



Stronger
Together

'No Platform' Policy Preventing speakers promoting messages of hate and intolerance	
Lead Governor & Member of SLT:	Jo Klaces and Sue Taylor
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1. Introduction

The Governors' Strategic Vision and Ethos for Queensbridge School

At Queensbridge, our mission is to equip all students with the character, skills, and academic knowledge they require to live happy and fulfilled lives.

Our goal is to build a thriving and cohesive learning community, characterised by excellent relationships between staff and pupils. We expect all children to be safe, to grow in confidence and resilience and to achieve both academic success and personal fulfilment. Care and respect are hallmarks of our community.

We foster strength of character, creativity and critical thinking through well-structured learning opportunities that enable both academic and personal growth. Potential is not allowed to rest. Queensbridge pupils and teachers are innovators and risk takers, prepared to be provocative, bold and courageous to explore and make sense of our world.

We provide a moral, compassionate education that prepares pupils for exams, but more importantly, for life, in a way that makes pupils take responsibility for their decisions and their learning. We are committed to being self-reflective in order to ensure that our pupils are presented with learning that is meaningful now and into their adult life. We ensure that our young people are well prepared to be responsible and humane global citizens.

Pupils are encouraged to be thoughtful about both speech and action, to look out for each other, to be positive role models and to speak out confidently and thoughtfully about their concerns. We work hard to build strong relationships with each other, our richly diverse community, our locality and the wider world.

We want our pupils to have an understanding about healthy relationships, respect, self-esteem and digital literacy. This will mean they have the opportunity and skills to recognise and challenge negative influences and narratives which endanger equality of opportunity, helping them to make positive and informed connections with each other and the world outside of school.

This 'No Platform' Policy aims to ensure that Queensbridge Secondary 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, misogynistic 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 can be found at [BCC No Platform Policy | Birmingham City Council](#) This

provides further information and, in particular, includes guidance on conducting research into the background of potential speakers.

2. Definitions

“Extremism” is defined by the Government in the Prevent Strategy, 2011 and Counter Extremism Strategy, 2015 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. 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.”

“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: [Proscribed terrorist groups or organisations - GOV.UK](#)

3. Principles

The principles on which this policy is based are:

- No person may use the facilities of Queensbridge Secondary School to express or promote extremist ideological, religious or political views.
- No person may use the facilities of Queensbridge Secondary School to express or promote discriminatory views in relation to the protected characteristics listed in the Equality Act 2010.

- Queensbridge Secondary School will not allow the use of its facilities by any group or organisation that is proscribed by HM Government.

4. Electronic Communication

Queensbridge Secondary 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.

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

Queensbridge Secondary 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 Queensbridge Secondary 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.

7. Accountability

The school's Governing Body has ultimate responsibility for this policy. The implementation of the policy is the responsibility of the Headteacher. Queensbridge Secondary School 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 Queensbridge Secondary School staff will inform the Designated Safeguarding 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 by informing the Chair of Governors of their concerns. If a concern needs to be escalated further the Queensbridge Secondary 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 A

Advice and Good Practice: Visitor and Contractor Bookings

When booking a visitor or contractor, please follow the steps below to mitigate the risks of undesirable bookings. This document is not a definitive list and should be used in conjunction with other checking mechanisms.

Process

1. When organising a visitor to the school (i.e. any person who is not a QB staff member), the person responsible for the visit should complete an application using the visitor and contractor booking system. This can be found on QB-i. All applications should be completed well in advance and no later than two weeks before the date of visit.
2. Exceptions that do not require a visitor booking application are parents/carers, social workers and police.
3. Due diligence should be taken to ensure the details recorded are accurate. Details required include:
 - Name of company
 - Name of person
 - Employment details (i.e. are they self-employed?)
 - Date and duration of visit
 - Reason for visit and where the visit will take place in school
 - Whether the visitor will have direct contact with pupils and/or parents or carers
 - E-mail address and contact telephone number of visitor/contractor
 - Website and associated websites for the individual or company
 - Frequency of visit and whether the visitor/contractor has been to the school previously
 - Any additional information relevant to the booking including: theme; title; agenda; content; speakers; expected audience, numbers and demographics; details of how the event will be promoted; is the event open to the public or a ticket only event?

Use the information collected to inform your decision as to whether the visit should go ahead or whether there is further information or research needed.

Top tips when organising any visitors to the school

- Be wary of individuals only giving out mobile numbers
- Ensure that in the event of reputational risk you can withdraw from the booking and contract (should there be one)
- Complete thorough research on the individual or organisation by:
 - Viewing their website (e.g. is this being kept up to date?)
 - Looking at what other people are saying about them (e.g. articles/blogs)
- Does the organisation have a landline number and a business address?
- Request a reference or testimonial from a venue provider previously used by the individual or organisation
- If the booking is for a charity, check the charity number of the organisation with the charity commission at [The Charity Commission - GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/the-charity-commission)
- Be wary of individuals/organisations making large cash payments