



NO PLATFORM FOR EXTREMISM POLICY

Rationale

This “No Platform Policy” aims to ensure that Edgbaston High School for Girls 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.

“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.”

Linked policies:

- Safeguarding Policy
- Prevent Policy

Objectives

- No person to use the facilities of Edgbaston High School for girls to express or promote extremist ideological, religious or political views.
- No person to use the facilities of Edgbaston High School for girls to express or promote discriminatory views in relation to the protected characteristics listed in the Equality Act 2010. See Appendix 1.
- Edgbaston High School to not allow the use of its facilities by any group or organisation that is proscribed by HM Government. See Appendix 1.

Success Criteria

- Only those persons that adhere to the policy will be able to hire the facilities.
- Visiting speakers are vetted to ensure that they will not express or promote extremist ideological, religious or political views.

Methodology

1. Implementation

Electronic Communication

Edgbaston High 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.
- 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.

Written and Printed Communication

Edgbaston High 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.
- Promote extreme ideological, religious or political beliefs.

Use of Buildings, Facilities and Property

In deciding whether to allow any group or organisation to make use of its buildings, facilities and property Edgbaston High 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.

Visiting Speakers

As part of our enrichment provision we organise an Academic Lecture programme and Subject Days. The Director of Academic Enrichment is responsible for researching the speaker's background (see appendix 2). Visiting speakers discuss the content of their presentation with a member of staff to ensure that the material is suitable for pupils. We also request a copy of their presentation prior to arrival and reserve the right to edit the final presentation, if appropriate/necessary. All speakers are accompanied at all times by a member of staff. Should a speaker start to promote extremist ideological, political or religious beliefs whilst they are speaking then they would be stopped from continuing with their lecture / address.

Reporting Concerns

The school has a responsibility to report any concerns they may have about any organisation that uses the school premises even if they have their own safeguarding policy.

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.

Appendix 1

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.
- 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_WEBSITE.pdf

Appendix 2

Visiting Speakers Pro Forma

Event Title	
Purpose of Event	
Date of event	
Timings	
Location	
Students attending	
Name of Speaker(s)/Title/Organisation	
Web Biography/Relevant website	
News search complete	
Speaker confirmed	
Content of speech confirmed	
Support Materials provided and checked (ie Powerpoint)	