

External Speakers Policy



RHODES AVENUE
PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Safeguarding Governor: Lucy Freestone

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Introduction

This 'No Platform' policy document aims to ensure that Rhodes Avenue balances the right of freedom of speech against a potential use of its facilities for the promotion of extremist activity regardless of ideological causes.

In this context, causes that could be considered extreme could be the expression of a wide range of views that try to incite hatred based on religious interpretations, ideology or belief; or if they promote discrimination on the grounds of political opinion, age, race, disability, sex or sexual orientation.

This policy document also contains an appendix that references additional supporting documents to help us risk assess speakers/organisations that may use school facilities.

Definitions

Extremism: The Counter-Extremism Strategy defines extremism as 'the vocal or active opposition to our fundamental values, including democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, and respect and tolerance for 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'

Radicalisation: The prevent duty defines radicalisation as the process by which a person comes to support terrorism and extremist ideologies associated with terrorist groups".

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

The Equality Act 2010¹ prohibits discrimination, harassment or victimisation based on "protected characteristics" which are

Age	Race
Disability	Religion or belief
Sex Reassignment	Sex
Marriage and civil partnership	Sexual orientation
Pregnancy and Maternity	

The Terrorism Act 2000² establishes a list of "proscribed organisations"³. 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

¹ <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2010/15/contents>

² <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2000/11/contents>

³ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/proscribed-terror-groups-or-organisations--2>

3. Principles

The Principles on which this policy is based are -

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

4. Electronic Communication

Rhodes Avenue 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.

Rhodes Avenue 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

Rhodes Avenue 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.

6. Use of Buildings, Facilities and Property

In deciding whether to allow any group or organisation to make use of its buildings, facilities and property Rhodes Avenue 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 any extremist ideological, political or religious beliefs.

7. Accountability

The statutory body of the school (Governing Body) has ultimate responsibility for setting policy. The implementation of the policy is the responsibility of the Head Teacher and the Governors of Rhodes Avenue Primary School.

Rhodes Avenue School will use open source searches for 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 Rhodes Avenue School, staff will inform Emel Ali (Designated Safeguarding Lead and PREVENT lead) 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 through the school's Whistle Blowing Policy.

9. Training

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

Haringey PREVENT Education Officer – Olqa Nasiridou

Appendix 1 - CHECKLIST FOR VISITING SPEAKERS

Please complete and return to school DSL

1.	Date of engagement	
2.	Name of the staff member responsible for booking visiting speaker	
3.	Name of visiting speaker	
4.	Visiting speaker contact details	
5.	Audience details	
6.	Please confirm that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the <i>Visiting Speaker Policy</i> has been sent to the speaker • the visiting speaker has been made aware of the school's obligations to safeguarding by referring them to the school's <i>Safeguarding Policy</i> on the website 	
Checklist		
7.	Please confirm that you have checked the visiting speaker basic biography, to include speaker's organisation and other affiliations	
8.	Have details of the speaker's presentation been provided?	
9.	Details of research undertaken on visiting speaker (e.g. check the internet for any recent published reports, statements or speeches made by the individual, any retractions or public apologies etc.)	
10.	Are you satisfied that the content seen in response to 9 above is not in any way contrary to the school's Equality Policy, the ethos of inclusion of the school, British values or any concern in relation to the prevent duty? If such concerns exist, refer the matter to the designed safeguarding lead (DSL).	Yes No (refer to DSL) <i>(Please circle as appropriate)</i>
11.	Name of person responsible for supervising the visiting speaker whilst they are on site.	

Signed:

Date: