

Prevent

Is my child vulnerable to radicalisation?

It is possible for any child to be exposed to extremist influences. Children from very different backgrounds have been radicalised, even those from stable homes, who were doing well at school. However, it's important to keep things in perspective and remember that for most young people, the risk that they will become involved with extremist groups is very low.

What are the warning signs?

There is no single route to radicalisation. It can occur quickly, or over a longer period of time. Sometimes there are clear signs, and in other cases changes in attitude or behaviour are less obvious.

Keeping my child safe?

Ensuring that your child is safe when they're online is also an important element of protecting them. Children and young people spend a lot of time online – it can be a great way for them to socialise, explore and have fun. But children do also face risks from extremist organisations who use the internet and social media to spread their messages and radicalise. You don't need to be an expert on the internet but understanding what your child does online and the risks they face will help you to keep your child safe.

Talking to your child is one of the best ways to keep them safe. You can also use parental controls on social networks, online games and browsers and on both hardware and software that can filter or monitor what your child can see. Preventing your children from using the internet or mobile phones won't keep them safe in the long run, so it's important to have conversations that help your child understand how to stay safe and what to do if they ever feel scared or uncomfortable.

Have the conversation early and often

It's easier to have conversations about online safety little and often, rather than trying to cover everything at once. As your children get older, and technology changes, make sure you keep talking about what they're doing online and how to stay safe.

Explore online together

Ask your child to show you their favourite things to do online, and show an interest in what they do – just like you would offline. This will give you a much better idea of what they're getting up to. And it gives you a way to support and encourage them while learning what they know.

Know who your child is talking to online. Children don't think of people they've met online through social networking and online games as strangers. They're just online friends. So it's important to keep track of who your child's talking to.