



Department
for Education

Department for Education response to Islamic Human Rights Commission's email on the implementation of the Prevent duty in schools

The Islamic Human Rights Commission (IHRC) has recently circulated an email to a large number of schools containing advice on the implementation of the Prevent duty. This advice contains a number of inaccuracies and misleading statements. The IHRC is a campaigning organisation and we do not believe that it reflects the views of ordinary parents.

We have seen the devastating impact radicalisation can have on individuals, families and communities. That is why we introduced the Prevent duty, and why we are clear that keeping children safe from the risk of radicalisation should be seen as part of schools' wider safeguarding duties.

We trust schools to take appropriate steps to keep children safe from all types of safeguarding risks in line with their published child protection policies. Whenever they are concerned about a child's welfare, they must act in the child's best interests. This will of course mean building effective relationships with parents, and schools should discuss any safeguarding concerns in relation to radicalisation with a child's parents unless they have specific reason to believe that to do so would put the child at risk.

The general principles that schools should follow are set out in *Keeping Children Safe in Education*.

(https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/447595/KCSIE_July_2015.pdf). Each school has its own child protection policy describing the procedures which will be followed when concerns arise about a pupil which will be freely available to all parents. .

The government has also issued advice to schools on implementing the Prevent duty:

- **Prevent Duty Guidance for England and Wales:** statutory guidance for specified authorities in England and Wales on the duty in the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 to have due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism:
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:** Departmental advice for schools and childcare providers:
https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/439598/prevent-duty-departmental-advice-v6.pdf

Contrary to the assertion in the IHRC email, the government consulted extensively on the statutory guidance.

Further advice on the practical steps schools can take when implementing the Prevent duty is also available on the Educate Against Hate website:
www.educateagainsthate.com