

The *Prevent Duty Guidance* came into force on 1 July 2015. It places duties on schools and registered childcare providers around keeping children safe and promoting their welfare. Providers are required to ‘*have due regard to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism*’.

To be both effective and lawful, early years providers must meet specific legal duties including those arising from the Prevent Duty. This sets out the need for ‘British Values’ to help everyone live in safe and welcoming communities where they feel they belong. These British Values are defined as:

- democracy
- the rule of law
- individual liberty and mutual respect
- tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs

Not unique to Britain, these values are universal aspirations for equality. As such they are fundamental to helping all children become compassionate, considerate adults who form part of a fair and equal society.

Providers must demonstrate these values through the management and implementation of the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS), and through policies and procedures relating to equality, behaviour and safeguarding, with which the Prevent Duty is consistent.

Providers must ensure that they share these values, and that they are understood and applied by all staff, volunteers, and where appropriate, parents. Failure to do so may result in funding being withdrawn by the local authority. To fulfil the Prevent Duty, providers must ensure:

- they focus on children’s personal, social and emotional development, ensuring children learn right from wrong, mix and share with other children, value other’s views, know about similarities and differences between themselves and others, and challenge negative attitudes and stereotypes
- staff are alert to harmful behaviours by influential adults in the child’s life. This may include discriminatory and/or extremist discussions between parents, family and/or staff members

- they take action when they observe behaviour of concern
- staff are able to identify children who may be vulnerable to radicalization, and know what to do when they are identified
- they assess the risk of children being drawn into terrorism, and work in partnership with local partners such as the police, Prevent Co-ordinators, Channel Police Practitioners and their LSCB, to take account of local risks and respond appropriately
- they make referrals to local Channel Panels, Channel Police Practitioners or the LSCB, if there are concerns that an individual may be vulnerable to being drawn into terrorism or extremism
- they assess their training needs in the light of their assessment of the risk

Practitioners can complete an online course to increase their knowledge in relation to their duties and responsibilities by visiting course.ncalt.com/Channel_General_Awareness/01/index.html

Further information

Channel Duty Guidance: Protecting Vulnerable People from Being Drawn into Terrorism (HMG 2015)

Prevent Duty Guidance: for England and Wales (HMG 2015)

Alliance publications:

Essential Policies & Procedures for the EYFS (2015)

Guide to the Equality Act and Good Practice (2015)

Safeguarding Children (2013)

For further advice, please contact Information Services:

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Disclaimer: *The information contained within this mini guide is not an exhaustive list of issues on the subject matter covered and is available as a source of guidance only. It does not, and is not intended to, cover every eventuality. Settings are responsible for all decisions they take and should seek expert guidance on matters of uncertainty. A free 24/7 legal advisory helpline and an information helpline are available for Alliance members.*