



29th January 2021- 16 Jumada Al-Thani 1442

Assalamu-alaykum (Peace be upon you)

### **Action Counters Terrorism (ACT)**

Dear Parents/Carers,

I am writing to let you know that between January 2019 and June 2020, 17 children were arrested in relation to terrorism offences across the country. Some were as young as 14 years old and nearly all were radicalised entirely online. In the same time-period, more than 1,500 children under the age of 15 were referred to the Prevent programme to help them choose a different path, away from hatred and violence. The impact of Covid-19, social isolation and a rise in hateful extremism online has created a perfect storm, which is making more young people vulnerable to radicalisation and other forms of grooming. The new Action Counters Terrorism (ACT) website emphasises early detection and is aimed at family and friends who are encouraged to call the **Prevent advice line on 0800 011 3764**.

#### **1. How can you help?**

Family and friends know when something is not right. You can spot worrying behaviour at an early stage and help the person you care about get the support they may need to move away from extremism.

Sometimes the person's behaviour can be linked to other issues and is not connected to radicalisation. If you are not sure, you could talk to other friends or family members first and they may help you decide if it's the right time to seek help.

#### **2. Should you start a conversation?**

The person may not agree that something is wrong, and it may be hard to talk about your concerns with them. If they get angry or upset and it becomes too difficult to talk to them, then try again another day. But if it's not working and you're still worried, then it may be time to talk to **Tips for talking - ACT Early**

#### **3. Tips for talking**

If you are worried about someone close becoming radicalised or holding extreme views, it can be difficult to know how to start a conversation. Here are some ways to help you make that start but don't feel you need to take this step before calling us.

- The best way is to start off asking a question and then listening to them answer.
- Try and bring them on board first and challenge later.





- Create a space and the opportunity for them to talk.
- Do not try and do a counter narrative, even though you might find their views offensive, let them express themselves.
- Next time say you want to explore their views in more detail and take an aspect of what they are saying and counter it with a different viewpoint (could be historical or a theological context).
- Try and engage in healthy debate.
- Seek help and support.

**4. Do's and Don'ts**

DO	DON'T
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Do be aware of any negative influences online and offline.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Don't keep your worries to yourself. You are not alone – together with our partners we're here to help.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Do keep an eye out for any changes big or small that are taking place with increasing intensity.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Don't think you cannot make a difference – you can by acting early and sharing your concerns.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Do have that conversation with the person you are worried about, even when it's hard to know where to start or what to say.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Don't leave things, if you're concerned seek help.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Do trust your instincts and if you are worried seek help and advice.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Don't be afraid to contact us in confidence and tell us your concerns. You will not be wasting our time.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Do speak to other people you trust – like schools or community leaders about your concerns.</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Do act early and tell us, so together we can support the person you care about move away from extremism.</li> </ul>	

Many thanks for your continued support during these challenging times.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Akhmed Hussain  
Associate Principal

