



St George's
School Edgbaston

NO PLATFORM FOR EXTREMISM POLICY

RESPONDING TO SPEAKERS PROMOTING MESSAGES OF
HATRED AND INTOLERANCE

Revised: October 2021



1. Introduction

Schools, both state-funded and independent, have a range of duties in relation to safeguarding children from extremism. The statutory guidance **Keeping Children Safe in Education**, most recently updated in September 2021, is the key document for schools, colleges and their staff as part of the wider safeguarding system for children. It provides an overview of their duties regarding preventing the radicalisation of children¹. It recognises that children are vulnerable to extremist ideology and radicalisation and that protecting children from this risk should be part of a schools' safeguarding approach.

The Government published an overview of the duties on schools in its policy paper **Preventing Extremism in The Education and Children's Services Sectors** on 1 September 2015² and Prevent Duty guidance April 2019.

In recent times the Government has taken further action to strengthen the duties on schools, in particular with the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015, which placed the Government's 'Prevent' Counter-Extremism strategy on a statutory footing, and placed duties on schools to have due regard to the need to prevent children being drawn into terrorism.

The Government has also sought to strengthen a schools' abilities to address a wide range of potential concerns relating to radicalisation, such as the potential for children to be groomed through several mediums and be drawn into extremist narratives.

2. Aims of Policy

This "No Platform Policy" aims to ensure that St George's School Edgbaston 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.

This policy provides guidelines on how St George's School can respond to extremist concerns and conduct research into the background of potential speakers.

¹ Department for Education, Keeping Children Safe in Education, September 2021

² <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/preventing-extremism-in-schools-and-childrens-services/preventing-extremism-in-the-education-and-childrens-services-sectors>

3. Definitions for the Purpose of the Policy

For the purpose of this policy:

- 3.1. The Terrorism Act 2000³ makes it a criminal offence to:
 - 3.1.1. Belong, or profess to belong, to a proscribed organisation (section 11 of the Act);
 - 3.1.2. Invite support for a proscribed organisation (and the support is not, or is not restricted to the provision of money or other property) (section 12(1));
 - 3.1.3. Arrange, manage or assist in arranging or managing a meeting in the knowledge that the meeting is to support or further the activities of a proscribed organisation, or is to be addressed by a person who belongs or professes to belong to a proscribed organisation (section 12(2)); or to address a meeting if the purpose of the address is to encourage support for, or further the activities of, a proscribed organisation (section 12(3)); and
 - 3.1.4. Wear clothing or carry or display articles in public in such a way or in such circumstances as to arouse reasonable suspicion that an individual is a member or supporter of the proscribed organisation (section 13).
- 3.2. Section 38b of the Terrorism Act 2000 states that an individual has committed an offence if s/he has information which is known or believes might be of material assistance in preventing another person from committing an act of terrorism or securing apprehension, prosecution or conviction of another person for an offence involving the commission, preparation or instigation of an act of terrorism and s/he fails to disclose that information to the police as soon as is reasonably possible.
- 3.3. Extremism as defined in the Prevent and Counter Extremism Strategy by Government is the:

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. Also included in the Government's definition of extremism are calls for the death of members of our armed forces, whether in this country or overseas.

³ <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2000/11/contents>

- 3.4. Not every part of this definition must be satisfied for a particular individual or organisation to be regarded as extremist.
- 3.5. The Equality Act 2010⁴ protects nine individual characteristics set out in Appendix 1. All members and employees of the School have a duty to not unlawfully discriminate against anyone based on any of these characteristics.
- 3.6. The Equality Act 2010 also requires the School to have due regard to:
 - 3.6.1. Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct prohibited by the Act;
 - 3.6.2. Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it; and
 - 3.6.3. Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it.
- 3.7. School facilities includes (by way of example):
 - 3.7.1. Property and land owned by the School, in part or in whole;
 - 3.7.2. Property and land leased or licensed by the School, in part or in whole;
 - 3.7.3. The provision of services, such as IT services (including copying or printing);

4. Principles

The Principles on which this policy is based are:

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

⁴ <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2010/15/contents>

5. Electronic Communication

St George's School Edgbaston 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

St George's School Edgbaston 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 St George's School Edgbaston 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.

8. Accountability

The statutory body of the school (the Board of Trustees) has ultimate responsibility for this policy. The implementation of the policy is the responsibility of the Head Teacher/Principal.

St George's School Edgbaston 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.

9. 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 St George's School Edgbaston staff will inform the Headmaster, Mr Gary Neal, 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 Chair of Trustees, Sir Robert Dowling of their concerns. If a concern needs to be escalated further, then St George's School Edgbaston Whistle Blowing Policy is to be used.

In addition to in-school safeguarding mechanisms if someone is concerned about someone using school premises to promote extremism, then further advice can be sought by writing to: noplatform@birmingham.gov.uk

10. Training

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

**To be reviewed October 2022
or as and when statutory
guidance / legislation changes**

Appendix 1 – Unacceptable Behaviours

Unacceptable Behaviours

The Special Cases Unit in the Home Office holds the pen on recommendations for exclusion cases. Detailed guidance is published online regarding the exclusion process⁵. The Special Cases Unit uses the following criteria in assessing whether an individual should be prohibited from entering the United Kingdom.

The list of unacceptable behaviours covers any **non-UK citizen** whether in the UK or abroad who uses any means or medium including:

- writing, producing, publishing or distributing material
- public speaking including preaching
- running a website
- using a position of responsibility such as teacher, community or youth leader to express views which:
 - foment, justify or glorify terrorist violence in furtherance of particular beliefs
 - seek to provoke others to terrorist acts
 - foment other serious criminal activity or seek to promote others to serious criminal acts
- foster hatred which might lead to inter-community violence in the UK

The Equality Act 2010 and Protected Characteristics

The Equality Duty, introduced by the Equality Act 2010, is a duty on public bodies and others carrying out public functions.

The Equality Act 2010 lists the nine protected characteristics which are the grounds upon which discrimination is unlawful. The characteristics are:

- Age
- Disability
- Gender reassignment
- Marriage and civil partnership
- Pregnancy and maternity
- Race – this includes ethnic or national origins, colour or nationality
- Religion or belief – this includes lack of belief
- Sex
- Sexual orientation

⁵ Exclusion from U.K, Home Office 2018

The Act sets out the different ways in which it is unlawful to treat someone, such as direct and indirect discrimination, harassment, victimisation and failing to make a reasonable adjustment for a disabled person. The act prohibits unfair treatment in the workplace, when providing goods, facilities and services, when exercising public functions, in the disposal and management of premises, in education and by associations (such as private clubs).

The Equality Duty, introduced by the Equality Act 2010, is a duty on public bodies and others carrying out public functions. The Equality duty has three aims. It requires public bodies to have *due regard* to the need to:

- **Eliminate unlawful discrimination**, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct prohibited by the Act;
- **Advance equality of opportunity** between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it; and
- **Foster good relations** between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it.