

HOW TO TALK TO CHILDREN ABOUT RADICALISM

IMPORTANCE OF TALKING TO CHILDREN

Talking to children about radicalism is a delicate but essential conversation in today's world. By creating a safe and open environment, we can help our children navigate complex issues and develop critical thinking skills. This guide provides practical advice on how to discuss radicalism with children, emphasizing the importance of empathy, respect, and online safety.

Through thoughtful dialogue, we can empower our children to recognise and resist extremist influences, fostering a more informed and resilient generation.



CREATE A SAFE SPACE

It's important to choose a comfortable and private setting where the child feels secure. Make sure it's a time when you won't be interrupted, allowing for an unhurried conversation. This helps create an environment where the child feels safe to express their thoughts and feelings.



BE APPROACHABLE

Encourage open dialogue by letting the child know they can share their thoughts and feelings without fear of judgment. Maintain a calm and non-confrontational demeanor to foster open communication. Your approachability will make it easier for the child to discuss sensitive topics.



LISTEN ACTIVELY

Pay close attention to what the child says, showing genuine interest in their words. Ask open-ended questions to understand their perspective and gauge their knowledge on the topic. Active listening helps you better understand the child's concerns and thoughts.

USE AGE-APPROPRIATE LANGUAGE

Tailor your explanations to the child's age and maturity level. Simplify complex ideas and avoid frightening details that might confuse or scare them. Using language that the child can understand ensures that the conversation is effective and meaningful.



DISCUSS ONLINE SAFETY

Talk about the importance of being cautious online and the risks of interacting with strangers. Highlight the dangers of consuming extremist content and teach them how to recognize it. Emphasizing online safety helps the child navigate the digital world more securely.



REASSURE AND SUPPORT

Offer comfort and reassurance, letting the child know it's okay to feel worried or confused. Assure them that they can always come to you with their concerns. Providing emotional support helps the child feel understood and less anxious about the topic.

HIGHLIGHT POSITIVE VALUES

Emphasize the importance of empathy, respect, and understanding different perspectives. Encourage critical thinking and the questioning of extreme views. Fostering these values helps the child develop a balanced and thoughtful approach to different ideas.



SEEK PROFESSIONAL HELP IF NEEDED

If you have concerns about a child's exposure to radicalism, please reach out to one of our Prevent Education Officers at Kent County Council.

You can email us at prevent@kent.gov.uk for support and guidance.