

BIRMINGHAM INDEPENDENT COLLEGE

NO PLATFORM FOR EXTREMISM POLICY

Next Review: 09/2025

1. INTRODUCTION

This 'No Platform for Extremism Policy' is part of Birmingham Independent College's (BIC) commitment to keeping children safe. Since the 'Education and Inspections Act 2006', schools have a duty to promote community cohesion. Over the last few years, global events have led to a growth of extremist viewpoints, including advocacy of violent extremism.

Schools have an important part to play in both educating children and young people about extremism and recognising when students start to become radicalised. In March 2015, new statutory duties were placed on schools by the Counter Terrorism and Security Act (2015) which means they must work to prevent children being drawn into extremism.

Safeguarding children from all risks of harm is an important part of a school's work and protecting them from extremism is one aspect of that.

2. ETHOS

At BIC we ensure that through our vision, values, rules, diverse curriculum and teaching we promote tolerance and respect for all cultures, faiths and lifestyles. The Proprietors also ensures that this ethos is reflected and implemented effectively in policy and practice and that there are effective risk assessments in place to safeguard and promote students' welfare. We have a duty to prepare our students for life in modern Britain and to keep them safe. Students who attend our establishments have the right to learn in safety. We do not tolerate bullying of any kind and will challenge derogatory language and behaviour towards others.

This "No Platform Policy" aims to ensure BIC 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.

3. STATUTORY DUTIES

The duty to prevent children and young people being radicalised is set out in the following documents.

- o Counter Terrorism and Security Act (2015)
- o Statutory guidance Revised Prevent duty guidance: for England and Wales Updated 1 April 2021
- o Government Prevent duty toolkit for local authorities and partner agencies

- o Keeping Children Safe in Education (2024)
- o Working Together to Safeguard Children (2018)

Non-Statutory Guidance

- o Understanding and identifying radicalisation risk in your education setting October 2022
- o Managing risk of radicalisation in your education setting
- o Promoting fundamental British values as part of SMSC in schools: Departmental advice for maintained schools
- o (DfE 2014)
- o Advice on hosting external speakers Extremism Guidance and Assessment Support & Screening Tool
- o Regional
- o Child Protection Procedures: West Midlands. Safeguarding children and young people against radicalisation and o violent extremism.

4. 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:

- o Age;
- o Disability;
- o Gender reassignment;
- o Marriage and civil partnership; o Pregnancy and maternity;
- o Race;
- o Religion or belief; o Sex; and
- o 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.

List of proscribed organisations and full details of the proscription offences can be found at:

[Proscribed terrorist groups or organisations - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/proscribed-terrorist-groups-or-organisations)

4.1 Terminology

- o Extremism: “the holding of extreme political or religious views; fanaticism” “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.
- o Radicalisation is the process through which a person comes to support or be involved in extremist ideologies. It can result in a vulnerable person being targeted and drawn into a terrorist-related activity and is in itself a form of harm.
- o Vulnerability to radicalisation is when a person, who as a result of their experiences and/or situation, may be drawn or exploited into supporting terrorism or extremist ideologies associated with terrorist groups.
- o A radicaliser is an individual/influence which encourages others to develop or adopt beliefs and views supportive of terrorism, and forms of extremism leading to terrorism.
- o Violent extremism describes the attitudes, beliefs and actions that condone violence as a means to a political end.
- o Terrorism is an unlawful use of violence against and intimidation against civilians in pursuit of political aims. The national UK terrorism threat level now takes into account all ideologies, including Islamist, Northern Ireland related terrorism in Great Britain, right-wing, left wing etc.

CONTEST (Counter-Terrorism Strategy) is the UK’s strategy for countering extremism and has four strands:

- o Prevent: to stop people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism in all its forms;
- o Pursue: to stop terrorist attacks;
- o Protect: to strengthen our protection against a terrorist attack;
- o Prepare: to mitigate the impact of a terrorist attack.

Prevent works with individuals and communities by using voluntary early intervention to encourage them to challenge extremist and terrorist ideology and behaviour. Prevent is safeguarding. In the same way that support is provided to people at risk of involvement with drugs, gangs, or other forms of harm, individuals vulnerable to being groomed into radicalisation can also be helped.

Groomers of all kinds prey on feelings of stress and isolation to exploit vulnerable individuals, both online and offline. Prevent protects individuals targeted by terrorist influences by providing local, multi-agency safeguarding support. Anyone can make a referral to Prevent if they are concerned that someone is at risk of radicalisation, by calling the police on 101 to get advice and support.

Prevent seeks to increase understanding among frontline staff and community members. Whether through training or events, encouraging discussion or debate.

CHANNEL

Identify individuals at risk of being drawn into terrorism; Assess the nature and extent of that risk;

Develop the most appropriate support plan for the individuals concerned which could include any of the following:

- o Life skills;
- o Mentoring;
- o Anger management;
- o Family support;
- o Housing;
- o Education support;
- o Health awareness/assessment;
- o Careers advice;
- o Drugs/alcohol awareness;
- o Constructive pursuits.

The Channel panel works in the same way as other multi-agency safeguarding structures. It is chaired by the local authority and consists of statutory partners including police, education, health, probation and prisons

5. OVERALL AIMS

Educational establishments should be a safe space in which students can understand and discuss sensitive topics, including terrorism and the extremist ideas that are part of terrorist ideology, and learn how to challenge these ideas.

EIAT agrees with the Home Office statement that “safeguarding vulnerable people from radicalisation is no different from safeguarding them from other forms of harm.”

The Principles on which this policy is based are -

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

6. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

In Birmingham City Council community cohesion means working towards a society in which strong and positive relationships flourish and continue to be developed in schools, the workplace and wider community. The Equality Act 2010 places a duty on us to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and to foster good relations. To achieve this, every child in Birmingham

should have the best opportunity to go as far as they can in life and education is the key to that success. This is our commitment to equip children and young people to be happy, talented, confident and ambitious citizens of Birmingham and of the world.

All children in Birmingham will experience a broad and balanced curriculum enabling them to grow and learn in an environment without prejudice or inequality. It will prepare them for adult life by:

- o enabling them to play an active role in their school and community;
- o experiencing a culturally rich and diverse life;
- o developing and benefitting from a range of positive relationships.

Support and Services for Extremism Concerns – Community Safeguarding Panel, Birmingham

There is a Community Safeguarding Panel in Birmingham made up of community organisations that the Council and Children's Trust have experience of working with and who can provide support in cases where there are extremist concerns.

Birmingham Safeguarding Children Partnership (BSCP)

As part of the Prevent Duty BSCP have developed a toolkit to support schools with monitoring and reviewing Prevent compliance in schools.

The key areas are:

- o Risk Assessment;
- o Working in partnership;
- o Staff training and IT policies;
- o Building children's resilience to radicalisation.

BIC supports and trains relevant college staff and develops curriculum activities to address Prevent and extremism concerns.

The Proprietorship

It is the role of the Proprietorship to ensure that the establishments meets its statutory duties with regard to preventing radicalisation.

Head of College

It is the role of the Head of College to:

- o ensure that the college and its staff respond to preventing radicalisation on a day-to-day basis;
- o ensure that the college's curriculum addresses the issues involved in radicalisation;
- o ensure that college conduct is consistent with preventing radicalisation.

The Head of College will endeavour to ensure that the staff we appoint to the college are suitable, our recruitment procedures are rigorous, and we follow the statutory guidance published in part 3 of Keeping Children Safe in Education. Vetting and barring checks are undertaken on relevant people, including volunteers.

The Head of College may decide to direct the Designated Safeguarding Lead to carry out a self-assessment to establish how well the College's Prevent arrangements are embedded and to identify any gaps and weaknesses to improve safeguarding effectiveness and consistency.

The Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)

It is the role of the Designated Safeguarding Lead to:

- o ensure that staff understand the issues of radicalisation, are able to recognise the signs of vulnerability or radicalisation and know how to refer their concerns by training front line staff on Prevent;
- o attend training when available to enhance knowledge of extremist groups and in particular localized threats;
- o attend the Department for Education training to support the use of the Self-Assessment Toolkit;
- o receive safeguarding concerns about children and young people who may be vulnerable to the risk of radicalisation or are showing signs of radicalisation;
- o make referrals if and when necessary to appropriate agencies with regard to concerns about radicalisation;
- o audit the Spiritual, Moral, Social, Cultural (SMSC) and shared British Values (BV) offer to students across the curriculum;
- o liaise with partners, including the local authority and the police;
- o report to the proprietorship body on these matters.

Our establishment, like all others, is required to identify a Prevent Single Point of Contact (SPOC) who will be the lead within the organisation for safeguarding in relation to protecting individuals from radicalisation and involvement in terrorism: this will normally be the DSL.

7. ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION

BIC will not allow the use of its website, IT facilities or information management processes to:

- o Promote discriminatory views in relation to the protected characteristics listed in the Equality Act 2010;
- o Promote or glorify terrorism; or
- o Promote extreme ideological, religious or political beliefs.

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

8. WRITTEN AND PRINTED COMMUNICATION

BIC has the right to exercise control over the content of any written or printed material that identifies itself as associated with BIC. 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 BIC in such material, if that material appears to:

- o Promote discriminatory views in relation to the protected characteristics listed in the Equality Act 2010;
- o Promote or glorify terrorism; or
- o Promote extreme ideological, religious or political beliefs.

9. USE OF BUILDINGS, FACILITIES AND PROPERTY

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

10. ACCOUNTABILITY

BIC has ultimate responsibility for this policy. The implementation of the policy is the responsibility of the Head of College.

BIC will use the No Platform Policy of Birmingham City Council for guidance on conducting research into the background of potential speakers, consulting other schools/colleges, other organisations, using search engines, assessing the reliability of information found, identifying risks to community cohesion etc.

11. TRAINING

BIC will ensure that staff and proprietors receive appropriate training in the issues raised by this policy.

