

Prevent and Radicalisation: E-Safety Statement

The UK Safer Internet Centre identified (November 2014) unprecedented online threats posed to children and young people across the UK from radicalisation and extremism. This action follows discussions with colleagues at Home Office and DfE and in the same way that the Government have raised the threat level, this bulletin aims to mirror this heightening of concern particularly with regards to children and young people.

The threats we are told take many forms, not only the high profile incidents of those travelling to countries such as Syria and Iraq to fight, but on a much broader perspective also. The internet, in particular social media, is being used as a channel, not only to promote and engage, but also as the Director of GCHQ recently suggested, as a command structure.

Often this promotion glorifies violence, attracting and influencing many people including children and in the extreme cases, radicalising them. Extremism also includes Far Right extremism. Research concludes that children can be trusting and not necessarily appreciate bias that can lead to them being drawn into these groups and adopt these extremist views, and in viewing this shocking and extreme content may become normalised to it. This threat is not just from groups, such as Islamic State, but from 'Far Right' groups also.

The UK schools, the Government say, are perhaps more familiar with this 'grooming' process and the risks posed to children by older young people and adults who form relationships with children to ultimately abuse them – the process is similar and exploits the same vulnerabilities.

It is for this reason that Government requested that Mount St Mary's College and staff -

- Consider and discuss the threats from radicalisation and extremism here at College
- Include the conclusions in our plans, ensuring that addressing Radicalisation is effectively embedded in safeguarding practice
- That a PREVENT coordinator at College is highlighted
- Consider how the threat of Radicalisation through the Internet and Social Media is being addressed
- Review how the above points are being addressed and their success/effectiveness
- Review e-safety education in the light of these widening and extreme risks

The Government's Prevent Strategy and resources are well established and in many places well-coordinated, however this is not necessarily the case everywhere. The UK Safer Internet Centre who Mount St Mary's considers guidance from, assists all schools to ensure that these risks and threats are considered for every child, right across the country, including places that have traditionally seen themselves as not being at risk because the Internet does not recognise these places. Neither should we.

For more information on PREVENT we monitor and update ourselves via:-

<https://www.gov.uk/government/policies/protecting-the-uk-against-terrorism/supporting-pages/prevent>

Prevent and Radicalisation: E-Safety Statement

For information about the Home Office's radicalisation awareness training product, we engage with:- Workshop to Raise Awareness of Prevent (WRAP) email WRAP@homeoffice.x.gsi.gov.uk

If you have a concern about a child or young person in respect of extremism and the support options are not available locally, we like all schools engage with our LSCB police representative who will discuss support options.

To report suspected online terrorist content we report to:-

<https://www.gov.uk/report-terrorism>

We can also refer content of concern directly to social media platforms – at -

<http://www.saferinternet.org.uk/advice-and-resources/teachers-and-professionals/safety-features>