



# No Platform Policy

*Responding to speakers promoting messages of hatred and intolerance.*

Next Review October 2024

## **1.1 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 children Ref 5. 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 2015 Ref 6 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.

## **1.2 Aims of Policy**

This "No Platform Policy" aims to ensure that Cotteridge Primary 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 policy provides guidelines on how schools can respond to extremist concerns and conduct research into the background of potential speakers.

## **1.3 Definitions for the purpose of the Policy**

These can be found on Birmingham City Council Website -

[https://www.birmingham.gov.uk/downloads/file/18619/bcc\\_no\\_platform\\_policy](https://www.birmingham.gov.uk/downloads/file/18619/bcc_no_platform_policy)

## **1.4. Principles**

The Principles on which this policy is based are:

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

## **1.5. Electronic Communication**

Cotteridge Primary 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.

### **1.6 Written and Printed Communication**

Cotteridge Primary 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.

### **1.7 Use of Buildings, Facilities and Property**

In deciding whether to allow any group or organisation to make use of its buildings, facilities and property Cotteridge Primary 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.

### **1.8 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.

Cotteridge Primary 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.

### **1.9 Reporting Concerns**

School staff has 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 Cotteridge School staff will inform Jason Willetts 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 Sarah Tomlinson, Chair of the Governors, of their concerns. If a concern needs to be escalated further, then Cotteridge School 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](mailto:noplatform@birmingham.gov.uk)

### **1.10 Training**

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