

The Prevent Duty and E-safety in Worcestershire Schools

IBS Schools work closely with Safeguarding Advisors from WCC and also E-safety Consultants to ensure that the products that we develop and offer meet the current requirements of both the Safeguarding and Prevent agendas.

Recently, several Worcestershire establishments working with young people have requested reassurance regarding the level of protection, with respect to the Prevent agenda they are receiving through centrally available services. Clearly, there can be no guarantees that measures provided to protect young people are 100% effective as potential threats emerge continuously.

As the amount of terrorist and extremist content online grows daily, this document seeks to provide guidelines to establishments working with young people in Worcestershire and aid them when asked for information about the steps they are taking in reducing the risk to their users. The internet has been identified as one of the key ways that young people are recruited and conditioned to extremist causes. With the increasing threat of young people being radicalised, specified bodies such as local authorities, schools, colleges and universities among others, are expected to demonstrate activity in line with the Prevent duty to ensure those in their care are not drawn into terrorism.

The penalties for failing to demonstrate activity within the areas of risk assessment, partnership with the LSCB (Local Safeguarding Children Board), staff training and IT policies can be severe.

Establishments using IBS Schools supported Worcestershire Schools' Broadband provision are provided with filtering via **Smoothwall**.

Smoothwall protection ensures:

- Home Office terrorism block lists are used to identify potential issues
- Additions to these block lists are compiled by the Smoothwall categorisation team offering enhanced protection against terrorist and extremist content
- Block lists are updated daily

Smoothwall detection ensures:

- Built in reporting, allowing IBS Schools to monitor and report on all user access in real time
- For establishments with on-site Smoothwall installations detection can be monitored locally

Additionally, Worcestershire establishments subscribing to **Policy Central** from **Future Digital**, initially brokered by the Local Authority, have an active monitoring solution to cover all activity across their digital environment. This sits within the safeguarding arena covering all aspects of potential threats and is updated in line with current government policy and guidance, thus ensuring that all traffic across the establishment's network and outgoing from the establishment is also covered.

The latest version of Policy Central has the capability to ensure that the requirements laid out in the Prevent guidance are met, providing the relevant vocabularies have been activated. Check with your technician if you are unsure.

It is, of course, the responsibility of the individual establishment to ensure that the Policy Central Console is checked regularly, reported and any subsequent actions recorded.

An establishment's **e-safety policy** should identify all provision and procedures related to keeping children and young people safe online. An e-safety policy discussion document can be found on Edulink: www.edulink.networcs.net; Teaching and Learning; E-safety.

OFSTED will look for evidence of a clear approach to implementing the Prevent duty and keeping all learners safe from the dangers of radicalisation and extremism. Failure to provide such evidence can lead to intervention in maintained schools or termination of funding agreements in academies and free schools.

Establishments that do not use Worcestershire Schools' Broadband and/or are not Policy Central subscribers would be advised to check with their filtering and/or monitoring providers that they are receiving appropriate services to fulfil their Prevent duty.

This document was compiled by the following:

- **IBS Schools** for advice regarding Smoothwall and Policy Central
support@ibsschools.co.uk
- **Sally Mills** (Worcestershire Senior Adviser for Safeguarding Children in Education)
for all general safeguarding advice smills@worcestershire.gov.uk
- **Jane Finch (ETEC) Ltd** (E-safety consultant to WCC Learning and Achievement) for e-safety policy advice, general e-safety information and training
jane Finch2014@btinternet.com

