

DUDLEY ACADEMIESTRUST

No Platform Policy

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Introduction

This “No Platform Policy” aims to ensure that Dudley Academies Trust 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.

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.”

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

Principles

The Principles on which this policy is based are -

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

Electronic Communication

Dudley Academies Trust will not allow the use of each Academy’s 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.

Each Academy has a right to exercise control over all activities on its IT facilities, including electronic communications associated with the name of the Academy and use of Academy equipment to access external resources. This includes the right to monitor the use of Academy resources.

Written and Printed Communication

Dudley Academies Trust has the right to exercise control over the content of any written or printed material that identifies itself as associated within each Academy. 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 each Academy, 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.

Use of Buildings, Facilities and Property

In deciding whether to allow any group or organisation to make use of its buildings, facilities and property Dudley Academies 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 each Academy. In particular, access will be refused if it appears likely that the proposed activity would promote extremist ideological, political or religious beliefs.

Before agreeing to host a speaker (either during or outside of school hours) research relating to the status of the speaker, including their previous comments, will be conducted by the Trust by carrying out a physical inspection of internet search engines across social media sites such as Facebook and any associated links for anyone wishing to use the Trusts premises.

Note: When carrying out internet searches, it is good practice to look beyond the first page of results.

Accountability

The Board of Trustees has ultimate responsibility for this policy. The implementation of the policy is the responsibility of the Principal.

Dudley Academies Trust may research into the background of potential speakers, consulting other Academies, other organisations, using search engines, assessing the reliability of information found, identifying risks to community cohesion etc.

Reporting Concerns

Academy 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 the Academy.

At Beacon Hill Academy, staff will inform Mrs H Shingler or Miss V Rownes (DSL and DDSL) 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 and if a concern needs to be escalated further, Staff should use the reporting protocols within the Whistle Blowing Policy of the Trust.

Training

Dudley Academies Trust will ensure that all Academy staff, Local Advisory Board Members and Trustees receive appropriate training in the issues raised by this policy.