



# FYLING HALL SCHOOL

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## **Parental Guide to Keeping Children and Young People Safe From Radicalisation and Extremism**

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The radicalisation and resulting extremist behaviour of young people is a very real concern in modern society. This leaflet sets out information to try to help parents keep their children safe and explains how they should respond if they have a concern. If you would like any further advice or information then please contact the school to arrange a meeting with the appropriate person.

### **Why might a young person be drawn towards extremist ideologies?**

- They may be searching for answers to questions about identity, faith and belonging.
- They may be driven by the desire for 'adventure' and excitement.
- They may be driven by a need to raise their self-esteem and promote their 'street cred'.
- They may be drawn to a group or individual who can offer identity, social network and support.
- They may be influenced by world events and a sense of grievance resulting in a need to make a difference.

## **How might this happen?**

### **On-line**

The internet provides entertainment, connectivity and interaction. Children may need to spend a lot of time on the internet while studying and they use other social media and messaging sites such as Facebook, Youtube, Twitter, Instagram, Vine or Whatsapp. These can be useful tools but we need to be aware there are powerful programmes and networks that use these media to reach out to young people and can communicate extremist messages.

### **Peer Interaction**

Young people at risk may display extrovert behaviour, start getting into trouble at school or on the streets and mixing with other children who behave badly but this is not always the case.

Sometimes those at risk may be encouraged, by the people they are in contact with, not to draw attention to themselves. As part of some forms of radicalisation parents may feel their child's behaviour seems to be improving: children may become quieter and more serious about their studies; they may dress more modestly and mix with a group of people that seem to be better behaved than previous friends.

### **TV and media**

The media provide a view on world affairs. However, this is often a very simple version of events which are in reality very complex. Therefore children may not understand the situation fully or appreciate the dangers involved in the views of some groups.

## **Recognising Extremism – signs may include:**

- Out of character changes in dress, behaviour and peer relationships.
- Secretive behaviour.
- Losing interest in friends and activities.
- Showing sympathy for extremist causes.
- Glorifying violence
- Possessing illegal or extremist literature

- Advocating messages similar to illegal organisations such as “Muslims Against Crusades” or other non-proscribed extremist groups such as the English Defence League

## **How can You Support Your Child?**

- Know where your child is, who they are with and check this for yourself.
- Know your child’s friends and their families.
- Keep lines of communication open, listen to your child and talk to them about their interests.
- Encourage them to take up positive activities with local groups that you can trust.
- Talk to your child about what they see on the TV or the internet and explain that what they see or read may not be the whole picture.
- Allow and encourage debate and questioning on local and world events and help them see different points of view.
- Encourage your child to show an interest in the local community and show respect for people from all faiths and backgrounds.
- Help your child to understand the dangers of becoming involved in situations about which they may not have the full information.
- Teach them that expressing strong views and trying to change things for the better is fine but they should not take violent action against others or support those that do.
- Be aware of your child’s on-line activity and update your own Knowledge.
- Know what social media and messaging sites your child uses.
- Remind your child that people they contact over the internet may be pretending to be someone else or telling them things that are not true.

**Explain that anyone who tells them to keep secrets from their family or teachers is likely to be trying to do them harm or put them in danger.**

## Reporting concerns

- Anti Terrorist Hotline: **0800 789 321**
- Crime stoppers: **0800 555 111**
- Relevant Police force: **101**
- [www.gov.uk/report-suspicious-activity-to-mi5](http://www.gov.uk/report-suspicious-activity-to-mi5)
- [www.gov.uk/report-terrorism](http://www.gov.uk/report-terrorism)
- <https://www.gov.uk/terrorism-national-emergency/reporting-suspected-terrorism>

For further advice you can contact the North Yorkshire Safeguarding Children Board by using the following link:

<http://www.safeguardingchildren.co.uk/appendix-2.html>

## Further Sources of Support and Information

Please feel free to contact us if you have a concern. We can arrange for you to talk to the Headmaster or the Schools Designated Safeguarding Lead who is responsible for Safeguarding and Welfare. We will be able to help and can access support for you and your child.

### Useful websites:

[www.internetmatters.org](http://www.internetmatters.org)

This website has lots of information, advice and resources which can be used to help children stay safe online.

[www.ceop.gov.uk](http://www.ceop.gov.uk)

CEOP works with child protection partners across the UK and overseas to identify the main threats to children and coordinates activity against these threats to bring offenders to account, protecting children from harm online and offline.

[www.bbc.co.uk/webwise](http://www.bbc.co.uk/webwise)

Information and support for safe use of the internet.

### For more advice on cyber safety visit:

[www.childline.org.uk](http://www.childline.org.uk)

[www.cybersmile.org](http://www.cybersmile.org)

[www.childnet.com](http://www.childnet.com)

### Help and advice

- Encourage positive outlets for your child's energies. Sports, clubs, hobbies, they all provide identity and a sense of community. It's just a case of finding the right one.
- Allow open and honest discussion. Young people are naturally curious. Stopping discussion about extremism, radicalisation and terrorism is only likely to make it more interesting to your child.

### If you have concerns

If you have concerns about your child relating to extremism and radicalisation, you can receive support and advice from your local police by telephoning 101. They will treat the matter with total confidence and will do all they can to help to prevent your child turning to behaviour that breaks the law.

You can also contact us on 01600 891 548 for free, confidential advice.

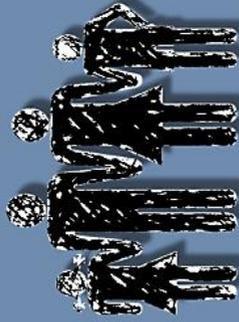
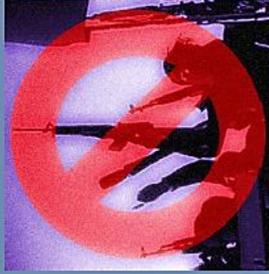


# Extremism & Radicalisation

## PREVENTING TERRORISM



Prevention is better than cure



### Help and further advice

What can you do if you feel that your child's behaviour crosses the line into extremism?

- Talk to your child
- Encourage others that they look up to such as friends and family to talk to them
- Get help from school – they have trained Child Protection Officers who understand these issues
- Contact a specialist organisation

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## Introduction

As a parent you may be worried about how extremism and radicalisation might affect your child.

We have put together this leaflet to help you understand more about extremism and radicalisation, and how you can deal with these issues.

## Who are we?

Victims Ltd is a training and consultancy company specialising in tackling extremism and radicalisation.

We work with schools and colleges throughout the UK to help make sure that people have a better understanding of the dangers of young people becoming involved with violent extremism.

For free, confidential advice about these issues, please call us on 01600 891 548.

## What are extremism and radicalisation?

Any idea can be taken to an extreme, but the type of extremism that this leaflet looks at is when ideas and opinions lead on to violence.

We often hear on the news of young people that have been radicalised and drawn into terrorist groups, but what does that mean? In simple terms radicalisation is the process of someone developing extremist views.

## Should I be worried?

Despite the high levels of media attention given to these issues, the chances of them affecting you as a parent are very low.

It is important to remember that the most people will never support terrorism and that the amount of young people that become involved in violent extremism is very small.



Talk to someone if you have concerns.

## What is the government doing about extremism and radicalisation?

The government recently introduced a law to make it compulsory for places such as schools and hospitals to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism.

This means that frontline staff are working hard to ensure that young people are protected from extremism and radicalisation.

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## What to look out for

You know your child better than anyone else, and are best placed to notice any changes in their behaviour. Talk to someone if you have concerns. (See over the page for who to talk to.)

It is the job of everyone to prevent the radicalisation of young people. Parents, teachers, friends and family all have a part to play in making sure that extremist ideas are challenged.

Unfortunately, there isn't a checklist of what makes someone become an extremist, every individual is unique.

## Remember

- Young people want to push the boundaries. They are searching for an identity in a confusing world.
- Encouraging young people to learn about and understand alternative points of view is an essential role of a parent.

Preventing people from

# RADICALISATION

is a TEAM EFFORT



Tackling

# EXTREMISM

is a TEAM EFFORT

