18th March 2019

Dear Headteacher

The attack in Christchurch, New Zealand today is likely to be discussed by students and teachers in schools across the UK and beyond. It can be difficult to ensure these conversations are conducted in a calm, thoughtful and rational way, but we must try. Talking about subjects such as terrorism can ignite wider discussions about politics, history or prejudice, which are so important in helping young people understand the world around them.

The overwhelming advice seems to be that [teachers and parents should be proactive in these conversations](http://www.telegraph.co.uk/women/life/mancester-arena-attack-explain-horror-children/), not reactive. There is a huge amount of information for children and young people to absorb after shocking events such as this, and adults can help make sure they feel able to talk about any confusion and fears.

[Schools](https://www.theguardian.com/education/schools) need to provide a safe space where terrorism is discussed openly, so that students can understand what it means and develop the knowledge required to challenge inaccuracies.  Good-quality resources are crucial, the following are some information as to how to approach the topic of terrorism with pupils

* Educate Against Hate gives parents, teachers and governors practical advice on protecting children from extremism and radicalisation. The site’s resources, which includes those for teachers and school leaders are all endorsed by the Department for Education. <https://educateagainsthate.com/teachers/?gclid=EAIaIQobChMIquH-1OqD4QIVbrvtCh3TnA2lEAAYASAAEgLrZPD_BwE>

* The PSHE Association  - see our guidance [framework for discussing terrorist attacks](https://www.pshe-association.org.uk/curriculum-and-resources/resources/generic-framework-discussing-terrorist-attack) is more suited to secondary aged pupils.  For Primary see [our guidance discussing a terrorist attack with children in the primary phases.](https://www.pshe-association.org.uk/curriculum-and-resources/resources/discussing-terrorist-attack-children-primary) Also please see Gloucestershire Healthy Living and Learning (GHLL) website for more resources and advice:- <https://www.ghll.org.uk/resources/hate-crime-ks-3-and-4/>

<https://www.google.com/url?q=https://www.ghll.org.uk/Useful%2520resources%2520and%2520links-%2520manc.doc&sa=U&ved=0ahUKEwj3hrSFtIvhAhXHUBUIHaKLDSIQFggMMAQ&client=internal-uds-cse&cx=011232841347064162356:wgj1i9fg_h0&usg=AOvVaw3bZSebkUSflJ4LcUWHuwNO>

This guidance is not intended as a script or lesson plan, but to help teachers answer questions, structure discussion and, if appropriate, extend children’s learning and understanding. Teachers should pick out what they feel is relevant

for the nature and circumstances of an event, the age and readiness of the children, and their whole-school ethos and values.

In addition, the Government is committed to tackling anti-Muslim hatred in all its forms so please encourage anyone (staff or student) who is a victim of Hate Crime to report any incidents to the Police – call 999 in an emergency or 101 for a non-emergency.  You can also report online through the dedicated police hate crime reporting site True Vision (<http://report-it.org.uk/home>), or via a third party reporting centre such as **Stop Hate UK** or **Tell Mama**.

Yours sincerely

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