

# Understanding the Implementation of the PREVENT DUTY in County Durham Schools

Post 9/11 saw the world's discourse on counter-terrorism change drastically, with the UK Government opting for a preventative approach.

In 2015, a statutory duty was placed on all schools to 'prevent' pupils being drawn into terrorism.

This duty has been highly controversial, and has had an overwhelmingly negative response from schools.

This research paper focuses on whether the suspected disengagement from schools weakens the 'Prevent duty' has a counter-terrorism policy.

## METHODOLOGY

School Name	Document Name	How comprehensive is the document?	Extremism	Terrorism	Radicalisation	CHANNEL Referral	British Values	Initial Comments and Observations
Aclet Close Nursery School <a href="https://www.acletclose.durham.sch.uk/">https://www.acletclose.durham.sch.uk/</a>	Child Protection with Safeguarding Policy	Relatively comprehensive, links to government guidance from 2021 and 2015, missing 2023 guidance	"Extremism is the vocal or active opposition to our fundamental values, including democracy, the	"Terrorism is an action that endangers or causes serious violence to a person/people; causes serious damage to property; or	"Radicalisation refers to the process by which a person comes to support terrorism and extremist ideologies	"Through discussion with the specialist colleagues at Durham Constabulary it may be appropriate to make a referral	Policy: Fundamental British Values (2021): <a href="https://www.acletclose.durham.sch.uk/wp-content/uploads/sites/190/2021">https://www.acletclose.durham.sch.uk/wp-content/uploads/sites/190/2021</a>	Missing 2023 guidance Uses government definitions Does not use the new definition of extremism



## THE PREVENT DUTY



### Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015

1. Staff training
2. Referrals
3. Risk Assessment
4. British Values

## DISCUSSION

- Lack of individual risk assessments. This is essential to ensure that the nuanced threat of terrorism is accounted for.
- Limited detail regarding the teaching of British Values
- Schools not using the new definition of extremism, or having no definitions at all
- Use of identical policy documents provided by an external company
- Most schools do have a comprehensive Prevent policy, but the government could improve their guidance on specific definitions, teaching of British Values, and the monitoring of school policies would improve Prevent as a counter-terrorism policy

Sources:

The Prevent Duty in Education, Lee Jerome 2020  
Prevent Duty Guidance, UK Government 2023