

## St Bede's School

# The Prevent Duty

## - notes for parents/carers

- From 1 July 2015 all schools have been subject to a duty under section 26 of the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015, in the exercise of their functions, to have “due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism” - this duty is known as the Prevent duty.
- In order for St Bede's School to fulfil the Prevent duty, it is essential that all of our staff are able to identify children who may be particularly vulnerable to radicalisation, and to know what to do when they are actually identified.
- Protecting children from the risk of radicalisation should be seen as part of our wider safeguarding duties, and is similar in nature to protecting children from other harms (e.g. drugs, gangs, neglect, sexual exploitation), whether these come from within their family or are the product of outside influences.
- It is important to emphasise that the Prevent duty is not intended to stop pupils debating controversial issues - on the contrary, we provide a safe space in which children and staff can understand risks associated with terrorism and develop the knowledge and skills to be able to challenge extremist arguments.
- Government and inspectorate frameworks make unambiguous reference to the need for us to have specific safeguarding arrangements in order to promote all of our pupils' welfare and prevent radicalisation and extremism.
- Parents/carers may be interested in accessing an online module called Channel General Awareness which school staff have completed - it can be found at [http://course.ncalt.com/Channel\\_General\\_Awareness/01/index.html](http://course.ncalt.com/Channel_General_Awareness/01/index.html)
- The Government has made this available in response to its counter-terrorism strategy - Channel being a key process within the Prevent strategy for assessing individuals' vulnerability to being drawn into terrorism - focussing on early intervention and diverting people away from possible risk.