

No Platform for Extremism: Responding to speakers promoting messages of hatred and intolerance

Introduction

Aims of this policy

This “No Platform Policy” aims to ensure that Al-Burhan Grammar 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 or hatred on the grounds of political opinion, age, colour, disability, ethnic or national origin, gender, marital status, race, religion or sexual orientation.

This 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.

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
- 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/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/322142/20140620-List_of_Proscribed_organisations_WEBSITE.pdf

Principles and Basis

The basis for this policy is the values of Al-Burhan Grammar School. These are as follows:

- Everyone is equal. Therefore, no one should be treated differently.
- Everyone as a right to be respected and treated with care and courtesy. Therefore, everyone also has the responsibility to treat others with respect.
- Although everyone is equal, we are also individuals with individual beliefs and attitudes. We have the right to hold these beliefs and attitudes as long as these attitudes do not harm or endanger others in any way and do not spread hatred or anger. Tolerance is key and intolerance should not be tolerated.
- Everyone has a right to live in a society where they are treated justly and fairly, spoken to politely, helped when they need help, and have the freedom to choose what to do as long as it does not cause harm or endanger others, or spread hatred. Therefore everyone has the responsibility to contribute to such a society.

The principles of this policy are:

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

Policy

Electronic Communication

Al-Burhan Grammar 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
- 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.

Written and Printed Communication

Al-Burhan Grammar 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
- Promote extreme ideological, religious or political beliefs

Use of Buildings, Facilities and Property

In deciding whether to allow any group or organisation to make use of its buildings, facilities and property, Al-Burhan Grammar 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.

Implementation of this Policy

Accountability

The Governing Body has ultimate responsibility for this policy. The implementation of the policy is the responsibility of the Head Teacher.

Al-Burhan Grammar 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.

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 Al-Burhan Grammar School, staff will inform Dr Mohammad Nasrullah 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, they should escalate the concern by informing Mr Mohammed, our Chair of Governors, of their concerns. If a concern needs to be escalated further, the Whistle Blowing Policy is to be used.

Training

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