

FREE CLASSROOM RESOURCE

Introduction to PREVENT

A short guide for students: what PREVENT is, how to spot the signs and how to get help.

Workplace **Hero**

Learning objectives

Explain	Understand	Reflect
What the PREVENT duty is and why it is part of safeguarding.	Your role: notice concerns and speak to someone - never investigate.	On British values and how they protect respect, even when we disagree.

PREVENT is about...

Protecting people

Helping prevent people from becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism.

Identifying concerns early

Recognising when somebody may be susceptible to radicalising influences.

Offering support

Getting appropriate help, through safeguarding, before concerns escalate.

What does that mean for you?

1. Feel safe

You have the right to feel safe in your learning environment.

2. Your beliefs

You have the right to your own beliefs and to express them respectfully.

3. Speak up

If something genuinely worries you, you can tell a member of staff.

PREVENT is not about stopping lawful political discussion, religious belief, peaceful activism or disagreement.

What is radicalisation?

The Home Office definition:

- “Radicalisation is the process of a person legitimising support for, or use of, terrorist violence.”
- It can develop through influences online or in person, and there is no single route into it
- Someone’s beliefs, religion, political views or identity are not, by themselves, evidence of radicalisation

PREVENT is concerned with radicalisation into terrorism - not unpopular or strongly held opinions.

How can radicalisation happen?

Influences	Pressure	No single path
People can encounter radicalising influences online or in person, through material, networks or relationships.	Someone may be manipulated, pressured or exposed to material that encourages support for terrorist violence.	Pathways differ from person to person. There is no single profile of someone who may be susceptible.

Who may be susceptible?

There is no typical person. Susceptibility is individual and depends on circumstances. Factors can include:

- Isolation, or a search for belonging or purpose
- Personal difficulties
- Exposure to radicalising influences, including online
- Manipulation or pressure from others

None of these factors proves somebody is being radicalised. Susceptibility is not linked to any religion, ethnicity, nationality, politics, culture, disability or neurodivergence.

Signs to look out for

There is no checklist that can tell you whether somebody is being radicalised. Context and patterns matter.

May be a concern in context

- Justifying or legitimising terrorist violence
- Accessing or sharing terrorist or extremist propaganda
- Increasingly dehumanising groups of people
- Expressing support for terrorist organisations or violence
- Concerning online involvement with radicalising networks
- Several significant changes happening together

NOT a sign by itself

- Holding strong opinions
- Criticising government or public policy
- Interest in politics or world events
- Practising a religion, or changing beliefs
- Expressing identity through clothing or appearance
- Peaceful activism, disagreement or debate

What can you do?

Notice	Don't assume	Speak
Something concerns you because of what somebody is saying, doing or sharing.	One behaviour, belief or characteristic does not prove anything. You do not need to investigate.	Tell your tutor, safeguarding team or another trusted member of staff.

Do not investigate, profile or confront anyone. Your role is simply to speak to someone appropriate.

Reporting concerns

If something genuinely concerns you, speak to your tutor, safeguarding team or another trusted member of staff. You do not need to investigate or prove what is happening.

- You do not decide if someone is a terrorist or needs a referral
- Do not monitor anyone's beliefs or gather evidence
- Staff decide what support, if any, is needed - not every concern becomes a referral
- If someone is in immediate danger, call 999

British values and respect

PREVENT links to the fundamental British values:

- Democracy - everyone can have a say
- The rule of law - laws protect us and apply to everyone
- Individual liberty - freedom to make your own choices within the law
- Mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs

People can disagree strongly about political, social or religious issues while still respecting the rights and freedoms of others. Your learning setting should be a safe space for respectful debate.

Your role in keeping others safe

You can:

- Be respectful and inclusive
- Join in debate respectfully, even when you disagree
- Speak to a member of staff if something genuinely worries you
- Know where to go for help

You are never expected to investigate or judge others - just speak up. Support is available.

Questions and support

- Speak to your tutor or safeguarding team
- Find out more at ACT Early: actearly.uk
- Call 101 for non-urgent police matters
- If someone is in immediate danger, always call 999

About this resource

This overview is designed for tutors to share with learners as part of safeguarding and PREVENT awareness. It reflects current Home Office and DfE Prevent guidance for England at the date reviewed. Always follow your organisation's policies and local safeguarding procedures. If in doubt, speak to your designated safeguarding lead.

Content reviewed: 25 September 2026 Suggested next review: 25 September 2027.
Reviewed earlier if Prevent legislation, statutory Prevent guidance, DfE safeguarding guidance or referral and support routes change.

© 2026 WorkplaceHero Limited. Company Reg No. 15228788. Free to use for teaching within your organisation; not for resale or modification without written permission. This resource is not a substitute for professional safeguarding advice or legal guidance.