



Safeguarding

**GEORGE
SALTER
ACADEMY**

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Bulletin

Welcome to the second issue of GSA's Safeguarding Bulletin.

This issue is intended to remind all staff about our Prevent Duty. It is vital that we do not see our training as a "one off", and that we support each other in being able to tackle this area with confidence.

If you have any questions following reading this issue, please do not hesitate to contact me on Ext 257, my email (richard.reeve@georgesalter.com) or via my office (Academy reception).

Best wishes,

Richard.

Prevent Duty

An important part of the Prevent strategy is for teachers/staff within schools to feel comfortable in managing discussions about controversial subjects and therefore encouraging the development of pupils' critical thinking skills. To be able to do this it would be helpful if you had some stock phrases or model answers to questions that pupils may ask you. The questions and answers below are by no means exhaustive but it will provide a solid platform for you to engage with pupils in greater confidence knowing that other staff will be giving the same responses.

What is Prevent ?

Prevent is one of the four elements of CONTEST—the government's counter-terrorism strategy. The other three are Pursue, Prepare and Protect.

What is terrorism ?

Terrorism is a violent act designed to bring about a change in the law, a culture or in a political system. It is carried out to intimidate governments and people so they change the way they think or act.

The Prevent Duty - Key Questions Continued...

Who gets involved in terrorism ?

A terrorist can come from any background, any community or any religion. They can be young, old, male, female, rich or poor. They have a view that terrorism is an acceptable way of changing how others think or behave.

If somebody has an extreme beliefs are they a terrorist ?

No. Having extreme beliefs or thoughts is not a crime. Using unlawful force or threats to support a belief or way of thinking is a crime.

Why do people become terrorists ?

There are many reasons why somebody might do this. They may feel they are defending their culture or way of life, they may have a lack of identity and want something to believe in, they may have been encouraged to be violent by others or they may have been led to believe that terrorism will bring respect, riches and glory. However angry you feel though, to attack another person, community or city is completely wrong.

What does IS/ISIS/Daesh/ISIL stand for ?

IS—Islamic State ISIS— Islamic State of Iraq and al-Sham ISIL—Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant

Daesh— Daesh is an acronym for the Arabic phrase al-Dawla al-Islamiya al-Iraq al-Sham. Essentially, it's another word for ISIS - but apparently one that ISIS militants do not favour. Why? Because it is similar to the Arabic words 'Daes', 'one who crushes something underfoot' and 'Dahes', translated as 'one who sows discord'.

Test yourself—what would you do in the following scenario ?

A girl in your class tells you she is really excited about the upcoming school holiday as she is going abroad with her father. She has been told she will be getting gifts and becoming a 'real woman' while she is there.

What concerns does this raise ? What questions would you ask ? What would your course of action be ?

If you are unsure, please come and see me to talk this through.

The Prevent Duty - Key Questions Continued...

What is the background of ISIS ?

In 2002 Abu Musab al Zarqawi founded a violent organisation called Tawhid wal-Jihad in Northern Iraq. This group became aligned with Al-Qaeda and subsequently became known as Al-Qaeda in Iraq (AQI). In 2006 AQI joined with other violent Islamic groups to form the Islamic State of Iraq (ISI) without the permission of Al-Qaeda leaders. This subsequently led to a split between the two organisations and they are now rivals—not partners. More recently the new IS leader—Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi—has formally declared the establishment of a caliphate (a state governed in accordance with Sharia Law by God’s Deputy on Earth, or Caliph). Al-Baghdadi is that Caliph.

Why is ISIS attacking Europe ?

ISIS has carried out or inspired roughly 75 terrorist attacks in 20 countries outside Syria and Iraq. This is a recent phenomenon showing that those countries who are attempting to eradicate ISIS become targets for their terrorist attacks.

What are their beliefs ?

Al-Baghdadi has declared that all Muslims across the world should swear allegiance to him and migrate to territory under ISIS control. The group has welcomed the prospect of direct confrontation with the West . ISIS like to promote themselves as providing an exciting alternative to life in the West; as creators of a powerful new state to which all Muslims have a duty to travel and their Caliphate as an ideal, utopian state where Muslims will find status and belonging.

What is the alternative view to this ?

ISIS is a terrorist organisation engaged in killing innocent men, women and children. ISIS are opposed by the majority of people in Iraq and Syria. Islamic Scholars around the world have rejected the ‘Caliphate’ and stated there is no obligation to travel there.

Is Prevent all about Islamic terrorism ?

No. The Prevent strategy is in place to encourage young people to recognise that any terrorist activity (whether it is in the name of Islamic terrorism, far right groups, animal welfare organisations etc) is wrong.

How are terrorists recruited ?

The most common method is to begin radicalising young people through social media – Twitter, Facebook, YouTube, Instagram, ASK.FM, Tumblr, WhatsApp, Kik, Surespot, Viber etc etc. These are all being used to radicalise and recruit vulnerable people. Since 2010, 95,000 pieces of terrorist content has been removed from the internet but more keeps taking its place.

How do we stop terrorism ?

The aim of the terrorist is to create panic, terror, deny safe space and to create a nerve jangling sense that they might hit any place any time. It is important therefore that we do not let this sense of fear take over. As Ken Livingstone, the London Mayor at the time of the 7/7 attacks said, “this was an indiscriminate attempt to slaughter, irrespective of any considerations for age, for class, for religion. And whatever they do, however many they kill, they will fail.”

Key Documents & Policies

Questions

Would you be able to provide the answers to the following questions ? If not, please come and have a chat with Richard Reeve to ensure you are up to speed with GSA safeguarding arrangements.

Who is the DSL and Deputy DSL at GSA ?

What is the name of the Child Protection legislation that all schools must adhere to?

Has your DSL provided you with a copy of this legislation and have you read it?

Whistleblowing Policy

You will have seen the posters around the Academy reminding you about this key document. This policy sets out the background and procedure for reporting potential fraud, misconduct or wrong-doing by Academy staff.

The following is taken from our policy:

The law provides protection for workers who raise legitimate concerns about specified matters. These are called "qualifying disclosures". A qualifying disclosure is one made in the public interest by a worker who has a reasonable belief that any of the following is being, has been, or is likely to be committed:

- a criminal offence;
- a miscarriage of justice;
- an act creating risk to health and safety;
- an act causing damage to the environment;
- a breach of any other legal obligation; or
- concealment of any of the above;