
Islamophobia and Islamic Radicalisation in Education



The UK government has placed a legal duty on schools to have due regard for the need to prevent people being drawn into terrorism.

Whilst it is the government's intention for these efforts to become part of wider safeguarding measures in schools/colleges, there are areas of the duty that will require specialist knowledge.

The Prevent Duty

Here are seven key points from the Prevent Duty that teachers/education providers and staff need to be aware of.

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- 1 Risk assessments are the start. Understanding how and where young people can be put at risk of extremism and radicalisation is the critical first step in addressing the threat. Education providers are required to carry out risk assessments that will help them to measure the responses that they need to implement in order to protect their students.

 - 2 Policies and procedures need to be in place. As with other safeguarding concerns, system need to be put in place that show people how to respond to the risks that they identify. With the rapid evolution of extremist influence techniques it is critical that any policies and procedures that are communicated clearly, implemented are well understood and regularly reviewed.

 - 3 Staff must be appropriately trained. Developing an awareness of the Prevent strategy, how to respond to the risks, and how to identify someone at risk from extremism and radicalisation is an essential element of the duty. Staff should receive training that gives them knowledge, skills, and awareness, and those in leadership positions require additional training to ensure that they have a full grasp on the duty.

 - 4 IT access must be safe. Extremist groups make huge efforts to promote their messages through the internet and social media. Whilst freedom to access online information about the world must be given to young people, schools must ensure that they are protected from exposure to violent extremist material.

 - 5 Efforts will be monitored. In order to ensure that the new duty is being implemented in schools, Ofsted will consider the policies and procedures implemented and will look at an education provider's response mechanisms for when someone is considered to be at risk from extremism and radicalisation.

 - 6 Knowledge is the key. As is the case with implementing any new system, developing proper understanding is crucial to the overall success of the strategy. Extremism and radicalisation is a specialist field that is rapidly evolving and constantly being debated, so presenting the most relevant points for use by teachers and their leaders is critical.

 - 7 Support is available. Finally, knowing who to talk to and where to access specialist support is a critical part of the duty. Local Prevent coordinators, Police counter-terrorism units, safeguarding boards, and private organisations are all able to provide support services to an organisation's efforts.

Aims of the Training

- To gain a better understanding of the core beliefs and practices of Muslim
- To explore issues of Islamophobia and Islamic radicalisation
- To explore strategies for prevent it
- To support staff to understand the risks of radicalisation
- To explore ways to counter extremism and radicalisation
- To explore effective and sensitive ways to respond to incidents
- To action plan for improving practice around this agenda

Outcomes

By the end of the session delegates will:

- Have a better understanding of Islam and how to meet the needs and interests of Muslim Learners
- Have explored effective strategies for responding and challenging the issues
- Have a clearer understanding of their responsibilities
- Be more aware of the risks of radicalisation
- Have identified key actions they need to take to meet their responsibilities

Event Facilitator: Imran Kotwallmran - founder of Muslim Learner Services

Imran is a qualified teacher, an Ofsted additional inspector (AI) with a track record of being an outstanding classroom teacher.

He is qualified to lead Muslims in prayers and has extensive experience of teaching Islam to young people of all faiths and none.

Imran served as head of a very successful multi-faith chaplaincy team as well as being the Imam and Muslim chaplain at Salford City College.

Imran's faith and cultural awareness work has been praised in Ofsted reports and he has conducted faith based research on behalf of LSIS.

The Programme

9.30 Registration and coffee

10.00 Introduction/information sharing

10.30 Guest speaker - Tackling Islamophobia - An introduction to Islam – A detailed insight in to the core beliefs and practices of Muslims. This session will allow delegates to gain a much better understanding of Islam enabling them to challenge Islamophobia in colleges and in work based learning.

11.15 Break

11.30 Delegate activity – How can colleges and work based learning providers meet the spiritual needs and interests of their Muslim learners?

11.45 Delegate feedback

12.00 Summary of first session

12.15 Lunch

1.00 Delegates start with learning and action points (2 things you have learned so far and 2 actions you plan to take)

1.30 Guest speaker (Challenging/responding to the threat of Islamic radicalisation/extremism in education – the facts, what are the issues, what are the solutions, taking effective action)

2.00 Delegate activity (Group discussion of case studies)

2.15 Feedback

2.30 Break

2.45 Summary of the afternoon session

3.00 Action planning

3.15 Feedback

3.30 Close