HALL GREEN SCHOOL

'NO PLATFORM' POLICY
Preventing speakers promoting messages of hate and intolerance

Adopted: 24 May 2023
Next Review: May 2025
Governing Committee: Full Governing Body
Responsibility: Headteacher

Preventing speakers promoting messages of hate and intolerance

1.   Introduction

This 'No Platform' Policy aims to ensure that Hall Green 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 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 https://www.birmingham.gov.uk/downloads/file/18619/bcc_no_platform_policy
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 - https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/proscribed-terror-groups-or-organisations--2/proscribed-terrorist-groups-or-organisations-accessible-version

3.   Principles

The Principles on which this policy is based are:

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

4.   Electronic Communication

Hall Green 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

Hall Green 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 Hall Green 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.

Hall Green 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 Hall Green 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 Hall Green 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

No Platform Policy – Undesirable Bookings
Advice and Good Practice for Venue Bookings Follow the steps below to mitigate the risks of undesirable books.

This document is not a definitive list and should be used in conjunction with other checking mechanisms. Ask:

What's planned and who's planning it?

1.   Who is the individual or organisation booking the event?
- Ask for their name and associated names they operate under
- Ask for their address and phone number
- Get details of the individual or the organisations website and associated websites.

2.   Do they implement a policy that promotes equality and diversity and challenges all forms of discrimination? Or will they agree to their event subscribing to your equality and diversity policy?

3.   Ask for details of the event, including: theme; title; agenda; content; speakers; expected audience, numbers and demographics; details of how the event will be promoted (ask for copies of flyers/posters etc.); is the event open to the public or a ticket only event?

Check

Undertake due diligence to confirm what you've been told and find out more.

1.   Run a check on the individual/organisation/speakers by:

- Viewing their website, articles or speeches
- Consider what other people are saying about them (articles/blogs etc.).

2.   Ask for a reference from a venue provider previously used by the individual/organisation.

3.   If the booking is for a charity, check the charity number of the organisation with the charity commission at the **charity.commission.gov.uk**.

Decide

Do you let the event go ahead? Or take action to reduce risk?
Use the information collected to inform your decision.

TOP TIPS when taking bookings

- If the booking is being arranged by an event management or another company, make sure you know who their client is

- Be wary of individuals only giving out mobile numbers
- If the enquiries are about internet use and bandwidth, investigate whether any speakers will partake remotely
- Be wary of individuals/organisations making large cash payments
- Ensure that in the event of reputational risk you can withdraw from the contract.

TOP TIPS when researching individuals/organisations online

- Complete a thorough investigation on the individual/organisation by:
  - Viewing their website(s)
  - Looking at what other people are saying about them (article/blogs etc.).
- Complete a thorough check on any speakers by looking at what other people are saying about them (article/blogs etc.)
- When you are looking at a website, check that it is being kept up to date
- If you are unsure about an organisation, check it has a landline number and a business address
- Where possible use primary evidence – an organisations manifesto or a person speaking on YouTube.