

SAFEGUARDING BULLETIN

DECEMBER 2025



Welcome to the Trust Safeguarding Bulletin

Keeping Children Safe in Education 2025 (paragraph 12) details...all staff should receive safeguarding and children protection (including online safety) updates (for example, via email, e-bulletins, and staff meetings) as required, and at least annually, to continue to provide them with relevant skills and knowledge to safeguard children effectively.

Please take the time to read this e-bulletin in line with statutory guidance.

Thank you,

Nicola Spray, Director of Safeguarding and Attendance

RADICALISATION (INCLUDING PREVENT DUTY & MARTYN'S LAW)

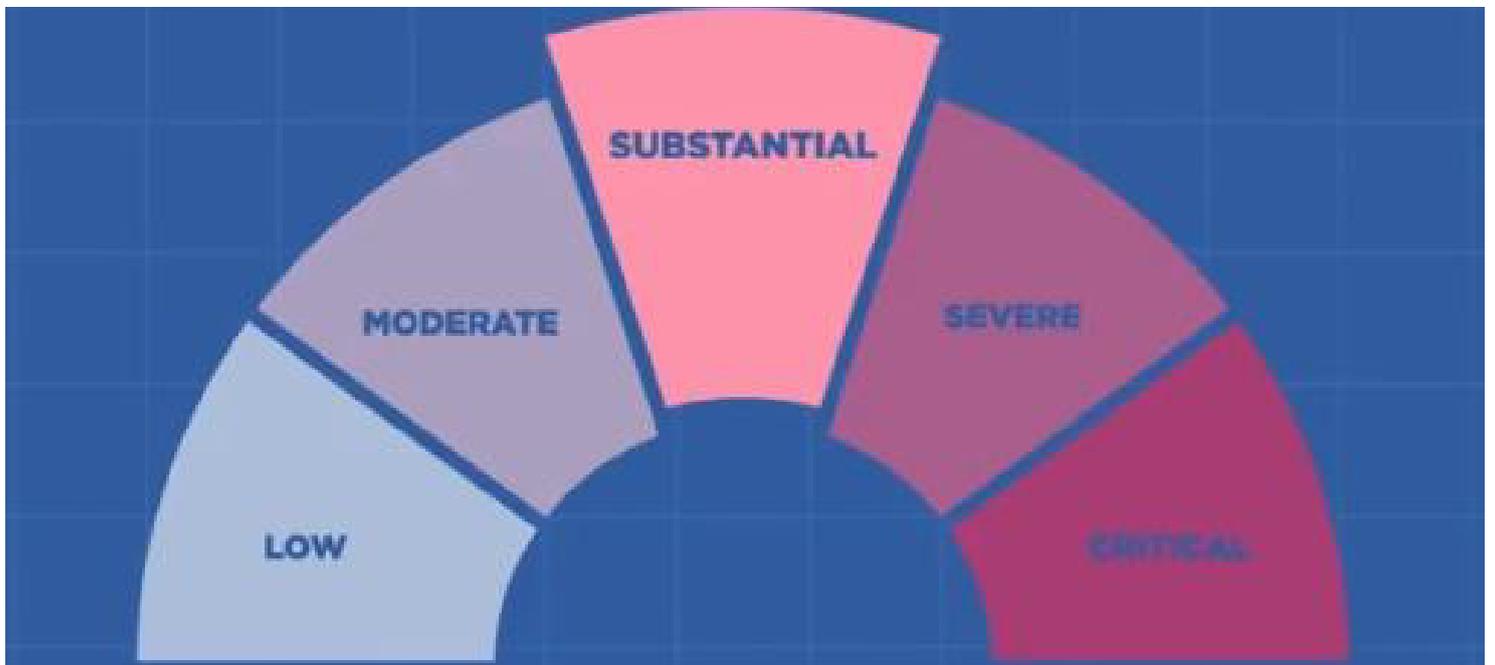
UK Terrorist Threat Level

The threat to the UK is currently **SUBSTANTIAL**.

There are five levels of threat used to give a broad indication of the likelihood of a terrorist attack:

- LOW means an attack is highly unlikely
- MODERATE means an attack is possible, but not likely
- SUBSTANTIAL means an attack is likely
- SEVERE means an attack is highly likely
- CRITICAL means an attack is highly likely in the near future

These reflect the threat posed by all forms of terrorism (irrespective of the ideology which inspires it) and incorporates the threat from Islamist Terrorism (IT), Extreme Right Wing Terrorism (ERWT), Left Wing, Anarchist and Single Issue Terrorism (LASIT) and Northern Ireland Related Terrorism (NIRT) in the UK.



Radicalisation and education settings

Working with young people we are in a key position to protect them from the dangers of extremist narratives. Radicalisation has a devastating effect on young people, families and communities. Helping to protect students from extremist and radicalising influences is an important part of our safeguarding role. This newsletter outlines what you should do if you feel a student is at risk of radicalisation or extremist influences.

What are the warning signs of radicalisation?

There is no single route to radicalisation. It can happen over a long period of time or sometimes it is triggered by a specific incident or news item and can happen quickly. The behaviours listed here are intended as a guide to help you identify possible radicalisation.

Online behaviour

- Accessing extremist online content Sympathetic to extremist ideologies and groups
- Joining or trying to join an extremist organisation
- Changing online identity

Outwood appearances

- Not listening to other points of view
- Abusive towards people who are different Embracing conspiracy theories
- Feeling persecuted
- Changing friends and appearance
- Converting to a new religion
- Being secretive of movements
- Increasingly argumentative
- Distancing themselves from old friends No longer doing things they used to enjoy

Which young people are vulnerable to radicalisation?

Children from all backgrounds can become radicalised, but it's important to keep the risk in perspective.

External factors such as community tension, global events, or having friends or family who have joined extremist groups, all play a part.

Any of these issues may make children more susceptible to believing that extremists' claims are the answer to their problems.

- Questioning their place in society
- Family issues
- Experiencing a traumatic event
- Experiencing racism or discrimination
- Difficulty in interacting socially and lacking empathy
- Difficulty in understanding the consequences of their actions
- Low self-esteem
- Struggling with a sense of identity
- Becoming distanced from their cultural or religious background

This is a guide only, remember the importance of professional curiosity and a potential vulnerability to radicalisation.

The Prevent Duty

All schools are required to have due regard to the need to prevent young people from being drawn into terrorism. Protecting children in our care against extremism and radicalisation should be treated in the same way as protecting them from other harms, whether these come from within their home or are the product of outside influences.

What should I do if I have a concern about a student?

If you have any concerns that a student is being radicalised, you should alert the DSL/DDSL immediately. The DSL may consider making a referral to the Channel programme.

Further advice and guidance can be found at

<http://www.educateagainsthate.com>

What is Channel?

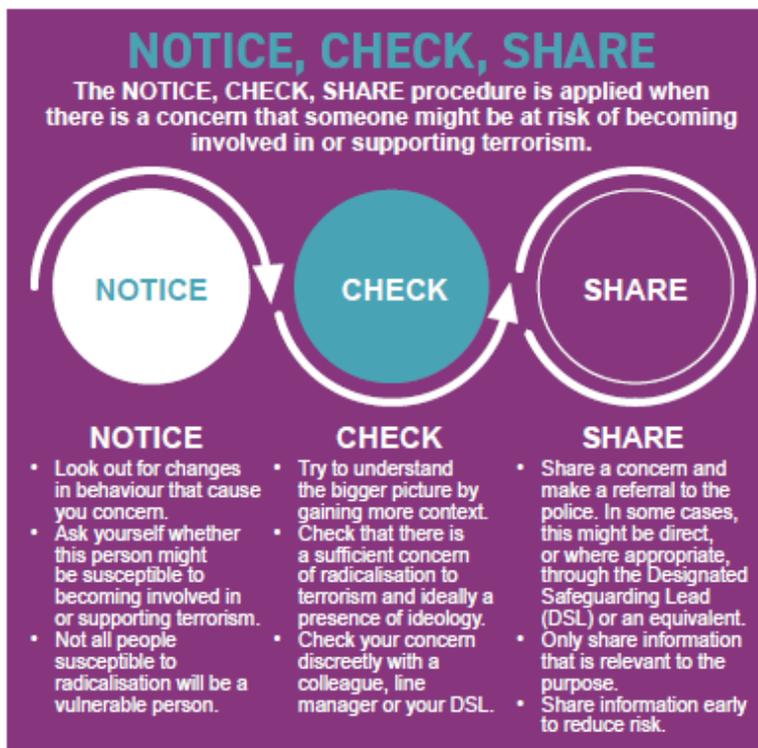
Channel is a multi-agency, voluntary programme which safeguards people identified as being vulnerable to radicalisation.

It is not a criminal sanction and will not affect a person's criminal record. Many types of support are available as part of the Channel programme, addressing educational, vocational, mental health and other vulnerabilities.

For further reading and case studies, please follow the link below:

<http://www.gov.uk/government/casestudies/the-channel-programme>

In summary...



Preparation for the implementation of Martyn's Law

Martyn's Law, officially the [Terrorism \(Protection of Premises\) Act 2025](#), is UK legislation that requires publicly accessible venues and events to implement security measures to protect people from terrorist attacks. The law, named in memory of Martyn Hett who died in the Manchester Arena attack, has a tiered approach based on venue capacity, requiring risk assessments and protective security measures like staff training and evacuation plans.

Martyn's Law will apply to education settings in excess of 200 people and there is a 24 month implementation period (enforceable around April 2027).

What are we doing to prepare for this?

- upgraded visitor sign-in systems
- undertaking a review of the physical security of all sites
- updating of policies to incorporate Martyn's Law requirements, including lockdown, invacuation and evacuation procedures

There will be further information and staff training in relation to this in the coming months.

For additional information and guidance on Martyn's Law:

<https://scan.highfieldelearning.com/>