



1 December 2025

The Rt Hon Bridget Phillipson MP
Secretary of State for Education and Minister for Women and Equalities
Department for Education
By Email

Dear Bridget,

I am writing to raise concerns that have been shared with me about the operation of the Prevent duty (Prevent) in schools and the impact on children, young people and teaching professionals.

My constituent has conveyed the following concerns and I would be grateful if you could please address them.

“Children and young people make up the highest number of referrals, despite the vast majority not deemed suitable for intervention from the Government’s deradicalisation programme. In 2023/24, 11–15-year-olds accounted for the largest proportion of referrals (40%), with almost 5% being children under 10 years old. For many, falling within scope of Prevent can be an incredibly stressful experience for the individual and their family – especially given the lack of parental engagement, limited information-sharing from authorities following a referral and absence of public transparency.

“Prevent disproportionately impacts Muslim and neurodiverse children and young people. It relies on non-specialists – including teachers – to identify whether a person is showing signs of radicalisation. At times, this comes down to ‘gut feeling’ – inevitably creating situations where harmful stereotypes and a lack of understanding may influence a decision to refer someone.

“It puts an undue burden on teaching professionals and risks irreparably damaging the trust between students and educators. With a high proportion of children and young people referred, it is no surprise that the education sector was the leading source of referrals (40%) in 2023/24. Under Prevent, teaching professionals are expected to consider referrals as part of their safeguarding work – adding increased pressure to an already demanding workload and risking the incredibly important relationship of trust between teacher and student.

“I am aware that the Government has recently reaffirmed its commitment to Prevent, however I urge that special consideration be given to its continued application in schools. I am calling for the Prevent duty to be removed from educational settings. Instead, there must be a renewed focus on effective evidence-based safeguarding practices, and action to address the underlying causes that may make children and young people vulnerable to radicalisation.”

Thank you for taking the time to consider these points, and I look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Siân Berry'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a small arrow pointing upwards above the 'i' in 'Siân'.

Siân Berry MP
Green Party, Brighton Pavilion

