



No Platform Policy

Date of Approval:	25 th November 2022
Approved by:	Education Committee
Review date:	November 2025

Policy Information:

Date of last review	November 2022	Review period	Every 3 years
Date approved	November 2022	Approved by	Education Committee
Policy owner	CEO	Date of next review	November 2025

Updates made since the last review:

Review date	Changes made	By whom
17/11/21	None	CEO
18/11/22	Updated links only	CEO

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Responding to speakers promoting messages of hatred and intolerance

1. Introduction

This “No Platform Policy” aims to ensure that Forward Education Trust (FET) 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.

Further information and resources are available on the [West Midlands Regional Procedures](#) website which covers the authorities within which FET works.

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 via this [link](#)

3. Principles

The Principles on which this policy is based are –

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

4. Electronic Communication

Our Trust will not allow the use of the 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 Trust 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 any Trust or school equipment to access external resources. This includes the right to monitor the use of resources.

5. Written and Printed Communication

Our Trust has the right to exercise control over the content of any written or printed material that identifies itself as associated with it. 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 it, 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 our Trust 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 Trust. 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 Trust has ultimate responsibility for this policy. The implementation of the policy is the responsibility of the Head Teachers in each school and the Safeguarding Lead in the Trust.

The Trust will as it sees fit conduct 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

All 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 our Trust, our school staff will inform the Head Teacher if they have a concern.

Any member of staff who has raised a concern will be given feedback on the action taken.

If after reporting a concern at school a member of staff feels no satisfactory action has been taken, they should escalate the concern by informing the Chair of their Local Academy Council.

For Trust office employees they should notify the Trust CEO in the first instance.

If a concern needs to be escalated further, then our Trust Whistleblowing Policy is to be used.

9. Training

The Trust will ensure that all staff and those responsible for governance within the Trust receive appropriate training via the Trust DSL and/or Trust Safeguarding Lead in the issues raised by this policy.