



## **NO PLATFORM FOR EXTREMISM**

### **Responding to speakers promoting messages of hatred and intolerance**

#### **1. Introduction**

This "No Platform Policy" aims to ensure that Values Academy balances the right of freedom of speech against the potential use of its facilities for the promotion of extremist ideological, religious or political beliefs. 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.

#### **2. 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."

The Equality Act 2010 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. It is an offence to belong to 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.

A list of proscribed organisations and full details of the proscription offences can be

found at -

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/322142/20140620- List of Proscribed organisations](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/322142/20140620- List of Proscribed organisations)

### **3. Principles**

The Principles on which this policy is based are -

- No person may use the facilities of Values Academy to express or promote extremist ideological, religious or political views.
- No person may use the facilities of Values Academy to express or promote discriminatory views in relation to the protected characteristics listed in the Equality Act 2010.
- Values Academy will not allow the use of its facilities by any group or organisation that is proscribed by HM Government.

### **4. Electronic Communication**

Values Academy 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.

### **5. Written and Printed Communication**

Values Academy 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.

### **6. Use of Buildings, Facilities and Property**

Values Academy does not currently allow outside organisations to use either of its buildings, however In deciding whether to allow any group or organisation to make use of its buildings, facilities and property, management 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.

## **7. Accountability**

The Board of Trustees has ultimate responsibility for this policy. The implementation of the policy is the responsibility of the CEO.

Values Academy 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.

## **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.

At Values Academy, staff will inform Hayley Cartin, the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) and Single Point of Contact (SPOC) if they have a concern. Alternatively, staff will inform one of the deputy DSLs. Details of all safeguarding staff are available throughout the schools. Any member of staff 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 Safeguarding Trustee of their concerns. If a concern needs to be escalated further then Values Academy's Whistle Blowing Policy is to be used.

## **9. Training**

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

## **10. Hosting Speakers on School Premises**

When hosting external speakers Values Academy will ensure a safe space for students to engage with a variety of issues and hear and debate different perspectives. Values Academy will ensure that speakers are suitable and all safeguarding procedures are followed. Values Academy will consider the following.

1. The topic of the event including the purpose of the speaker's visit and the appropriateness for the audience.
2. The speaker's reputation and who may be promoted to attend, particularly whether the speaker or members from the organisation they represent have a reputation for causing disruption at venues.
3. Any risk to the school's reputation and ethos.

4. The status of the speaker, including their previous comments by carrying out checks on internet search engines and across social media sites.
5. Whether we consider there to be potential for speakers to use language intended to stir up hatred or incite violence.
6. The views of the community safety team/local police

**Review Date: September 2021**