

Manipulative situations that pose a danger to the safeguarding of a child through exploitation

There are two manipulative situations that you need to be aware of that could pose a danger to the safeguarding of a child through exploitation:

- Modern Slavery and the National Referral Mechanism
- Preventing radicalisation, the Prevent duty and Channel

Modern Slavery and the National Referral Mechanism

Modern slavery is the trafficking, forced or compulsory labour, servitude, or slavery of a person.

- Trafficking is when a child is controlled, transported and then exploited, a child may be trafficked within or from outside the UK.
- Forced or compulsory labour for a child means a child providing a service such as begging, sexual services, manual labour, or domestic service for a benefit.
- Servitude is forced or compulsory labour which the child sees as a permanent, inescapable situation.
- Slavery is servitude with the addition of the idea of ownership of the child.

Any child suspected victim of modern slavery should be referred to the National Referral Mechanism. [1] The Statutory guidance, Modern Slavery: statutory guidance for England and Wales, 2023 [2] has an annex detailing the “Indicators of child victims and specific types of modern slavery,” and explains how to refer a child to the NRM.

[1] <https://www.modernslavery.gov.uk>

[2] <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/modern-slavery-how-to-identify-and-support-victims/modern-slavery-statutory-guidance-for-england-and-wales-under-s49-of-the-modern-slavery-act-2015-and-non-statutory-guidance-for-scotland-and-northe#annexa>

Preventing radicalisation, the Prevent duty and Channel

Children are at risk of being exposed to the harms of radicalisation, extremism and terrorism; children need to be safeguarded from this risk. Radicalisation, extremism and terrorism can all occur face-to-face, online, or both.

Extremism is defined by the UK government as “the vocal or active opposition to our fundamental values, including democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and the mutual respect and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs. We also regard calls for the death of members of our armed forces as extremist”.[3] Not all extremists or extremist groups will go on to commit terrorist acts but this does not negate their risk.

Educate Against Hate defines terrorism as “an action or threat designed to influence the government or intimidate the public. Its purpose is to advance a political, religious or ideological cause. The current UK definition of terrorism is given in the Terrorism Act 2006.

In the UK we define terrorism as a violent action that:
Endangers a person's life
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" [4]

Radicalisation is the process by which a person comes to support extremist and/or terrorist ideologies.[5] Some children may be more susceptible to radicalisation than others. The NSPCC advises that children with low self-esteem or victims of bullying or discrimination may be more vulnerable [6]. "Radicalisation is a personal and individual process, which will look different from person to person. When talking about the 'risk of radicalisation', it is therefore challenging to describe exactly what it looks like. Various signs or indicators may signal a person is at risk of being radicalised into terrorism." [7]

Government Guidance: Managing Risk of Radicalisation in your Education Setting sets out the behavioural risk indicators and action to be taken to safeguard children who are susceptible to radicalisation into terrorism.[8]

For a comprehensive review of the radicalisation risk factors use the link below:

[Managing risk of radicalisation in your education setting - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/managing-risk-of-radicalisation-in-your-education-setting)

Under the 2015 Counter-Terrorism and Security Act schools and colleges have a duty to prevent children and young people from being drawn into terrorism – this is the Prevent Duty[9]. All candidates complete the Prevent Duty training. The Channel programme[10] is designed to provide early help to children and young people at risk of radicalisation. As it is a voluntary programme, consent is required before a referral is made.

Two organisations that can provide you with more information on prevent are:

1. Educate Against Hate provides advice and resources to help safeguard students from radicalisation. For further information use the links below:

[Educate Against Hate - Prevent Radicalisation & Extremism](https://www.educateagainsthate.org/)
[Further Education - Educate Against Hate](https://www.educateagainsthate.org/learn-more/further-education)

2. Action Counters Terrorism (ACT) website Prevent Radicalisation and Extremism by Acting Early. Has extra information on spotting the signs, advice and real stories.

[ACT Early | Prevent radicalisation](https://www.actioncountersterrorism.org.uk/act-early-prevent-radicalisation)

[3] HM Government Counter-Extremism Strategy, 2015, p 9.

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/5a80cddf915d74e623089e/51859_Cm9148_Accessible.pdf

[4] <https://www.educateagainsthate.com/define-extremism-terrorism-uk-2/>

[5] KCSIE 2023 p. 149

[6] <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/reporting-abuse/dedicated-helplines/protecting-children-from-radicalisation/>

[7]

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/64f8498efdc5d10014fce6d1/14.258_HO_Prevent_Duty_Guidance_v5c.pdf

Prevent Duty Guidance, p 18

[8] <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-prevent-duty-safeguarding-learners-vulnerable-to-radicalisation/managing-risk-of-radicalisation-in-your-education-setting>

[9]

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/64f8498efdc5d10014fce6d1/14.258_HO_Prevent_Duty_Guidance_v5c.pdf

Making a Referral to Prevent: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/making-a-referral-to-prevent>

[10]

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/651e71d9e4e658001459d997/14.320_HO_Channel_Duty_Guidance_v3_Final_Web.pdf