

HUNT: DON'T BLAME SCHOOLS

Schools cannot be expected to detect radicalised pupils if their own families do not spot warning signs, a senior Labour politician said last night.

Shadow education secretary Tristram Hunt warned that ‘more and more’ responsibility is being placed on schools and teachers.

He branded Islamic extremism a ‘poisonous and cancerous ideology’, which is ‘capturing the minds of many young people’.

But he suggested that other public services, such as social work, had been stripped away, leaving schools to deal with the problem alone.

The former TV historian spoke two weeks after three girls from Bethnal Green Academy in east London fled to Syria to join Islamic State.

He said: ‘If the parents themselves didn’t know what was taking place, the chances of the teachers and the head teachers themselves knowing was more challenging.’