

Keeping our children safe - The Prevent Strategy

Please find information on this Government strategy; the Prevent strategy covers all types of terrorism and extremism, including political, religious and misogynistic extremism. Some of these may be a bigger threat in Hereford than others e.g. the far right groups.

Schools are required to teach the children the skills they need to protect themselves from such behaviours or any extreme views that they may encounter, now or later in life. Recognising extremism - signs may include:

- Out of character changes in behaviour and peer relationships; losing interest in activities, friends and family
- Glorifying violence, both in words and actions; making extreme racist, threatening and 'religious' comments
- Having fixed extreme but simplistic views; a black and white view of the world

We talk to the children about this strategy in school. Our main focus is around the value of mutual respect, which we hold dear. The school makes sure any discussions are suitable for the age of the children. You will find more details in our 'Promoting Welfare and Wellbeing by Preventing Extremism and Radicalisation Policy', available on the school's website.

Supporting children to stay safe

- **Know where your child is; who they are with and check this for yourself; know their friends**
- **Keep technology (phones, tablets, laptops) where you can see what they are accessing. Who do they connect with online? Where do they go online? What do they do online? Let's learn from the loss of Breck Bednar and other children.**
- Keep communication open, listen to your child and talk to them about their interests
- Encourage positivity towards all groups of people that you can trust
- Encourage the view that everyone's identity is multifaceted. It is OK to be many things: a stamp collector, a Welsh person, a Muslim, a daughter, a male dancer...
- Encourage a balanced understanding of world events and issues/ help them to see both sides of a debate.

Real risks for our children. *Some of our children share that they have access to technology in their bedrooms and that they are accessing material online that has age inappropriate content. This can cause them to worry and lose an element of their childhood that cannot be regained - an image, whether violent or sexualised, cannot be removed from a child's mind easily. *Some are viewing pranks on You Tube that are dangerous/potentially fatal. The Digital Parenting magazine that is issued periodically, has very helpful tips for computer gaming and healthy use of the Internet.

Keeping safe while out and about. PC Chris Lea (our Youth Engagement Officer) advises reinforcing the messages of: * 'The Green Cross Code' * not 'hanging around' outside MacDonalds which has become a magnet for anti-social behaviour and pranking *Class 6 children being with at least one other friend where possible especially in a park (incidents have taken place in the Central Avenue park, the park south of the river near Oak Crescent, the park behind the Courtyard) * younger children being accompanied by an adult or trustworthy teenage sibling (looking after a little one is a big responsibility) * avoiding alleys * always walking on the inside of a pavement rather than kerbside * not approaching cars if asked for directions * not accepting things from strangers (legal highs have been offered with dangerous consequences and 'grooming') * questioning why an adult or teenager would befriend a younger child * if they get frightened

while out and about (or lost) approaching a shopkeeper or police officer * If in trouble, a person can make a 999 call even if they do not have credit on their phone etc. If you have questions about any of the above, please do not hesitate to ask us.

PREVENT Leaflet for the children of St Thomas Cantilupe Church of England Primary School

What is the PREVENT strategy?

PREVENT is a Government strategy designed to teach us how to keep safe in the community, in the same way we teach you road safety, stranger awareness...

A small number of people in the world have extreme views that ignore **OUR VALUES**. They sometimes use violence or bullying to make themselves known. This is known as terrorism. We can protect ourselves from radicalisation or being radicalised, which is when a group of people try to encourage others to support extreme causes, such as the 'far right' groups, or terrorism.

We already protect ourselves by learning about, practising and **celebrating OUR VALUES**:

Individual freedom and mutual respect. We have the right to feel safe and loved. Give respect - Expect respect. We actively promote respectful relationships.

Democracy - We believe that everyone has an equal voice; everyone has the right to be listened to and their opinion respected. We value the contribution made by each and every one of you.

Rules and Laws - We are taught the difference between right and wrong, why we have laws, how they protect us and what happens when these laws are broken.

Tolerance of different nationalities, ethnicities, faiths and beliefs - We are proud to promote and celebrate our different backgrounds; we welcome diversity. We will always challenge racist or prejudiced comments.

At St Thomas Cantilupe School, we promote our additional **VALUES** each month, all of which emphasise the **VALUES** of our society: kindness, compassion, honesty, trustworthiness, responsibility, forgiveness...

In partnership with your parents, we are helping you to become positive, happy, respectful members of the community. We teach you that we are all equal and have a right to be free from discrimination regardless of race, gender or sexuality. We teach you to treat others as you would like to be treated. We encourage you to be the best you can possibly be, to know that you are special with unique qualities and to be strong and courageous in your own understanding of what is right and wrong.

If anyone tries to make you do anything that makes you feel uncomfortable or worried, **DO NOT DO IT AND TALK TO SOMEONE IN YOUR NETWORK** - to your parents/ guardians, a school adult, family member or other trusted adult.