please be reassured that all of our students are given information on staying safe in the school and wider community and are told about appropriate behaviour in terms of their day to day conduct and when using technology. We do follow up and refer any inappropriate or concerning behaviour and work closely with a range of other agencies, such as the Police and Social Care. Our Safeguarding Team are always available to discuss any issue you as parents/carers may be concerned about.

The government has recently launched a new website aimed at supporting parents, teacher and school leaders in implementing the Prevent Duty. There are some useful resources on the website including written advice and signposting to other organisations.

Educate Against Hate

<http://educateagainsthate.com/>

In addition the following may also be useful:

Victvs Ltd: a training and consultancy company specialising in tackling extremism and radicalisation.

<https://www.victvs.co.uk/resources/?27933c>

Merton Advice to Parents and Carers

http://www.merton.gov.uk/advice_to_parents_and_carers_keeping_children_and_young_people_safe_against_radicalisation_and_extremism_final.pdf