Prevent

Information for parents and carers

NGHS is committed to providing a safe environment for all students. This leaflet explains how Prevent fits into our safeguarding work and what you can do if you are worried about your child.

What is Prevent

Prevent is part of the Government's counter-terrorism strategy. It aims to stop people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism by identifying concerns early and providing support.

Radicalisation is the process through which someone comes to support or become involved in terrorism. It can happen online or through contact with others in everyday life. There is no single route into radicalisation.

What does this mean for schools

Schools have a legal duty to have due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism. At NGHS, Prevent forms part of our wider safeguarding arrangements. Staff should raise concerns with the Designated Safeguarding Lead so that the student's circumstances and support needs can be considered.

What does this look like at NGHS

Our work includes:

- Using PSHE and Religion and World Views to explore beliefs, challenge prejudice and encourage respectful discussion.
- Helping students question information, recognise manipulation and make safer choices online.
- Promoting fundamental British values: democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs.
- Using appropriate internet filtering and monitoring, and checking the suitability of visiting speakers.

Can students still discuss difficult issues

Yes. Students should be able to ask questions and discuss sensitive or controversial issues in an age-appropriate, respectful setting. Political debate, religious belief or disagreement alone does not mean that a young person is being radicalised.

What might cause concern

Look at changes over time and the wider circumstances. Possible concerns include a growing justification of terrorist violence, accessing or sharing terrorist material, or contact with people encouraging involvement in terrorism.

Changes in friendships, increased secrecy online or withdrawal can have many explanations. No single behaviour proves radicalisation. If something worries you, seek advice rather than trying to decide on your own what it means.

How can I support my child at home

- Keep conversations open. Ask what your child is watching, reading and discussing, and listen calmly to their views.
- Take an interest in their social media, messaging and gaming activity. Discuss how people online may try to gain trust or influence beliefs.
- Encourage them to check sources and talk to a trusted adult if content makes them uncomfortable or promotes violence.
- Contact the school if you notice worrying changes or would like help talking something through.

Who should I contact

Please contact Mrs H Birch, Designated Safeguarding Lead, through schooloffice@nghs.org.uk. Explain that you have a safeguarding concern and ask to speak to Mrs Birch or a deputy safeguarding lead. You do not need to be certain that the concern relates to Prevent before asking for advice.

If someone is in immediate danger, call 999. Do not wait for a response from school in an emergency.

What happens if I raise a concern

We will consider the concern through our safeguarding procedures, looking at the student's circumstances and what support may help. This may include seeking advice from local safeguarding or Prevent partners. Where appropriate, a Prevent referral enables specialist assessment and consideration of support. Raising a concern does not mean that a child has committed an offence.

Where can I find more information

Government Prevent duty guidance

Department for Education guidance on safeguarding learners susceptible to radicalisation

Further information about safeguarding at NGHS is available on the school website or from the safeguarding team.