



Kent and Medway, Prevent Education Officer Newsletter

October 2021

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We hope this newsletter finds you well.

The beginning of term has been very busy, and we have lots to report on in this newsletter. It has been great to see so many staff in person during our Prevent training sessions. We are currently taking bookings for training in all areas. Please get in touch if you would like any further information on the training we can offer. Our training really focuses on the local context to help staff see the relevance of Prevent in their setting.

The Home Office e-learning resource is also a good way for staff to get a basic understanding of Prevent or a refresher. You can access the resource [here](#)

[Free Staff Training](#)

We are very pleased to be able to offer you the opportunity to engage with some interesting online workshops from specialist partners. Sessions are offered free of charge and spaces are limited. These sessions will benefit all school staff working directly with young people. Please book using the links provided below.

[Fake News, Conspiracy Theory and Truth](#)

These two-hour online workshops are for teachers and other professionals supporting children and young people in schools. The workshop is hosted by the Kent and Medway Prevent education team and delivered by Connect Futures.

[About this workshop](#)

Date: 20 October **Time:** 09:30 to 11:30 or 13:00 to 15:00 **Platform:** Microsoft teams

Audience: The session addresses adults/professionals on the increasingly complex and sensitive topic, tackling perceptions around fake news, conspiracy theories, Incels and extremism, and how to support young people (and each other) to build

resilience to fake news, conspiracy theory and related extremist ideologies.

How? Participants are encouraged to question and critically engage on the topic of fake news, conspiracy theories, Incels and extremism on and offline, and how perception may be manipulated. Signposting around next steps is included in this impactful workshop. Deepens knowledge, focuses on practical tools, and builds confidence in a safe space using interactive and engaging content.

Learning outcomes: Hate: Extreme or radical? Real or Fake News? Conspiracy Theories, *Incels* and Manipulation, Gaming & Deep Fakes, navigating social/media and Responding to extremism online Practical tools.

Post session: Certificate and (free) access to the online portal. **We will provide you with** free online access to our web-portal after the workshop (once you've individually completed the feedback form) which will contain further resources and a certificate.

Booking

Session 1:

20.10.21 | KENT | Fake News (Professionals) | 09:30 -11:30

Session 2:

20.10.21 | KENT | Fake News (Professionals) | 13:00 -15:00

Working with Young People on Controversial Issues

These online workshops are for teachers and other professionals supporting children and young people in schools. The workshop is hosted by the Kent and Medway Prevent education team and delivered by Equaliteach.

About this workshop

Dates: 23 November **or** 1 December **or** 27 January **Duration:** 2 hours

These live sessions online session provides educators with the skills, knowledge and confidence to explore controversial topics with young people. The sessions aim is to explore the importance of opening conversations with young people on controversial issues. Creating a “safe space” for young people to be able to discuss thoughts and feelings is an essential tool in tackling extremist narrative.

Participants are supported to:

- Explore why it is important to open up conversations about controversial issues with young people
- Look at the statutory duties on schools with regards to this work, including the duty to promote Fundamental British Values and the Prevent duty

- Undertake conversations with young people about controversial issues
- Explore how to effectively challenge prejudice and stereotypes to create positive change

Booking

Session 1:

23.11.21 | Working with Young People on Controversial Issues | 16:00 -18:00

Session 2:

01.12.21 | Working with Young People on Controversial Issues | 09:00 -11:00

Session 3:

27.1.22 | Working with Young People on Controversial Issues | 12:30 -14:30

Please note spaces are limited per setting.

New Resource to tackle online extremism “Going Too Far”

Going Too Far is a new resource jointly developed by the Department for Education and London Grid for Learning that aims to promote critical thinking and build resilience in young people to extremism and online harms. Using recent case studies, and with discussion points built in, this interactive resource helps young people explore the techniques used by extremists and evaluate digital content, understand positive choices about who/what is trustworthy online, challenge extremist narratives and consider the consequences of their actions online.

The resource and all materials are free and can be used in short sessions directly with students. You can access the resource here: [Going Too Far? \(lgfl.org.uk\)](http://lgfl.org.uk)

A practical resource for teachers to empower young people to:

- recognise examples of extremist behaviour and content online
- understand actions which could be identified as criminal activity
- explore techniques used for persuasion and build resilience through critical thinking
- access support from trusted individuals and organisations

Each section includes:

- starter videos featuring experts or case studies
- scenario-based activities to promote discussion and reflection
- guidance to facilitate discussions in an age-appropriate way and consolidate learning



Incel Ideology

In August 2021 the term Incel was in the headlines following the tragic murders of five people in Plymouth. Incel culture is deep rooted in misogyny and a hatred towards women and girls. Schools can play a vital role in addressing and challenging these attitudes and behaviours.



In September 2021, the London Grid for Learning ran a live briefing session for safeguarding leads to provide an overview of Incels and the manosphere. You can access the session [here](#) and find out more about why building awareness of these online communities and the risks they can pose should be a key part of your approach to safeguarding the children and young people in your setting.

The following two articles in the [TES](#) and [Guardian](#) provide further insight and information about these subcultures and why all teachers need to be aware of them.

20 Years since 9/11



September marked the 20th anniversary of the 9/11 attacks. Educate Against Hates latest blog, SINCE 9/11's looks at [why 9/11 is relevant to schoolchildren in the UK today](#), and how teachers can use SINCE 9/11's new education resources to promote tolerance and respect click [here](#) to access a range of free resources and guidance to assist with teaching controversial issues in schools.

New App to report disturbing online content

The iREPORTit app is now live, the app allows people to refer worrying or disturbing content to the CTIRU (Counter Terrorism Internet Referral Unit) easily, effectively and, anonymously.

There should be no safe space for terrorists online – the CTIRU (Counter Terrorism Internet Referral Unit) have a team of specially trained officers who can assess each referral and take appropriate action including referring to other related teams if needed. This FREE app can be downloaded here: [Apple App Store](#) [Google Play Store](#).



News Stories

- <https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/crime/neo-nazi-terror-attacks-uk-cronjager-b1913803.html>
- <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/09/08/parenting/online-hate-groups-kids.html>
- <https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/sexual-violence-uk-far-right-b1927766.html>

Making a Referral

The National Prevent Referral form is to be used for all referrals. You can find the form [here](#)

- Once completed the form should be emailed directly to prevent.referrals@kent.pnn.police.uk

Please ensure you include all known information and provide as much detail as possible about the person you are referring. Ensure all narratives are recorded verbatim regardless of the upsetting nature of the content. Please get in touch with your PEO if you would like to discuss any aspect of the referral.

Engaging parents

It is important that you engage parents in the referral process wherever possible. Making a referral should be a transparent process to make sure parents are well informed as to the safeguarding aims of Prevent. Best practice would be to discuss your concerns with the parents and advise that Prevent is a safeguarding process that may look at interventions to assist their child. This is subject to case-by-case risk assessment.

Engagement in the Channel Process

Once a referral has been submitted you may be contacted by one of the KCC Channel Coordinators. It is essential that the DSL or Headteacher engages with the process and responds to the information gathering requests that are sent out. This is to ensure that vital information is established to enable the referral to potentially be discussed at the Channel Panel. If your attendance is requested at the Panel, it is imperative that you attend. This is a partnership process, and as the referrer your input is key to Panel understanding the risks and vulnerabilities an individual may pose to themselves or others.

https://www.elearning.prevent.homeoffice.gov.uk/channel_awareness/01-welcome.html

We hope you have found the information in this newsletter helpful. If you have any feedback or suggestions for future Newsletters, please get in touch.

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