

# Prevent: what English UK member centres need to know

## Guidance on the government Prevent strategy for English language teaching providers

### What is the Prevent strategy?

The Prevent strategy is a UK Government initiative to stop people becoming involved in violent extremism and/ or in supporting terrorism. As part of this scheme the Home Office have identified English language teaching (ELT) providers as potential 'soft targets' for those promoting radical views.

The Prevent strategy:

- Affects everyone, not only under 18s; all students, staff and sub-contractors (homestays)
- Is coordinated by the Home Office
- Includes
  - a) Working with local community groups to support anti-radical/terrorist attitudes
  - b) Working with educational establishments, including ELT, to reduce risk of radicalisation
  - c) Identifying and safeguarding the vulnerable, who are more likely to be drawn into extremism
  - d) Identifying and challenging those holding extremist views
  - e) Police forces/ local authorities now have Prevent staff/ co-ordinators
  - f) WRAP training (Workshop Raising Awareness of Prevent), free from police/ local authority
  - g) Channel is a multi-agency support process to try and safeguard vulnerable people, once identified, from being drawn further into extremism and criminality.
- Applies to any extremism, e.g. terrorism, racism, homophobia, right-wing ideology.

### Contents

What is the Prevent strategy? . . . . .	01
Legal obligation . . . . .	02
Compliance . . . . .	02
Fulfilling your Prevent duty . . . . .	02
Additional inspection for all ELT providers . . . . .	02
Training . . . . .	03
BIS inspection process . . . . .	03
Challenges for ELT providers . . . . .	03

# The Prevent Strategy

## Guidance for English UK member centres

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### Legal obligation

The Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 places a statutory duty on specified authorities (including colleges, schools, universities and others) to 'have due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism'

Both accredited and non-accredited ELT providers are included in the statutory duty; categorised as 'Independent Learning Providers', needing to meet the standards expected of Further Education (FE) colleges.

Statutory guidance states that the Prevent duty "is to be implemented in a proportionate and risk based way"

Updated government guidance documents for FE came into effect on 18 September 2015.

Find more details for your area using the following links:

- [England and Wales](#)
- [Scotland](#)
- Legislation does not affect Northern Ireland.

### Compliance

In the new 2016-17 handbook, Accreditation UK includes Prevent as part of Section 2.1 Legal and regulatory compliance.

It is covered in two inspection criteria

- a) M1 Providers will operate at all times in accordance with the declaration made in the 'Declaration of legal and regulatory compliance form'
- b) W4 There will be policies and procedures, known to all students and staff for dealing with abusive behaviour by staff or students (verbal abuse, harassment, bullying, actual or threatened violence, damage to personal property) or behaviour that may lead to extremist radicalisation.

### Additional inspection for all accredited and non-accredited ELT providers

- Regardless of whether members are inspected by Accreditation UK, OFSTED or ISI on their Prevent provision, they are, in addition, liable to inspection by the government Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS)
- BIS are responsible for inspecting FE provision, including 'Independent Learning Providers.'
- Inspections begin on 01 December 2015
- At least 50 Independent Learning Providers will be inspected per year.

### Fulfilling your Prevent duty

In order to meet your Prevent duties, ELT providers must:

- Have leadership from the top. Therefore owners/ principals/ chief executives will need training and to be aware of Prevent duty
- Identify a single point of contact, a Prevent lead (often a member of safeguarding staff)
- Engage with local authority/ local police Prevent staff; a go-to person outside the provider
- Prepare a risk assessment/ action plan document (see template)
- Undertake training (see following sub-section)
- Have good welfare support and awareness that anyone may be vulnerable to extremist exploitation
- Have a Prevent policy (see sample) as well as including Prevent in safeguarding policy
- Ensure policy is implemented
- Promote core British values, detailed below, as stand-alone and, ideally, as part of the curriculum
- Ensure staff exemplify core British values and challenge inappropriate views if expressed
- Develop students' critical thinking skills to help them question extreme views (for long-stay students)
- Have a clear process of referral of concerns both within and outside the organisation
- Ensure the campus environment is one where everyone feels safe and supported (by protecting vulnerable students)
- Keep records of all training and any Prevent referrals made outside the organisation.

# The Prevent Strategy

## Guidance for English UK member centres

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### Training

Training plays a key role in helping you fulfil your Prevent duties and [free online training](#) is available from the Education and Training Foundation (an organisation that provides support for FE colleges).

Four different online courses, each with a certificate as evidence of training done, are available:

- Governors & board members
- Support staff
- Practitioners
- Leaders and managers.

Please note that any online staff training must be supported by organisation-specific face-to-face training.

Your designated Prevent lead must complete face-to-face training to gain full understanding and knowledge and thus be able to properly train staff within organisation. English UK is currently developing this training.

Regarding other members of staff, staff and homestay training should include:

- What Prevent is and understanding context
- How your organisation is meeting its Prevent duty, particularly any changes
- How to recognise vulnerable students
- What to do if concerned; reassuring them of confidentiality/ support if they report
- Core UK values to challenge extremist views (see below), including modelling those values themselves

Students and group leaders need to know:

- Terminology and the core British values
  - a) democracy
  - b) the rule of law
  - c) individual liberty
  - d) respectful tolerance of different faiths or beliefs.
- The importance of maintaining a supportive and tolerant society within the school
- Any changes in school rules, particularly relating to IT and not accessing extremist websites
- That they must report any concerns they have (about anyone) and who to report to.

### The BIS inspection process

Before their visit, your BIS inspector will:

- Review providers' websites and reports on providers from other inspecting bodies' websites, e.g. British Council or ISI, to gain background information
- Request your Prevent risk assessment/ action plan
- Inform you of the inspection visit date

Providers are expected to cooperate with inspectors; failing to produce documents requested will be noted and could lead to a negative report

During their visit, your BIS inspector will:

- Expect to meet:
  - a) CEO/ Principal or person in equivalent position
  - b) Designated staff member with Prevent responsibility
  - c) Welfare officer
  - d) Director of studies
- Select the practitioners (teachers), support staff (welfare and admin staff), students and possibly also homestays (sub-contractors) they wish to talk to
- Look at documents, observe whether policies and procedures are being followed, whether training has been done and been effective, whether an outside Prevent contact has been made
- Record evidence of promoting/ finding the opportunity to promote core British values through discussions, materials, student work, notices around school

After their visit, your BIS inspector will:

- Produce a report that will decide for each of the Prevent elements, whether the provider is:
  - a) fully compliant
  - b) partially compliant
  - c) not at all compliant.

If a provider is partially compliant, they will have an opportunity to become fully compliant (details of time limit and feedback given to help them achieve that are not known). All providers must be fully compliant by 31 March 2016 (this date to be confirmed).

If a provider is not at all compliant, a judgment will be made about whether the provider 'has the capacity for compliance'. If not the ultimate sanction is enforced closure.

# The Prevent Strategy

## Guidance for English UK member centres

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A positive and cooperative response to the BIS inspection process is very important, even if a provider is not yet compliant.

Although Prevent provision must be proportionate, there must be a risk assessment/ action plan to show why the provider is dealing with it as they are.

### Some challenges for ELT providers

Q. If working through an accommodation agency, how do providers ensure that Prevent requirements are being met and that the homestays are suitable?

A. As a minimum, update contracts with agencies to include Prevent Duty requirements.

Q. What are the extremist websites that have to be blocked? How do we know? How will we be kept up to date with any changes?

A. No answer yet to this

Q. Sometimes local police force does not have a Prevent officer, who should I contact?

A. Contact local authority or neighbouring police force for guidance

Q. What do teacher training providers need to consider?

A. Both how they make trainees aware of their Prevent obligations and how to handle themselves professionally in a classroom, i.e. not promoting any personal views

Q. How should we prepare for the possibility of a serious terrorist incident?

A. Providers need an EAP (Emergency Action Plan); how to react in the event of any serious incident, as happened during the 7/7 bombings when some providers were affected