

Prevent duty guidance update: a briefing for further education and skills providers

September 2023

Updated Prevent duty guidance

The [Prevent duty guidance](#) has been refreshed and updated to reflect several recommendations of the [Independent Review of Prevent](#). It is an update to the existing Prevent duty guidance for further education institutions in England and Wales (last updated in April 2021).

The updated guidance has been simplified into one document for all education settings - this helps to create greater consistency in the core expectations, whilst still acknowledging differences between education phases.

There are **no legal new requirements or additional responsibilities** for further education and skills providers. Providers should continue to understand their Prevent duty requirements as part of their wider safeguarding responsibilities, including those outlined in [Keeping Children Safe in Education](#) (KCSIE) where it applies.

Between September 2023 and 31st December 2023 there will be transition period as we do not anticipate that the revised guidance **will come into effect until 31st December at the earliest**.



Subject to Parliamentary procedure, the updated guidance will come into force **on 31 December 2023 at the earliest**

What's changed?

The changes provide greater clarity, practical advice and signposting to best practice. The changes include:

Ideological causes of terrorism

The first objective of Prevent has been changed to “tackle the ideological causes of terrorism”. The ideological component of terrorism is what sets it apart from other acts of serious violence. The guidance recommends education settings consider ideology when delivering all aspects of Prevent. The guidance introduces a new theme - ‘Reducing Permissive Environments’ to tackle the ideological causes of terrorism. For FE, this includes the existing considerations of having effective IT and visiting speaker policies to reduce radicalising influences.

Updated terminology

Terminology has been updated to reflect current best practice and official terminology. This includes clarifying that the guidance only applies to non-violent extremism where it can be reasonably linked to terrorism or could draw people into terrorism.

Training

FE providers should determine who the appropriate members of staff are and how frequently training should occur, being proportionate to the risk of terrorism and extremism in their local area. They should also consider what type of training is needed for staff in different roles. It is recommended that leads with designated Prevent responsibilities receive more in-depth training, including on extremist and terrorist ideologies to enable them to train and advise other staff and support making informed referrals to Prevent where necessary. The guidance also signposts government training resources, including the [GOV.UK Prevent duty training](#).

[Managing Risk](#)

The risk and threat landscape has been updated in line with the counter-terrorism strategy (CONTEST) 2023. The risk and threat picture is broader than that of 2015 but the threat from Islamist terrorism remains the primary concern. We recommend settings consider whether their risk assessments accurately reflect and account for local risk and threat, and are proportionate based on setting size and provision.

[Information Sharing](#)

A new section has been added on information sharing, to reiterate that sharing information on Prevent should be treated the same as wider safeguarding.

The National Referral Form is being rolled out nationally with the aim for all Prevent partners to adopt this approach. The referral form means that there is greater consistency of outcome both within and across a local authority. FE providers should continue to follow their existing processes for sharing information about learners susceptible to radicalisation and be aware of the Prevent referral process in their local authority.

It also highlights existing KCSIE expectations that, where appropriate, and as with other safeguarding concerns, any Prevent concerns should be securely transferred when a child moves school or college.

[External Speakers and Events](#)

Every setting needs to balance its legal duties in terms of both securing freedom of speech and protecting learner and staff welfare. There is no prescription from government regarding what actions providers should take once they have had due regard under the Prevent duty. In most cases, we expect that any risks posed by external speakers can be mitigated without shutting down speech.

[What actions do I need to take?](#)

We recommend those who are responsible for the implementation and oversight of Prevent responsibilities read the [updated and refreshed Prevent duty guidance](#). You may wish to reflect on risk and threat and the good practice recommended in the guidance. You may also wish to update your Prevent risk assessment and action plan (if applicable), or safeguarding policy.

[What support is there for further education and skills providers to implement their responsibilities?](#)

If you require further support, please contact your local authority safeguarding or education services. Further support for designated safeguarding leads, including on [understanding and identifying risk and making Prevent referrals, is available on GOV.UK](#). You can also access [Prevent duty training online](#).

Staff in further education (FE) should know about the Prevent for further education and training:

- [guidance from DfE and the Education and Training Foundation](#)
- [online course from the Education and Training Foundation](#)

For sector specific resources please go to [Educate Against Hate](#). Sign-up for [Educate Against Hate newsletter](#) which includes the latest news, blogs and resources to help teachers, school leaders and designated safeguarding leads protect students from radicalisation.

The [DfE Regional Prevent Co-ordinators](#) run regional networks for further and higher education leads. They also share information via [regional newsletters](#).