

Introduction

From 1 July 2015 all schools (including further education and independent training providers), are subject to a duty under section 26 of the Counterterrorism and Security Act 2015, in the exercise of their functions, to have “due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism and tackle the ideological causes of terrorism”. This duty is known as the Prevent duty. It is essential that staff are able to identify children and young people who may be vulnerable to radicalisation and know what to do when they are identified. We will get commitment to the policy by requiring staff to sign a declaration to show that they have both read and understood the policy.

Protecting children and young people from the risk of radicalisation should be seen as part of wider safeguarding duties and is similar in nature to protecting children and young people from other harms (e.g., drugs, gangs, neglect, sexual exploitation), whether these come from within their family or are the product of outside influences. As such, apprentices will sign a declaration at induction phase, confirming they have both read and understood the policy.

Our Aim

This Policy is to be used in conjunction with the Safeguarding Policy and Procedures. Appris is committed to providing a safe and nurturing environment for all apprentices. The implementation of the Prevent Duty is the responsibility of the Senior Management team with direction from the Work Based Learning Director, monitored by the Board of Trustees. We will ensure that:

- The Prevent Duty is fully implemented across the organisation, seeking where possible to ensure an appropriate fit with our Mission and Values.
- Staff receive appropriate training and understand the risks behind radicalisation, the meaning of extremism within the context of freedom of speech, and the factors which contribute to vulnerability to extremism.
- Staff can provide effective support to those who may be vulnerable to radicalising influences.
- Staff are able to identify, report and be resilient to extreme narrative.
- Staff and learners are committed to the policy through regular training, communication that is aligned to our Training Charter and values.
- Specific risk assessments in relation to the safety of our staff, students, members and volunteers may be utilised, as appropriate,
- Appropriate information sharing policies are in place.

Preventing Radicalisation

This is part of our wider safeguarding duty. We recognise that Appris plays a significant part in the prevention of this type of harm. We will intervene where possible to prevent vulnerable children and young people being radicalised. The internet has become a major factor in radicalisation and recruitment.

Extremism – vocal or active opposition to our fundamental values, including democracy, rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs. This also includes calling for the death of members of the armed forces.

Radicalisation – refers to the process by which a person comes to support terrorism and extremist ideologies associated with terrorist groups.

Terrorism – an action that endangers or causes serious violence to a person/people; causes serious damage to property; or seriously interferes or disrupts an electronic system. The use or threat must be designed to influence the government or to intimidate the public and is made for the purpose of advancing a political, religious, or ideological cause. As with all other forms of abuse, staff should be confident in identifying students at risk and act proportionately.

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Spotting the signs of radicalisation

Radicalisation can be really difficult to spot. Signs that may indicate a child or young person is being radicalised include:

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

Children and young people 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.

However, these signs don't necessarily mean a child or young person is being radicalised – it may be normal teenage behaviour or a sign that something else is wrong. *(Source: NSPCC Website, 17th August 2021 [<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/reporting-abuse/dedicated-helplines/protecting-children-from-radicalisation>])*

Apprentice Training and Support

As part of an apprentice's induction at Appris, undertake the ETF Side by Side Staying Safe Online training module. This increases their knowledge of staying safe online, identifying where they may become involved in hate crimes or at risk of becoming radicalised. This forms part of the wider Safeguarding induction session apprentices complete. Throughout their apprenticeship, wider discussions on safeguarding, prevent, equality & diversity and safeguarding are scheduled onto work placed reviews, which continually re-enforce their understanding of the key subjects.

Risk assessment

The statutory guidance makes clear that schools and childcare providers are expected to assess the risk of children and young people being drawn into terrorism, including support for extremist ideas that are part of terrorist ideology. A copy of the Appris Prevent Duty Risk Assessment is retained on the company server and reviewed on a monthly basis, should any changes to the risk take place.

Working in partnership

The Prevent duty builds on existing local partnership arrangements. Local Safeguarding Children Boards (LSCBs) are responsible for co-ordinating what is done by local agencies for the purposes of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in their local area. Appris has a strong working relationship with the Regional Prevent Duty Co-ordinator and Local Provider Network hub, Yorkshire Learning Providers.

Referring a Prevent incident

Appris, in line with its Safeguarding Policy and E-Safety Policy, will appoint the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) to investigate any Prevent related issues raised by staff or apprentices. On completion of the document, this will be shared with the Regional Prevent Co-ordinator and West Yorkshire Police, as per the linked document.

<https://appris.ac.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/PREVENT-REFERRAL-FORM.docx>

Staff training

Appris will provide training internally or externally, by the local Prevent Co-ordinator, ensuring each member of staff understand and support Appris' requirements of the Prevent duty and are confident and committed to protecting children and young people from the risks of radicalisation.

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Using the monthly Prevent Duty regional newsletters, delivery staff will use the case studies to re-enforce the policy and continually promote the prevention of extremism and the signs of radicalisation.

The statutory guidance refers to the importance of Prevent awareness training to equip staff to identify children at risk of being drawn into terrorism and to challenge extremist ideas. Appris staff, including Trustees have undertaken regular Home Office online training, including but not limited to:

- <http://www.elearning.prevent.homeoffice.gov.uk>
- <https://www.elearning.prevent.homeoffice.gov.uk/preventreferrals>
- <https://www.elearning.prevent.homeoffice.gov.uk/channelawareness>

IT policies

The statutory guidance makes clear the need for schools to ensure that children and young people are safe from terrorist and extremist material when accessing the internet in an educational setting. Content filtering software monitors and actively blocks keywords and websites, instantly reporting the activity and username to a member of the Senior Management Team. Appropriate action will be taken in line with the E-safety Policy and Procedure.

Reference to supporting documents:

- Prevent Referral Form
- Safeguarding Policy
- E-Safety Policy and Procedure

Review of the Policy

This policy will be reviewed annually and / or in response to legislative change or significant events. Subsequent reporting will be made in a manner which respects and maintains the confidentiality of all Appris learners. Policy review will include liaison with specialist agencies, as appropriate, where the advice and support are recognised as important in the effective development and implementation of the policy.

Useful links

GOV.UK Prevent Duty Guidance

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/prevent-duty-guidance>

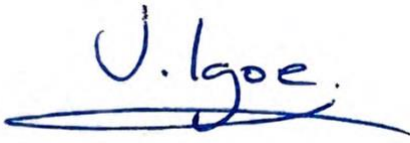
GOV.UK safeguarding learners vulnerable to radicalisation

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-prevent-duty-safeguarding-learners-vulnerable-to-radicalisation>

Department for Education Sept 23 update to Prevent Duty Guidance for FE and Skills Providers

<https://www.educateagainsthate.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/Prevent-Duty-Guidance-Further-education-and-skills-final-briefing-note-1.pdf>

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Signed: John Igoe – Managing Director

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