

LINK ACADEMY TRUST

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SAFEGUARDING NEWSLETTER

Dear Parent/Carer,

This is to introduce the Trust's first Safeguarding Newsletter for parents. We will produce these termly for you and future issues will comprise of a simple 2-sided sheet.

The information is designed to familiarise you with the most recent safeguarding concerns that are being faced by all schools. The Link Academy Trust is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and we will continue to provide materials for parents and carers outlining how schools, the Health Service, Police, Social Care and parents can work together to keep children safe. It is key to remember that safeguarding children is everyone's responsibility.

All of the Trust's safeguarding policies and procedures are available on our website and we encourage all parents to view these documents to get an understanding of how our schools continue to keep children safe.

If you are concerned about a child or young person in Devon, and want to speak to someone, contact the MASH (Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub) on 0345 155 1071 and give as much information as you can. Please see MASH information below.

Parents can also access confidential support and advice through, Child line 0800 1111

If you have any safeguarding questions in regards to the links included in the newsletter, or have questions about our safeguarding procedures, please do not hesitate to contact me directly.

Tony Callcut
Executive Principal – Link Academy Trust



Safeguarding Our Children

Where to go for more information

Contact the school

If you have any questions or concerns about the Prevent strategy and what it means for your child, please do not hesitate to contact the school.

See our Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy, available on the Trust and School websites for more details about radicalisation and safeguarding pupils

External sources

The following sources may also be useful for further information:

Revised prevent duty guidance for England and Wales, HM Government (Adobe pdf file)

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/445977/3799_Revised_Prevent_Duty_Guidance_England_Wales_V2-Interactive.pdf

The Prevent duty: advice for schools and childcare providers, GOV.UK – DfE (Adobe pdf file)

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/439598/prevent-duty-departmental-advice-v6.pdf

What is Prevent?, Let's Talk About It

<http://www.ltai.info/what-is-prevent/>



The Prevent strategy

What is the Prevent strategy?

Prevent is a government strategy designed to stop people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorist or extremist causes.

The Prevent strategy covers all types of terrorism and extremism, including political and religious extremism.

How does the Prevent strategy apply to schools?

From July 2015 all schools (as well as other organisations) have a duty to safeguard children from radicalisation and extremism.

This means schools have a responsibility to protect children from extremist and violent views, in the same way we protect them from drugs or gang violence.

Importantly, schools can provide a safe place for pupils to discuss these issues so that they better understand how to protect themselves.

What does this mean in practice?

Different schools will carry out the Prevent duty in different ways, depending on the age of the children and the needs of the community.

Many of the things we already do in school to help children become positive, happy members of society also contribute to the Prevent strategy.

These include:

- *Exploring other cultures and religions and promoting diversity*
- *Challenging prejudices and racist comments*
- *Developing critical thinking skills and a strong, positive self-identity*
- *Promoting the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils, as well as British values such as democracy*
- *Protecting children from the risk of radicalisation, such as using filters on the internet and vetting visitors who come into school to work with pupils*

Frequently Asked Questions

How does Prevent relate to British values?

Schools have been required to promote British values since 2014, and this will continue to be part of the response to the Prevent strategy.

British values include:

- Democracy
- The rule of law
- Individual liberty and mutual respect
- Tolerance of different faiths and beliefs

Isn't my child too young to learn about extremism?

The Prevent strategy is not just about discussing extremism itself, which may not be appropriate for younger children. It is also about teaching children values such as tolerance and mutual respect.

Schools should make sure any discussions are suitable for the age and maturity of the children involved.

Is extremism really a risk in our area?

Extremism can take many forms, including political, religious and ideological extremism. Some of these may be a bigger threat in our area than others.

The intention is to give children the skills to protect them from any extremist views they may encounter, now or later in their lives.

KEY TERMS

Extremism – vocal or active opposition to fundamental British values such as democracy, the rule of law and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs

Ideology – a set of beliefs

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, and is intended to advance a political, religious or ideological cause

Explore sites and apps together

Talk about what might be OK for children of different ages. Ask your child what sites or apps they like. Write a list, and look at them together.

Be positive about what you see, but also be open about concerns you have: "I think this site's really good" or "I'm a little worried about things I've seen here".

Talk to your child about what you think is appropriate – but also involve them in the conversation. Ask what they think is OK for children of different ages – they'll feel involved in the decision-making.

Be aware that your child might talk about friends who use apps or visit sites that you've decided aren't suitable. Be ready to discuss your reasons, but recognise that they may not agree with you. Listen carefully for the reasons why.

Go through a final list of sites you both agree are OK, and work out when you'll next discuss it.



Online Safety

What are parental controls?

Parental controls are software and tools which you can install on phones or tablets, games consoles or laptops – and even your home broadband.

You can also use them to help you block or filter the content your child sees when searching online. And family-friendly public WiFi can help when you're out and about.

Parental controls are also available to help you to:

- plan what time of day your child can go online and how long for
- stop them from downloading apps they're too young for
- manage the content different members of the family can see.

So whatever your child is doing online, there's a way that you can help keep them safe.

What are the risks of online games?

- **Children may view inappropriate or upsetting content** if they play games that aren't suitable for their age. This could include sexual or violent material. It might be in-game content or produced by other players.
- **Some players can be abusive towards others** or try to exclude them from the game. Some players may also hack another user's account or try to steal and destroy their virtual possessions. This can be as upsetting for a young person as if it happened in real life.
- **Children may play with adults they don't know.** People of all ages play games. Some adults may exploit this and try to build an emotional connection with a child for the purpose of grooming.
- **Some children may find it hard to stop playing games** or find that gaming is getting the way of them doing other activities.

Help your kids stay safe online.
Work as a **TEAM**



Useful Links

Follow this link if you want to know more about protecting your child from abuse on-line:

<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/>

The following site gives very good information for parents from the Devon Safeguarding Board

<http://www.devonsafeguardingchildren.org/parents-carers/>

DFE – Child Sexual Exploitation Guidance

Anti Bullying Alliance

CEOP Police

National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children

NSPCC Online Safety

