

EXTREME DIALOGUE.ORG

About Extreme Dialogue

Launched in the UK July 2016, the **Extreme Dialogue** project aims to reduce the appeal of extremism among young people and offer a positive alternative to the increasing amounts of extremist material and propaganda available online. A series of short documentary films tell the stories of those profoundly affected by violent extremism, and are accompanied by a set of open access educational resources which can be found at www.extremedialogue.org.

Extreme Dialogue and the Prevent duty

Extreme Dialogue is geared towards enabling teachers to fulfil their statutory obligations, known as the 'Prevent duty', to protect children from the risk of radicalisation, in addition to other harms including drugs, gangs, abuse or sexual exploitation. We aim to support teachers by providing resources that allow them to confidently fulfil the Prevent duty in a proactive, positive and innovative way.

Extreme Dialogue is intended to build pupils' resilience to extremism through creating a safe space for debating controversial issues and enhanced critical thinking, one of the core objectives of the Prevent strategy in schools. Our resource pack allows teachers to create a safe and open classroom environment for discussion, where pupils can develop an understanding of the risks and ideas associated with terrorism. They encourage pupils to debate and challenge extremist ideologies and arguments through structured 'counter-narrative' exercises. This is to develop the critical thinking skills required to independently assess and challenge extremist ideas for themselves, through a balanced presentation of these issues.

In addition to building pupils' critical thinking skills, Prevent also requires teachers to be aware of the possible risks that may affect young people regarding online extremist recruitment and propaganda through social media. Our 'questioning and exploration' exercises are intended to foster digital literacy skills by encouraging pupils to consider what information to trust and how to respond to any pressures that may arise online. This is to develop effective ways of independently identifying and managing difficult situations so that pupils can protect themselves while using the internet and social media platforms.

Prevent also encourages the building of resilience to radicalisation through the promotion of fundamental British values. Our 'moral reasoning' and 'what could you do?' exercises encourage pupils to identify core values and shared beliefs, and to draw on these values to influence decision-making and actively create positive change in the community and wider society.

As well as encouraging schools to be safe spaces in which young people can understand, discuss and address sensitive topics, Prevent requires an awareness of the risks of radicalisation and the ability to identify any pupils that may be considered vulnerable. Extreme Dialogue is a preventative project that is not intended to turn somebody already down the path of radicalisation around. However, by encouraging a deeper understanding of violent extremism and its roots, as well as evaluating why individuals become motivated to join extreme groups, we encourage teachers to foster the knowledge and confidence needed to be able to effectively protect those under their duty of care from harm.

For more information about the Extreme Dialogue project please visit www.extremedialogue.org or contact us via info@extremedialogue.org.



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