



Building resilience – Summary for staff

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The researchers produced a list of 'push' and 'pull' factors which can lead to pupils adopting extremist messages.

The push factors

These factors can make an individual turn to extremist organisations:

- Lack of excitement and frustration
- Lack of sense of achievement and purpose in life
- Lack of an outlet for views
- Gaps in knowledge and understanding
- Sense of injustice
- Actual or perceived humiliating experiences
- Exclusion – lack of belonging to peer or community networks and associations

The pull factors

Factors that draw young people into extremist messages:

- Charismatic and confident individuals as recruiters
- Networks that create a sense of belonging
- Broader community views which enable or do not oppose extremism
- Persuasive, clear messages which exploit knowledge gaps

Key teaching ingredients

Staff who are confident in their abilities tend to perform better even though they have not received specialist training. The report identified a number of simple key teaching ingredients which could help young people develop resilience to extremist attitudes. These are listed below:

Teacher attitudes and behaviours

- Willingness to admit you don't know
- Acknowledging controversial issues
- Awareness that you have a role to play
- Willingness to turn to others for help when you don't know about something

Specific knowledge

- Understanding other cultures, religions, values and beliefs
- Knowledge of an alternative values framework
- The ability to identify youngsters who could be vulnerable to the push and pull factors

Teaching practice

- Boosting critical thinking
- Helping to see multiple perspectives
- Using multiple resources/ methods
- Embedding or sustaining dialogue following specialist interventions
- Enabling students to tackle difficult issues
- Linking school work to the wider community
- Drawing evidence from across the curriculum.

Useful websites

- Prevent for schools – www.preventforschools.org/index.php
- Where's the line? – www.wherestheline.co.uk
- Radicalism and new media – www.radicalism-new-media.org
- Roho learning – www.roho-learning.com
- Britkid – www.britkid.org
- Citizenship Foundation's guide to controversial issues – www.citizenshipfoundation.org.uk/main/page.php?92
- Young minds – www.youngminds.org.uk
- Amnesty International – www.amnesty.org.uk/content.asp?CategoryID=11770