

UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM

Research at Birmingham

Preventing Radicalisation:

Taylor, Laura; Soni, Anita

DOI:

[10.1080/02643944.2017.1358296](https://doi.org/10.1080/02643944.2017.1358296)

Document Version

Peer reviewed version

Citation for published version (Harvard):

Taylor, L & Soni, A 2017, 'Preventing Radicalisation: a Systematic Review of Literature considering the Lived Experiences of the UK's Prevent strategy in Educational Settings', *Pastoral Care in Education*, vol. 35, no. 4, pp. 241-252. <https://doi.org/10.1080/02643944.2017.1358296>

[Link to publication on Research at Birmingham portal](#)

Publisher Rights Statement:

This is an Accepted Manuscript of an article published by Taylor & Francis in *Pastoral Care in Education* on 28/07/2017, available online: <http://www.tandfonline.com/10.1080/02643944.2017.1358296>

General rights

Unless a licence is specified above, all rights (including copyright and moral rights) in this document are retained by the authors and/or the copyright holders. The express permission of the copyright holder must be obtained for any use of this material other than for purposes permitted by law.

- Users may freely distribute the URL that is used to identify this publication.
- Users may download and/or print one copy of the publication from the University of Birmingham research portal for the purpose of private study or non-commercial research.
- User may use extracts from the document in line with the concept of 'fair dealing' under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 (?)
- Users may not further distribute the material nor use it for the purposes of commercial gain.

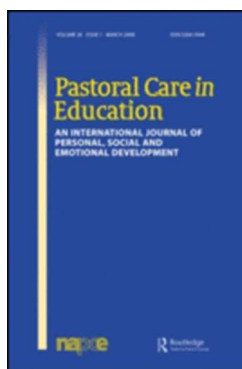
Where a licence is displayed above, please note the terms and conditions of the licence govern your use of this document.

When citing, please reference the published version.

Take down policy

While the University of Birmingham exercises care and attention in making items available there are rare occasions when an item has been uploaded in error or has been deemed to be commercially or otherwise sensitive.

If you believe that this is the case for this document, please contact UBIRA@lists.bham.ac.uk providing details and we will remove access to the work immediately and investigate.



Preventing Radicalisation: a Systematic Review of Literature considering the Lived Experiences of the UK's Prevent strategy in Educational Settings

Journal:	<i>Pastoral Care in Education</i>
Manuscript ID	RPED-2017-0011.R1
Manuscript Type:	Original Article
Keywords:	radicalisation, Prevent, fundamental British values

SCHOLARONE™
Manuscripts

Preventing Radicalisation: a Systematic Review of Literature considering the Lived Experiences of the UK's Prevent strategy in Educational Settings

Introduction: the concept of 'radicalisation'

The concept of radicalisation is at the forefront of discourse relating to safety and security in modern society. Although not a new term, it is predominantly used in relation to the subsequent acts of terrorism perceived to result from radicalisation. In particular, recent high-profile and widespread acts of terrorism by extremist groups such as the so-called Islamic State (ISIS) have put the process of radicalisation to extreme Jihadi views firmly in the media spotlight.

The definition of radicalisation is much contested, and there is no unanimous agreement in policy or legislation. According to Sieckelink, Kaulingfreks and De Winter (2015), radicalisation is usually understood in the literature as 'a process by which an individual or group comes to adopt increasingly extreme political, social or religious ideals and aspirations that reject or undermine the status quo' (p.330). Kundnani (2014) discusses how the concept has transformed over time in the direction of practical prevention of violent extremism, and the Home Office define radicalisation as 'the process by which people come to support, and in some cases participate, in terrorism' (2011, p.36). However, research by van San, Sieckelink and De Winter (2013), in which former extremists and young jihadis suggested violence against non-believers is only ever justified in specific conflict situations, indicates that violence is not an essential and inevitable component of radicalisation, and therefore links to threats to security are inherently flawed. Furthermore, Sedgwick (2010) suggests that the concept of radicalisation often emphasises a process undergone by an individual and neglects the wider context.

1
2
3 School staff are now finding themselves increasingly responsible for the outcomes of pupils,
4
5 both in terms of their academic progress and their engagement with radical views and
6
7 ideologies. Policy changes in light of recent acts of terrorism have attempted to reduce the
8
9 threat to society posed by extremist groups by identifying children and young people at risk
10
11 of radicalisation (AROR) and employing primary prevention strategies, **where actions are**
12
13 **taken to avoid radicalisation before it occurs**, to intervene at the earliest possible opportunity.
14
15 Sieckelink et al. (2015) note that exploring perspectives that subvert societal norms is often a
16
17 developmental stage in the transition to adulthood, highlighting the dangerous implications of
18
19 viewing young people with radical views as suspicious or even 'guilty before charges'
20
21 (p.331). Therefore the securitisation of educational settings inevitably limits freedom of
22
23 expression. It is no longer considered safe to express views of an extreme nature, meaning
24
25 that crucial political and moral debate which can genuinely shift radicalised perspectives
26
27 cannot take place (Saeed & Johnson, 2016).
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35

36 **Policy and Legislation**

37
38 A primary prevention toolkit entitled 'Learning Together to be Safe' was developed by the
39
40 previous Labour government's Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF, 2009),
41
42 with strategies for schools to use to reduce the likelihood of children and young people
43
44 becoming radicalised and joining extremist organisations. The DCSF toolkit took an
45
46 ecosystemic approach (Bronfenbrenner, 1989) to radicalisation, focusing on risk and
47
48 protective factors within the ecosystems surrounding young people AROR. **Although the**
49
50 **implementation of this toolkit was not fully evaluated**, it focused on building resiliency
51
52 against radicalisation within systems (as well as individuals) through narrowing attainment
53
54 gaps between groups of pupils, encouraging active citizenship and pupil voice, increasing
55
56
57
58
59
60

1
2
3 staff confidence to encourage safe debate of controversial issues, anti-bullying approaches
4
5 and developing links between families and schools (DCSF, 2009).
6
7

8
9
10 The current Home Office Counter-Terrorism Strategy, CONTEST, has a strand which is
11 directly concerned with preventing people becoming or supporting terrorists (Home Office,
12 2011), and states that educational institutions must function to prevent individuals from
13 becoming radicalised. The Prevent duty is to identify, report and intervene at a safeguarding
14 level with all pupils who express 'extreme political, social or religious ideals and aspirations
15 that reject or undermine the status quo' (Siecklink et al., 2015, p.330), suggesting that it is
16 intended to be a response to all forms of radicalisation. The Department for Education (DfE,
17 2015) gave guidance on the implementation of Prevent in educational institutions, requiring
18 them to:
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28

- 29 • identify children AROR;
- 30 • know what to do when they are identified;
- 31 • build resilience to radicalisation through the promotion of fundamental British values
32 (FBVs);
- 33 • manage concerns through safeguarding routes.
- 34
35
36
37
38
39
40
41
42

43 The DfE guidance stipulates that the duty to challenge extremist views does not implicate
44 restrictions on debate of controversial issues, and that institutions have a duty to 'provide a
45 safe space in which children, young people and staff can understand the risks associated with
46 terrorism and develop the knowledge and skills to be able to challenge extremist arguments'
47 (DfE, 2015, p.5). This document, like the DCSF guidance (2009), mentions engaging with
48 families, but focuses on identification of children and young people AROR. Building
49 resiliency against radicalisation is briefly covered in terms of encouraging discussion of
50
51
52
53
54
55
56
57
58
59
60

1
2
3 controversial perspectives and promoting FBVs through personal, social and health education
4 (PSHE) and citizenship. This guidance focuses heavily on assessing risk of children ‘being
5 drawn into terrorism’ (p.5), in line with the problematic securitisation of educational settings
6 (Siecklink et al., 2015). This literature review is conducted with the intention of finding out if
7 people’s lived experiences within qualitative research reflects an ecosystemic approach as
8 indicated in the DCSF 2009 guidance, or the focus on surveillance and identification
9 indicated in the current guidance (DfE, 2015).
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22

23 **Search strategy**

24 Dickson, Cherry and Boland's (2013) approach to systematic review was followed, using the
25 search terms ‘radicalisation OR deradicalisation’ AND ‘education OR school OR Prevent’.
26
27

28 **The systematic review process allows for identification, synthesis and appraisal of primary**
29 **research in relation to a particular research question. UK-based studies** dated between 2013
30 and 2016 with qualitative methodologies to illuminate the lived experiences of Prevent were
31 selected, leading to the identification of seven papers.
32
33
34
35
36
37
38
39
40
41
42

43 **Summary of study characteristics**

44 The seven studies cover a broad spectrum of participants in terms of age and setting: two
45 involve school staff (school leaders and teachers of Muslim heritage), four involve students
46 (secondary-aged students and Muslim university students) and one involves professionals
47 from non-educational backgrounds who attended the Workshop for Raising Awareness of
48 Prevent (WRAP). The sample sizes range from 30 to 60, and the studies include a range of
49
50
51
52
53
54
55
56
57
58
59
60

1
2
3 school settings: comprehensive, community, grammar, academy and church, as well as
4
5 university and a training centre.
6

7 Six studies aim to explore individual perceptions of issues relating to radicalisation and
8
9 Prevent. Two aim to explore the perceptions of school staff regarding the new standards
10
11 resulting from Prevent, and four focus on student perceptions of the efficacy of a provocative
12
13 theatre piece, the securitisation of universities, and discourses around terrorism. One analyses
14
15 the materials and delivery of the WRAP, but perceptions are not actively sought. Four utilise
16
17 thematic analysis, two thematic narrative analysis, and the thesis uses Foucauldian discourse
18
19 analysis (FDA), meaning that all seven studies offer rich, qualitative data that can illuminate
20
21 lived experiences of policy in practice across a range of age groups and settings.
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29

30 **Critical appraisal**

31
32 Overall, the evidence base appears sufficiently robust for the purpose of this review. There
33
34 are limitations in the justification of the research design, and some lack transparency
35
36 regarding details of the interview techniques employed or the researcher's role in the research
37
38 process. However, most of the papers present a clear picture of how themes were elicited
39
40 from interview data, and a clear statement of findings ensues. All authors highlight the
41
42 valuable contribution of their research in the current social and political climate, despite only
43
44 four making explicit suggestions for future action or research. A synthesis of key themes
45
46 elicited in relation to the lived experiences of Prevent suggests implications for educational
47
48 settings, policy focus and practice.
49
50
51
52
53
54
55

56 **Synthesis of themes**

57
58
59
60

1
2
3 Relevant findings from studies selected for this review suggest Prevent currently presents
4 some significant inefficacies in terms of addressing risks of radicalisation in educational
5 settings, which can be broadly characterised as pedagogical issues and the problematic focus
6 of the agenda. In contrast, some of the findings suggest that aspects of the agenda have
7 proved useful and effective in intervening with issues pertaining to radicalisation.
8
9
10
11
12

13 *Pedagogical inefficacies*

14 *Academic freedom*

15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25 The most common theme across the studies examined is that the duty creates a culture of fear
26 and suspicion with regards to those communities or ideologies which have become associated
27 with radicalised views, and a contingent sense of cautiousness around engaging in discussion
28 or debate of such controversial issues with or about these communities or ideologies. This
29 caution can be seen as risk-avoidance, where it is viewed as overly risky to confront or
30 challenge radical perspectives in or out of the classroom in case offense is caused or
31 professionalism questioned. This inevitably hinders the important dialogue which could
32 otherwise take place in educational settings to help shape and develop students' beliefs and
33 values.
34
35
36
37
38
39
40
41
42
43
44
45
46

47
48 Revell and Bryan (2016) address the DfE requirements for teachers' 'not undermining
49 fundamental British values (FBVs)' (DfE, 2011, p14) and promoting FBVs both inside and
50 outside of schools (DfE, 2014). Their findings suggest a culture of fear and uncertainty has
51 developed about what constitutes teacher professionalism. During the interviews, school
52 leaders expressed concern about teachers communicating their views because 'young children
53
54
55
56
57
58
59
60

1
2
3 are unable to tell the difference between a teacher stating an opinion and...expressing their
4
5 own opinion' on these matters, which is at all times 'inappropriate and unprofessional'
6
7 (p.350). However, the majority believed in freedom of expression and the right of teachers to
8
9 engage in political activities. Overall, the findings with regards to FBVs are contradictory,
10
11 suggesting confusion with how the standards should be observed. The authors state that
12
13 school leaders are concerned about teachers undermining FBVs through any kind of radical
14
15 expression due to fear resulting from the uncertainty around the implications of the standards.
16
17 Teachers are simply aiming to survive in the face of uncertainty, leading to risk-avoidant
18
19 behaviour which has a detrimental influence on frank and honest discussion of controversial
20
21 topics. This goes directly against the DfE's clause regarding the duty of educational settings
22
23 to 'provide a safe space in which children, young people and staff can...develop the
24
25 knowledge and skills to be able to challenge extremist arguments' (DfE , 2015, p.5).
26
27
28
29
30
31

32 Furthermore, Revell and Bryan (2016) argue that the current standards move the focus away
33
34 from pupil outcomes and put greater pressure on teachers' professionalism. Teachers are now
35
36 subject to performance-related pay (DfE, 2013), meaning the appraisal process has greater
37
38 implications than ever before, leading to a perpetuation of the fear of confronting matters
39
40 such as radicalisation in the classroom and further limiting freedom of expression in
41
42 educational settings.
43
44
45
46

47 The negative effects of such restrictions on freedom of expression are highlighted in
48
49 Quartermaine's thesis (2014). Her FDA suggested that pupils are also influenced by this fear
50
51 and uncertainty, deliberately avoiding having 'potentially prejudiced conversations' (p.321).
52
53 Some pupils explicitly avoided making connections between religion and terrorism, despite
54
55 the fact that religion was listed as the greatest motivator for terrorism in the survey. Pupils
56
57
58
59
60

1
2
3 chose to use terms such as ‘belief’ or ‘extremism’ (p.258) as opposed to religion to suggest
4
5 the motivation to commit a terrorist act is more personal and less broadly associated with
6
7 religious ideology. Quartermaine also identified self-censorship and silencing of certain
8
9 discourses around religion and terrorism, stating that some pupils displayed concern over
10
11 villainising and stereotyping individuals or communities, and pupils were monitored by their
12
13 peers for their adherence to these social expectations. Quartermaine suggests this was due to
14
15 the fear of appearing culturally racist towards Muslims, posing a challenge to frank and
16
17 honest discussion. However, she also implicates regulations imposed by the school and
18
19 teachers for pupils not to appear prejudiced in the silencing of these discourses.
20
21
22
23
24

25 Saeed and Johnson (2015) describe how freedom of expression is effected in higher
26
27 educational institutions, whereby the securitisation of these settings leads to a culture of
28
29 surveillance that does not support the CTSA stipulation requiring universities to ensure
30
31 academic freedom. The findings suggest that their Muslim student participants experienced a
32
33 restriction on their ability to discuss and engage with controversial topics such as
34
35 radicalisation, with one student describing a reluctance to research sensitive areas. Another
36
37 student described self-censorship of political activity for fear of being considered a potential
38
39 terrorist. Furthermore, both Saeed and Johnson (2015) and Brown and Saeed (2014) highlight
40
41 the impact of such securitisation on university Islamic societies, whereby Muslim students
42
43 face difficulties both in terms of the fear they experience regarding pursuing or
44
45 acknowledging membership and the restrictions put upon the activity of these societies which
46
47 would otherwise act as the ideal spaces to explore, discuss and debate the more radical
48
49 interpretations of their religion.
50
51
52
53
54
55
56
57
58
59
60

Flawed FBVs

Both Revell and Bryan (2016) and Panjwani (2016) identify that participants were critical of the way in which FBVs are defined, utilised and applied. Panjwani links the addition of FBVs to Prevent to the perceived threat of Muslim radicalisation and the ‘Trojan Horse affair’ (where schools in Birmingham were investigated for promoting radical Islamic ethos: p.330), and suggests that their creation implies some discordance between values held by ‘the West and Islam’ (p.329). He presents findings that suggest teachers of Muslim heritage did not perceive any such incompatibility of values. Panjwani uses Rawls’ (1993) concept of ‘overlapping consensus’ (p.330), whereby people of differing moral, religious or political views reach a consensus on a concept of political justice through agreement on societal objectives such as peace or equality, to explain why participants positioned FBVs in this manner. Panjwani describes the emergence of ‘modernist Islam’, whereby modern, liberal views such as democracy are positioned as compatible with Islamic practice by Muslims who adopt modernist interpretations of the Quran. Therefore, if it is the traditional anti-modernist interpretations of the Quran that appear in conflict with FBVs, the focus should not be on promoting FBVs as a distinct category but on finding and highlighting the ‘overlapping consensus’ between traditional Islam and the variety of British moral, religious and political standpoints present in our educational settings and modern, liberal values.

Both Panjwani and Revell and Bryan (2016) highlight criticisms of FBVs for lacking clarity and being irrelevant, inadequate and inaccurate. Revell and Bryan’s participants criticised FBVs for not being specific to Britain and **part of a political agenda**. Participants in both studies raised the lack of a clear definition of what constitute FBVs, and Revell and Bryan state that school leaders lack a refined language with which to discuss the implementation of FBVs. Panjwani states that many teachers felt FBVs contributed further to alienating Muslim

1
2
3 students by positioning teachers as ‘anti-extremist watchdogs’ (p.337), and several mentioned
4
5 the problematic effects of increased securitisation on engaging students in important
6
7 discussion, with one claiming schools have been ‘deprived of their role of creating critical
8
9 minds through a fear of criminalisation’ (p.338).
10

11
12
13
14 In light of the extensive criticisms of FBVs, it can be assumed that the translation of this
15
16 aspect of the policy into pedagogical reality is proving limited in its efficacy to intervene with
17
18 the radicalisation process. Panjwani (2016) suggests that schools need to refine policy
19
20 regarding FBVs that involves ‘a process of public discourse and openness to a possible
21
22 reassessment of the project’ (p.338). This issue coupled with the threat to academic freedom
23
24 and critical discussion posed by Prevent’s security focus suggests that the duty is not proving
25
26 efficacious in day-to-day teaching and learning. It is worth noting that although all studies
27
28 cited under this theme selected larger samples in an effort to produce qualitative findings that
29
30 have some degree of wider relevance, three of the four studies dealt solely with participants
31
32 of Muslim heritage. Despite this, Panjwani (2016) hypothesises that the nature of the
33
34 concerns with FBVs suggests that this may not be an issue perceived by Muslim teachers
35
36 alone, but a wider issue, and this creates a space for important future research into the
37
38 enactment of government Prevent policy into real-world educational settings.
39
40
41
42
43
44
45
46
47
48
49

50 *The problematic focus of Prevent*

51 52 53 54 55 *Surveillance and securitisation*

1
2
3 Saeed and Johnson (2015) expose the tension between human rights and countering
4 radicalisation, and shine a light on how this issue is reflected in universities, sometimes
5 considered 'breeding grounds' for radicalised views (p.38). Security requirements, which
6 lead to a culture of surveillance in higher educational settings, risk 'alienating the ordinary
7 British Muslim student' (p.38). The authors cite an article from the Guardian which details
8 how university faculty members vehemently opposed the CTSA's requirement for them to
9 monitor student (particularly Muslim student) behaviour and activity on the basis that it
10 might hinder debate and critical thinking about controversial issues such as radicalisation
11 (The Guardian, 2 February 2015). This kind of surveillance would inevitably lead to feelings
12 of fear, distrust and further alienation of all Muslim students, including those AROR whom
13 the CTSA aims to protect, and Saeed and Johnson's findings support this.
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28

29 Female Muslim students reported feeling alienated and paranoid due to distrust and suspicion
30 from peers and university staff and a top-down approach to security (e.g. stopping and
31 searching Islamic society students watching a visiting speaker or double-booking of lecture
32 rooms to prevent events from taking place). Several students reported instances of anti-
33 Muslim discrimination during their time at university, and said that these were rarely reported
34 to university personnel and were instead rationalised as a natural response to fears about of
35 Muslim extremism. These feelings of distrust, responsibility, guilt and alienation have only
36 been reinforced by the 2015 CTSA, and with a sense of belonging playing a key role in
37 preventing radicalisation, these findings suggest its counter-productivity in a real-world
38 context. This concern is echoed in Panjwani's (2016) findings, where British teachers of
39 Muslim heritage voiced concerns about the way in which the translation of Prevent into
40 educational practice, through the focus on FBVs, leads to greater alienation of Muslim youth.
41
42
43
44
45
46
47
48
49
50
51
52
53
54
55
56
57
58
59
60

1
2
3 These issues are echoed in another of Saeed's studies, where an argument is built that
4 promotion of a moderate version of Islam resulting from attempts to counter radicalisation
5 have removed opportunities for Muslims to engage with political activism or 'critical
6 citizenship' (Brown & Saeed, 2014, p.1952). Students described being fearful of wearing the
7 hijab, niqab or other religious signifiers, which they viewed as being synonymous with the
8 media portrayal of a radical Muslim. Students are cited as likening Muslim extremists trying
9 to radicalise others to 'British people trying to force liberal Islam on people' and suggesting
10 the term 'traditional Islam' as an alternative to 'radical' (p.1956). A theme across students
11 was that the commonly-accepted concept of radical Islam is actually synonymous with
12 mental illness, or the 'irrationality and violence that anyone is capable of' (p.1957) and has
13 moved away from the historical concept of radicalism, where student activism was a positive
14 move toward societal change. In this respect, students are reluctant to engage in political
15 activism for fear of being considered radical. Brown and Saeed summarise that the very right
16 to be Muslim is restricted in modern society, and that this is only proliferated by government
17 policy.

18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36
37
38 *A focus on individual vulnerability*

39 Blackwood, Hopkins and Reicher (2016) highlight the emphasis on individual vulnerability
40 within the radicalisation process. Brown and Saeed (2014) state that due to the lack of
41 agreement or certainty about the processes involved in radicalisation, the concept is
42 'frequently reduced to the profiling of traits or attributions of signs of radicalisation in
43 "vulnerable" or "at-risk" populations' (p.1953). As a result, they argue that Muslim
44 university students are positioned as at-risk due to the alleged inherent radicalism of these
45 institutions, leading to the heavy monitoring and censorship of the activity of these
46 populations. This concern is the central focus of Blackwood et al. (2016), who explore the
47
48
49
50
51
52
53
54
55
56
57
58
59
60

1
2
3 psychological model of radicalisation that is being disseminated through WRAP, a training
4
5 programme for frontline professionals (including teachers). The authors criticise the
6
7 workshop materials for focusing exclusively on individual vulnerability without considering
8
9 how this could ‘contribute to the straining of social relationships that WRAP champions as
10
11 the basis for diverting individuals from a path to radicalisation’ (p.604). In terms of
12
13 underlying psychological models of radicalisation, WRAP discussed group influence as a
14
15 ‘form of consolation for psychological needs’ (p.605), but implied that this is mediated by
16
17 individual factors, sustaining the focus on individual vulnerabilities and neglecting the
18
19 principles of social identity theory (Tajfel & Turner, 1979). Furthermore, the authors state
20
21 that WRAP failed to acknowledge that group members are unlikely to accept proposals that
22
23 do not align with the group’s worldview or help them understand their social reality. In this
24
25 respect, WRAP should be shifting its focus to the social contexts in which individuals live,
26
27 and the views which are helping them to make sense of these contexts. An individual risk
28
29 factor such as discrimination is not enough to lead to radicalisation, but a shared experience
30
31 of discrimination within a social context, or a ‘common fate’(p.606) can lead to social
32
33 categorisation that can help individuals make sense of their realities. Furthermore, if groups
34
35 perceive themselves to be ‘other’ within their community, they may ‘retreat and establish
36
37 alternative “safe spaces” where social recognition and acceptance are more easily
38
39 accomplished’ (p.608), avoiding interaction in the wider community and reducing the
40
41 potential for inclusivity.
42
43
44
45
46
47
48

49 The unintended effects of WRAP’s focus on individual vulnerability may exacerbate the
50
51 existing scrutiny of the behaviour of Muslims in the UK. In turn, this may intensify the
52
53 discrimination experienced by these groups, leading to further alienation and intergroup
54
55 conflict and in some cases, if the narrative fits with an individual’s experiences and helps
56
57
58
59
60

1
2
3 them make sense of their social context, radicalisation. The authors propose therefore that a
4
5 refocus of such workshops is required, with social identity and group formation at the centre.
6
7

8
9
10 *Successes of Prevent: funding efficacious interventions*

11 With the majority of the qualitative data indicating that lived experiences of Prevent in
12
13 educational settings are mostly negative, there were efficacious aspects of the policy, namely
14
15 the Theatre in Education (TiE) programme, 'Tapestry' (Winston & Strand, 2013). Tapestry
16
17 was a piece of participatory TiE funded by Prevent, which toured West Midlands' secondary
18
19 schools in 2009. It was devised by 'The Play House' with the intention of engaging with
20
21 radicalisation, using humour to defy existing radicalisation discourses. In summary, Tapestry
22
23 tells the story of Nazia, a British Pakistani Muslim girl, Jason, her white working-class
24
25 brother-in-law, and Hassan, her friend who is a Nigerian Muslim. Jason and Hassan have
26
27 been fighting on opposite sides of a violent demonstration, and each reveals to Nazia (and the
28
29 audience) the events in their lives which have influenced their radical beliefs. Pupils are
30
31 invited to question and challenge Jason and Hassan on their views and give them suggestions
32
33 for what they should do next. The piece finishes with Jason and Hassan suggesting that they
34
35 may now be questioning their membership of the extremist groups, inviting pupils to suggest
36
37 future paths if they leave these groups but still want to enact change.
38
39
40
41
42
43
44

45 As well as presenting quantitative questionnaire data, the authors probe the reasons behind
46
47 Tapestry's success through pupil interviews, concluding that TiE encourages 'dialogic
48
49 encounter and civil exchange' (p.62) through the use of humour and a 'playful aesthetic'
50
51 (p.63), making it easier to confront controversial social and political issues such as
52
53 radicalisation. The authors state that pupils indicated they most enjoyed the humour of the
54
55 piece, as well as having the opportunity to engage with religious interpretations in a playful
56
57
58
59
60

1
2
3 way. They suggested that knowing it was acting made it easier for them to confront the
4
5 characters, and dramatic techniques such as ‘play within a play’ and switching between the
6
7 actor’s real identity and their characters helped them question fixed identities.
8
9

10
11
12 Whilst no explicit themes are drawn out, the authors highlight shared views and one-off
13
14 comments to theorise about Tapestry’s success, providing a basis for suggesting that
15
16 participatory TiE can be instrumental in encouraging critical engagement with radicalisation
17
18 in schools. This is one area where Prevent and its associated funding has been used in a way
19
20 that has been efficacious in confronting radical perspectives without alienating certain
21
22 populations in the process.
23
24
25
26
27
28

29 30 ***Implications for those working in schools***

31
32 There are some clear implications for practice drawn from the synthesis of qualitative data
33
34 relating to Prevent. Firstly, education staff must continue to promote the genuine inclusion of
35
36 all pupils, including those AROR. Clinch (2011) suggests that this necessitates paying careful
37
38 attention to the ‘cultural artefacts’ (p.137) displayed in the setting and whether these promote
39
40 a sense of belonging and positive identity for all pupils of all heritages. Staff need to carefully
41
42 avoid alienating or villainising discourses during conversations about or with pupils with
43
44 radical views, adopting instead an holistic focus that considers the environmental features and
45
46 social group contexts and avoids within-pupil attributions that may do more damage than
47
48 good (Blackwood et al., 2016). Bronfenbrenner’s eco-systemic model (1979) can help staff to
49
50 explore how the pupil interacts with their home, school and community contexts and consider
51
52 environmental and social influences on a pupil’s experience, as well as behavioural, affective
53
54 and cognitive factors.
55
56
57
58
59
60

1
2
3
4
5 School staff should encourage frank and honest discussion around radicalisation and avoid
6
7 silencing these discourses (Quartermaine, 2014). Enabling schools to foster an ethos of trust
8
9 and safety around sharing and discussing views will be critical in providing spaces for radical
10
11 views to be carefully examined and critiqued. More specifically, Clinch (2011) suggests that
12
13 extremism should be addressed through a ‘cross-curricular multi-media curriculum’ (p.136),
14
15 as assemblies and lectures were considered unhelpful by primary-aged pupils in delivering
16
17 important messages. Instead, a more holistic approach is required where pupils are not
18
19 passive receivers of a message but active explorers of their own views and attitudes (Clinch,
20
21 2011), and where teachers set-up class discussions, presentations and research tasks where
22
23 this exploration is necessary. However, the pupils in Clinch’s study identified that teachers
24
25 must be extremely cautious to minimise opportunities for polarising views through conflict.
26
27 They suggested that strategically-composed small groups with clear ground rules and
28
29 boundaries which allow everyone to have a voice and do not unnecessarily censor free speech
30
31 but create a sense of tolerance and safety would help with this. Furthermore, Clinch (2011)
32
33 suggests that schools need to be encouraged to teach about radicalisation and violent
34
35 extremism across the curriculum from a range of different perspectives, including far-right
36
37 and animal rights extremism, helping to avoid the harmful and alienating discourses which
38
39 can emerge around Islamic extremism.
40
41
42
43
44
45
46

47 Staff should consider pedagogical approaches involving humour and playfulness around
48
49 identity (e.g. role play, hot-seating, story-telling) to approach radicalisation with pupils, and
50
51 which illuminate areas of ‘overlapping consensus’ (Panjwani, 2016, p.330) between more
52
53 traditional views and modern, liberal values to minimise these tensions. Finally, staff do have
54
55 a key role in sign-posting families to appropriate interventions (e.g. local support panels:
56
57
58
59
60

1
2
3 Home Office, 2015) if the pupil is considered to be AROR in light of a holistic formulation,
4
5 although it is important to keep in mind that expressing radical views does not constitute a
6
7 threat in itself.
8
9

10 11 **Conclusion**

12
13 Radicalisation refers to views and not acts. Radicalised views are not acts of terrorism and are
14
15 not in themselves a threat. The focus on identifying and intervening adopted by the CTSA
16
17 and Prevent leads to problematic culture of surveillance which inhibits the creation of safe
18
19 spaces in which to debate radical views. In fact, the lived experiences of Prevent in schools
20
21 by the participants of these studies suggest it deters important critical discussion through fear
22
23 and further alienates and villainises groups who may already feel alienated and villainised,
24
25 threatening their sense of belonging and exacerbating the likelihood of creating intergroup
26
27 conflict in our society. Instead, a focus on identifying areas of ‘overlapping consensus’
28
29 (Panjwani, 2016, p.330) between the variety of viewpoints held by pupils in the UK and
30
31 modern, liberal values could help reduce perceived tensions and create a greater sense of
32
33 unity within our educational settings. Furthermore, programmes such as Tapestry can
34
35 genuinely engage pupils with the issue of radicalisation and should be considered a priority
36
37 for future government funding.
38
39
40
41
42
43
44
45
46
47

48 **References**

- 49 Blackwood, L., Hopkins, N., and Reicher, S. (2016). From Theorizing Radicalization to
50 Surveillance Practices: Muslims in the Cross Hairs of Scrutiny, *Political Psychology*, 37(5),
51 597-612.
52
53
54 Bronfenbrenner, U. (1989). Ecological systems theory, *Annals of Child Development*, 6,
55 pp.187-249.
56
57
58
59
60

1
2
3 Brown, K. E., & Saeed, T. (2015). Radicalization and counter-radicalization at British
4 universities: Muslim encounters and alternatives, *Ethnic and Racial Studies*, 38(11), 1952-
5 1968.

6
7
8 Clinch, A. (2011). *A community psychology approach to preventing violent extremism. Gaining the views of young people to inform primary prevention in secondary schools*
9 (Unpublished doctoral dissertation). University of Birmingham.

10
11
12 Department for Children, Schools and Families (2009). *Learning together to be safe: A*
13 *toolkit to help schools contribute to the prevention of violent extremism*. Retrieved from:
14 http://dera.ioe.ac.uk/8396/1/DCSF-Learning%20Together_bkmk.pdf

15
16
17 Department for Education (2011). *Teacher's Standards: Guidance for school leaders, school*
18 *staff and governing bodies*. Retrieved from:
19 https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/301107/Teachers_Standards.pdf

20
21
22 Department for Education (2013). *School Teachers' Pay and Conditions Document 2013 and*
23 *Guidance on School Teachers' Pay and Conditions*. London: HMSO.

24
25
26 Department for Education (2014). *Promoting Fundamental British Values as Part of SMSC*
27 *in schools*. Retrieved from:
28 http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2015/6/pdfs/ukpga_20150006_en.pdf

29
30
31 Department for Education (2015). *The Prevent duty: Departmental advice for schools and*
32 *childcare providers*. Retrieved from:
33 https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/301107/Teachers_Standards.pdf

34
35
36 Dickson, R., Cherry, M.G. & Boland, A. (2013). *Doing a Systematic Review*. London: Sage.

37
38 Home Office (2011). *CONTEST: The United Kingdom's Strategy for Countering Terrorism*.
39 Retrieved from:
40 [https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/97995/strategy](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/97995/strategy-contest.pdf)
41 [-contest.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/97995/strategy-contest.pdf)

42
43
44 Home Office (2015). *Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015*. Retrieved from:
45 http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2015/6/pdfs/ukpga_20150006_en.pdf

46
47 Kundnani, A. (2014). Radicalisation. The journey of a concept. In C. Baker-Beall, C. Heath-
48 Kelly, & L. Jarvis, (eds.) *Counter-Radicalisation: Critical Perspectives* (pp.14–35).
49 Hoboken: Taylor and Francis.

50
51
52 Panjwani, F. (2016). Towards an overlapping consensus: Muslim teachers' views on
53 fundamental British values, *Journal of Education for Teaching*, 42(3), 329-340.

54
55 Quartermaine, A. (2014). *Pupils' perceptions of terrorism from a sample of secondary*
56 *schools in Warwickshire* (Unpublished doctoral thesis). University of Warwick: Warwick.

1
2
3 Rawls, J. (1993). *Political Liberalism*. New York: Columbia University Press.
4

5 Revell, L. & Bryan, H. (2016). Calibrating fundamental British values: how head teachers are
6 approaching appraisal in the light of the Teachers' Standards 2012, Prevent and the Counter-
7 Terrorism and Security Act, 2015, *Journal of Education for Teaching*, 42(3), 341-353.
8

9
10 Saeed, T. & Johnson, D. (2016). Intelligence, Global Terrorism and Higher Education:
11 Neutralising Threats or Alienating Allies?, *British Journal of Educational Studies*, 64(1), 37-
12 51.
13

14 Sedgwick, M. (2014). The Concept of Radicalization as a Source of Confusion, *Terrorism*
15 *and Political Violence*, 22(4), 479-494.
16

17 Sieckelinck, S., Kaulingfreks, F., & De Winter, M. (2015). 'Neither Villains nor Victims:
18 Towards an Educational Perspective on Radicalisation', *British Journal of Educational*
19 *Studies*, 63(3), 329-343.
20
21

22 Tajfel, H., & Turner, J. (1979). 'An integrative theory of intergroup conflict', in Austin, W. &
23 Worchel, S. (eds.) *The social psychology of intergroup relations* (pp. 33-47). Monterey, CA:
24 Brooks Cole.
25

26 Counter-terrorism and security bill is a threat to freedom of speech at universities (2015, 2
27 February). *The Guardian* Retrieved from: <https://www.theguardian.com>
28
29

30 van San, M., Sieckelinck, S. & De Winter, M. (2013). 'Ideals adrift: an educational approach
31 to radicalization', *Ethics and Education*, 8, 276-289.
32

33 Winston, J. & Strand, S. (2013). "Tapestry" and the Aesthetics of Theatre in Education as
34 Dialogic Encounter and Civil Exchange, *Research in Drama Education*, 18(1), 62-78.
35
36
37
38
39
40
41
42
43
44
45
46
47
48
49
50
51
52
53
54
55
56
57
58
59
60