



MOWDEN HALL SCHOOL

NEWS FROM THE SAFEGUARDING TEAM

December 2022

Welcome to this month's Safeguarding newsletter. If, after reading, you have any questions regarding items raised in our newsletter, please feel free to contact a member of the safeguarding team who will be more than happy to assist you.



The Safeguarding Team (from left to right)

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Safeguarding is
Everyone's
Responsibility



Low Level Concern Forms for adults, and **Pink Forms for children** are available in hard copy in all staff rooms, or online [here](#)

Please fill in this [Safeguarding Audit](#) for us to ascertain which areas we need to concentrate on.

The audit should take around 5 minutes to complete and has questions around how positive you feel about dealing with any safeguarding concerns and any areas you would like further training on.

Deadline is the 9th December 2022

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What is Prevent Duty?

In modern Britain, we have developed into a very multicultural society. For example, there are [over 300 languages spoken in our schools](#) today. The fact that society has grown in this way could be seen as one of the most prominent parts of Britain's history in the 20th century. We see this as something to promote and be proud of. The growth of a diverse culture that strengthens humanistic thinking could be beneficial to many.

Unfortunately, this is not always the case. Within Britain, there are threats to our safety (young people in particular — and [specifically under 18s](#)) that are voiced in opposition to multiculturalism, against a multireligious, multiethnic existence. These are voices of extremism that come in many forms. They do not encourage the values that modern Britain seeks to uphold and better. This is the reason Prevent was introduced, as a tool to protect people and to try and help those who have been affected by extremism.

The Role of Prevent Duty in Schools

The government's official definition of [Prevent Duty](#) is the legal obligation of schools to provide "due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism". Prevent has a helpline which allows members of the public to express concern about people who have been subject to and embracing of extremist opinions. So how does this work in schools?

In addition to teachers' [safeguarding training](#), Prevent training is meant to alert teachers to the possibilities of "non-violent extremism". Warning signs such as withdrawal from social circles, abnormal behaviour or changes in vocabulary are common amongst young people. Many teachers are aware of these indicators already and are always on the lookout for signs of stress in their pupils.

[Current school guidelines](#) dictate that schools must "actively promote" fundamental British values of democracy, individual liberty, and mutual respect and tolerance towards those with different beliefs. Prevent doesn't work to create extra safeguarding measures for teachers. It is more about identifying that there are newer dangers that young people face, and encouraging them to learn that these dangers must be combatted.

Children love the magic of Christmas but for some, it is not a happy holiday to look forward to at all. For some children and their families, there is no sparkle in the December festivities because it isn't filled with happiness, family and friends, joy and peace. The sad reality is, Christmas can be a time when children struggle to cope with being ignored, bullied and abused.

There is a darker side to the festive season that we *must* address and that is recognising that some children are having a miserable time. For schools, this is a time of year, along with other holiday periods when it is difficult to monitor their wellbeing. December sees a spike in safeguarding issues and every year the NSPCC report increasing numbers of children phoning them for help because relationship tensions among families tend to come to a head over the Christmas break.



REMEMBER: The Safeguarding Policy changes as advice does...
always find it via the Staff Shared Folder-Policy Procedures and Health & Safety-Current-Safeguarding-Policies or click [HERE](#)

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