

SMC SAFEGUARDING UPDATE



MARCH 2022

RADICALISATION

Radicalisation

Radicalisation is the process through which a person comes to support or be involved in extremist ideologies. It can result in a person becoming drawn into terrorism and is itself a form of harm.

Extremism

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. It includes calls for the death of members of the British armed forces (HM Government, 2011).

How does radicalisation happen?

The process of radicalisation may involve:

- being groomed online or in person
- exploitation, including sexual exploitation
- psychological manipulation
- exposure to violent material and other inappropriate information
- the risk of physical harm or death through extremist acts.

It happens gradually, so children and young people who are affected may not realise what it is that they are being drawn into.

SPOTTING THE SIGNS OF RADICALISATION

Radicalisation can be difficult to spot.

Signs that may indicate a child is being radicalised include:

- isolating themselves from family and friends
- unwillingness or inability to discuss their views
- increased levels of anger
- talking as if from a scripted speech
- a sudden disrespectful attitude towards others
- increased secretiveness, especially around internet use.

Children who are at risk of radicalisation may have low self-esteem or be victims of bullying or discrimination.

Extremists might target them and tell them they can be part of something special, later brainwashing them into cutting themselves off from their friends and family.



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Indicators of radicalisation

If a child or young person is being radicalised their day-to-day behaviour may become increasingly centred around an extremist ideology, group or cause.

For example, they may:

- spend increasing amounts of time talking to people with extreme views (this includes online and offline communication)
- change their style of dress or personal appearance
- lose interest in friends and activities that are not associated with the extremist ideology, group or cause
- have material or symbols associated with an extreme cause
- try to recruit others to join the cause

(Home Office, 2020)



The Prevent Duty

Schools have a duty, as a specified authority under section 26 of the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015, to identify vulnerable children and young people and prevent them from being drawn into terrorism.

This is known as the Prevent Duty.

Resources:

- Home Office Prevent Training <https://www.elearning.prevent.homeoffice.gov.uk/edu/screen3.html>
- Radical Right: Understanding Use of Signs, Symbols and Platforms Online | Secondary – National Online Safety
- Hate Symbols Database, ADL <https://www.adl.org/hate-symbols>
- Guide to Online Radical-Right Symbols, Slogans and Slurs, CARR
<https://www.radicalrightanalysis.com/2020/05/04/a-guide-to-online-radical-right-symbols-slogans-and-slurs/>



KEY MESSAGES

- Lanyards must be worn at all times.
- Please sign in and out of school on the Inventory system screen.

