



KING EDWARD'S SCHOOL
BIRMINGHAM

King Edward's School – Visiting Speaker and 'No Platform' Policy

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1. Introduction

This “No Platform Policy” aims to ensure that King Edward’s School balances the right of freedom of speech against the potential use of its facilities for the promotion of extremist ideological, religious or political beliefs, as defined below. Schools have a duty to protect children from radicalisation, as set out in [Department for Education guidance](#).

This policy should be read alongside the King Edward’s School **Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy and Procedures**.

This policy is based on the [No Platform Policy of Birmingham City Council](#). This provides further information and, in particular, Appendix 1 has guidelines on conducting research into the background of potential speakers.

2. Accountability

The Independent Schools Governing Body (ISGB) has ultimate responsibility for this policy. The implementation of the policy is the responsibility of the Chief Master.

King Edward’s School will use the ‘No Platform’ Policy of Birmingham City Council for guidance on conducting research into the background of potential speakers, consulting other schools & other organisations, using search engines, assessing the reliability of information found, identifying risks to community cohesion etc.

3. Definitions

“Extremism” is defined by the Government in the Prevent Strategy as:

“Vocal or active opposition to fundamental British values, including democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs. We also include in our definition of extremism calls for the death of members of our armed forces, whether in this country or overseas.”

Not every part of this definition has to be satisfied for a particular individual or organisation to be regarded as extremist.

In this context beliefs are considered to be extremist if they include the expression of racist or fascist views; if they incite hatred based on religious interpretation, ideology or belief; or if they promote discrimination on the grounds of political opinion, age, colour, disability, ethnic or national origin, gender, marital status, race, religion or sexual orientation.

The Equality Act 2010 also prohibits discrimination, harassment or victimisation on the basis of the “protected characteristics”. These are:

- Age;
- Disability;
- Gender reassignment;

- Marriage and civil partnership;
- Pregnancy and maternity;
- Race;
- Religion or belief;
- Sex; and
- Sexual orientation.

The Terrorism Act 2000 establishes [a list of proscribed organisations](#). These are organisations that the Home Secretary believes are concerned in terrorism, as defined in the Act. It is an offence to belong to a proscribed organisation, to express an opinion or belief that is supportive of a proscribed organisation, or to invite support for a proscribed organisation. This includes arranging, managing or addressing a meeting that is intended to support the activities of a proscribed organisation.

4.Principles

The Principles on which this policy is based are -

- No person may use the facilities of King Edward's School to express or promote extremist ideological, religious or political views, or to express an opinion or belief that is supportive of a proscribed organisation.
- No person may use the facilities of King Edward's School to express or promote discriminatory views in relation to the protected characteristics listed in the Equality Act 2010.
- King Edward's School will not allow the use of its facilities by any group or organisation that is proscribed by HM Government.
- That these principles also apply to the use of online facilities (e.g. meetings conducted via Zoom) and electronic communications, as well as written and printed communication and buildings, facilities and property.

5.Electronic Communication

King Edward's School will not allow the use of the school website, IT facilities or information management processes to:

- Promote discriminatory views in relation to the protected characteristics listed in the Equality Act 2010; • Promote or glorify terrorism; or
- Promote extreme ideological, religious or political beliefs.

The school has a right to exercise control over all activities on its IT facilities, including electronic communications associated with the name of the school and use of school equipment to access external resources. This includes the right to monitor the use of school resources.

6.Written and Printed Communication

King Edward's School has the right to exercise control over the content of any written or printed material that identifies itself as associated with the school. It will not allow the use

of its facilities in the production of such material, or permit the use of its name, or of any identifying marks relating to the school, in such material, if that material appears to

- Promote discriminatory views in relation to the protected characteristics listed in the Equality Act 2010; • Promote or glorify terrorism; or
- Promote extreme ideological, religious or political beliefs.

7. Use of Buildings, Facilities and Property

In deciding whether to allow any group or organisation to make use of its buildings, facilities and property King Edward's School will take into account the views, policies and objectives of that group or organisation and may refuse on the grounds that these are incompatible with the policies and objectives of the school. In particular, access will be refused if it appears likely that the proposed activity would promote extremist ideological, political or religious beliefs.

If inviting a visiting speaker, whether in person or electronically, all staff must follow the procedures outlined in **10. Visiting Speakers** below.

8. Reporting Concerns

School staff have a responsibility to act on concerns. Staff will have training on how to recognise a potential issue with the promotion of extremism in school and how to meet their obligations under the Prevent Duty, as outlined in the **Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy and Procedures**.

At King Edward's School staff will inform the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) if they have a concern.

Any staff member who has raised a concern will be given feedback on the action taken.

If after reporting a concern staff feel that no satisfactory action has been taken then they should escalate the concern by informing the Liaison Governor for Safeguarding of their concerns. If a concern needs to be escalated further, staff should consult the **Whistle Blowing Policy**.

9. Training

The school will ensure that school staff and Governors receive appropriate training in the issues raised by this policy.

10. Visiting Speakers

A **visiting speaker** is anyone from outside of King Edward's School invited to address pupils, either on our premises or live via an online platform (e.g. Zoom).

To arrange a visiting speaker you should complete the '[Approval for a visiting speaker](#)' form on Sharepoint so that the Deputy Head (Co-curricular) can confirm the visit and schedule the diary.

Once approved you will be asked to complete '[No-platform](#)' form on Sharepoint for approval by the Deputy Head (Co-curricular).

Any concerns should be discussed with SLT.

No-Platform form

Part 1

Vetting:

See Appendix 1 for the vetting procedure that must be used for **all** visiting speakers. This procedure must be completed before filling in the 'No-platform' form on Sharepoint

Part 2

Hosting: the host member of staff will also be asked to confirm that they will:

- Agree clear and concise guidelines with the visiting speaker
- Arrange for the speaker to be met on arrival and returned to reception for departure by an appropriate adult (not applicable for online events)
- Arrange for the speaker to be supervised at all time by a suitable adult
- Be prepared to interrupt the speaker if they deviate from content and / or content is cause for concern, and to challenge pupils asking inappropriate questions
- Be responsible, at all times, for the conduct of pupils attending the talk

Appendix 1 - Procedure for vetting a visiting speaker

Stage 1 - Gather information

Gather information by conducting checks on the speaker / organisation.

Carry out online checks and, if appropriate, liaise with other organisations/schools.

Check [the list of proscribed organisations](#) and confirm that the speaker is not part of/affiliated with/promoting any such organisation.

Considerations when checking online material:

- *Use more than one internet search engine to minimise search engine bias.*
- *Where possible find primary source information (e.g. a group's manifesto on their website; YouTube videos of a person speaking or band's music; an individual's personal writing on their blog).*

- *Is the information detailed enough for what you need?*
- *Does the webpage give sources for the information – does it say where it came from? What other sources can you find to check the information against? Try to find a different type of source, like a report from a well-known body, or published statistics.*
- *If the webpage is clearly giving someone's opinion on an issue, how much weight should you give to their opinion?*
- *Can you easily tell who the person or organisation behind the webpage is?*
- *Can I trust the person or organisation behind this webpage? Are they likely to be biased? Are they an authoritative source?*
- *Is the author taking a personal stand on a social/political issue or is the author being objective? Bias is not necessarily "bad," but the connections should be clear.*
- *With what organisation or institution is the author associated? Is there a link to the sponsoring organisation, a contact number and/or address or e-mail contact? A link to an association does not necessarily mean that the organisation approved the content.*
- *If you found the page through a link or a web search, and are not sure where it comes from, look for the home page, or an "About Us" or similar link.*
- *Does the page author give a real-world postal address and phone number?*
- *Given how quickly information on the web can change and how long some websites have been around, always try to check how up-to-date the information is. Does the page say when it was last updated? If not, try checking the Properties or Page Info options in your Web browser for a date.*
- *Is the website generally being maintained – do all the links still work?*
- *Can you check against sources you know are up-to-date for comparison?*
- *If there are a number of out-of-date links that do not work or old news, what does this say about the credibility of the information?*
- *As far as possible, social media accounts should be checked.*

Stage 2 - Assess information

Assess the information gleaned in Stage 1

- Consider if there is evidence that the speaker/group has promoted messages of intolerance and hate towards any groups under the protected characteristics identified within Equalities Legislation?
- Identify whether the speaker/organisation has behaved in a way contrary to the **Principles** outlined in (4) above
- Identify if the speaker/group has been banned elsewhere previously
- Consider any risks to cohesion, equality, community safety and the potential for public disorder
- Seek further advice from external organisations (e.g. police) to understand information if necessary

Stage 3 - Consult

Consult SLT, identifying any risks / concerns

- Consider views of and impact on relevant group(s) that may be affected (e.g. as outlined by Equality Act 2010)
- Review identified risks to cohesion, inclusion, community safety and the potential for public disorder