No Platform for Extremism

Model policy based on BCC


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<tr>
<th>Last Review</th>
<th>November 2018</th>
<th>D Cater</th>
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<td>Ratified by Governors</td>
<td>November 2018</td>
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<td>Current Review</td>
<td>September 2019</td>
<td>D Cater</td>
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<td>To be Reviewed</td>
<td>September 2020</td>
<td>D Cater</td>
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MODEL POLICY FOR SCHOOLS

NO PLATFORM FOR EXTREMISM

Responding to speakers promoting messages of hatred and
This “No Platform Policy” aims to ensure that DAME ELLEN PINSENT 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. 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 model policy is based on the No Platform Policy of Birmingham City Council, which
will be found at www.lscbbirmingham.org.uk/index.php/policies-and-procedures-pro
This provides further information and, in particular, Appendix 1 has guidelines on conducting
research into the background of potential speakers.

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 -
List_of_Proscribed_organisations_WEBSITE.pdf

3. Principles

The Principles on which this policy is based are -

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

4. Electronic Communication

DAME ELLEN PINSENT 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

DAME ELLEN PINSENT 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 DAME ELLEN PINSENT 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 statutory body of the school (Governing Body) has ultimate responsibility for this policy. The implementation of the policy is the responsibility of the Head Teacher.

DAME ELLEN PINSENT 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 DAME ELLEN PINSENT staff will inform the DSL Donna Cater or other DSL’s Denise Fountain (HT), Kerry Parker (AHT) and Kate Gray (AHT) 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 Governors, Sadie Bolton of their concerns. If a concern needs to be escalated further, then DAME ELLEN PINSENT SCHOOL Whistle Blowing Policy is to be used.

9. Training

The school will ensure that school staff and Governors receive appropriate training in the issues raised by this policy.
Appendix 1 - Applying the Framework

The following diagrams set out the processes for information gathering and decision-making for the local authority in implementing the No Platform policy.

Decision-Making Authority According to Venue Type

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Birmingham City Council Owned/Managed Venue</th>
<th>Birmingham City Council Owned Venue but Managed by Third Party</th>
<th>Managed by Third Party with Funding relationship with Birmingham City Council</th>
<th>Private Venue</th>
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<tr>
<td>e.g. Town Hall, Council House, parks and other event spaces managed by the council</td>
<td>Third Party organisations, leasing Council owned venue</td>
<td>Community and voluntary organisation owned property</td>
<td>Hotels, conference and banqueting centres, private businesses, offices and rooms hire</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BCC is primary decision maker.</td>
<td>BCC provides advice and support</td>
<td>BCC provides advice and support</td>
<td>BCC provides advice and support</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>BCC primary decision-maker following consultation with third party</td>
<td>Community and voluntary organisation primary decision-maker</td>
<td>Venue owner primary decision-maker</td>
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Assessing Information

Gather Information
- Conduct open source checks: use more than one search engine to prevent bias
- Consult partner organisations and communities for further information
- Gather as much primary source and attributable information as possible

Assess Information
- Assess credibility of sources and allocate weight accordingly
  - Is there evidence that the speaker/group has promoted messages of intolerance and hate towards any groups under the protected characteristics identified within Equalities Legislation?
  - 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 partner organisations to understand information if necessary

Consult
- Consult relevant group(s) from protected equality group that may be affected (LGBT, ethnic, faith, gender etc)
- Review identified risks to cohesion, equalities, community safety and the potential for public disorder
- Consult partner organisations on any risks identified
- Consult with venue owner
Assessment Criteria for Managing Extremist Events or Speakers

In assessing the risks posed by an individual event or speaker, Birmingham City Council will work with relevant stakeholders including West Midlands Police and base our judgment on research that is:

**Primary** – caution will be exercised when information about individuals is derived from secondary sources without any supporting primary evidence.

**Attributable** – evidence from official, personal websites or videos, remove any doubt as to what an individual said and therefore present a stronger case.

**Objective** – statements or actions will be seen within context. What is the intended audience? Is it part of a wider speech/video? What is the manner in which it is said? Do they appear to be condoning the views they are expressing, or repeating comments in historical or religious texts? Statements or actions that provide opposite or positive evidence, or evidence of the individual recanting, clarifying or apologising for previous views will also be considered (as should how consistent and public these clarifications have been).

**Reviewed** – research should be periodically reviewed to ensure that it reflects current positions.

The Council recognises the need to ensure that all information/research collated for the purpose of sensitive decision-making is gathered from as many sources as possible and reserves the right where necessary, to consult partner organisations including West Midlands Police and the Home Office for further advice and guidance.

As part of the information gathering process, appropriate weight will be allocated dependent upon the type of source material; primary evidence will be sought where possible. When assessing information gathered from online sources the Council will exercise caution of allocating too much weight to information contained within blog sites and for example, of quotes that may have been taken out of context.
Considerations for gathering and assessing open source data found online

- 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; You Tube videos of a person speaking or band’s music; an individual’s personal writing on their blog).
- Is the website stating information as fact (“depression is the most common mental illness in the UK”), or is it clearly giving something as the author’s opinion? (“I don’t think doctors in the UK get enough training in dealing with depression”)
- 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?
No Platform Policy – Due Diligence Process for Venue Bookings

Request for booking received

Has the client previously made a booking and been cleared by this process?

- YES
  - Were any concerns raised during or after the previous event?
    - YES
      - Details of concerns and speakers are to be sent to the No Platform Inbox* for further clearance.
    - NO
      - Potential Breaches
        - Associated with a proscribed group
        - Subject to adverse media attention
        - Views deemed as being discriminatory or inflammatory to others
        - Views in breach of the Equalities Act 2010
        - Views/Activity in breach of the Counter Terrorism Act 2000

- NO
  - Undertake initial assessment and checks as per guidance set out in the No Platform Policy

Is the client or their planned event/activity free from controversial issues?

- YES
  - Has Clearance been given by the Lead Director for the No Platform Policy?
    - YES
      - Booking Accepted
    - NO
      - Booking Declined
  - Potential Breaches
    - Associated with a proscribed group
    - Subject to adverse media attention
    - Views deemed as being discriminatory or inflammatory to others
    - Views in breach of the Equalities Act 2010
    - Views/Activity in breach of the Counter Terrorism Act 2000

- NO
  - Booking Declined

*No Platform Inbox – noplatform@birmingham.gov.uk