



**The Romero
Catholic Academy**
Nurturing the Talent of Tomorrow



No Platform for Extremism Policy

Responsible for policy:

Review:

Chair of Directors

CC3: Quality, Performance and Standards

Triennial

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Definitions

In this **No Platform Policy**, unless the context otherwise requires, the following expressions shall have the following meanings:

- i **'The Romero Catholic Academy'** means the Company named at the beginning of this **No Platform Policy** and includes all sites upon which the Company is undertaking, from time to time, being carried out. The Romero Catholic Academy includes; **Corpus Christi, Good Shepherd, Sacred Heart, Blue Sky, SS Peter and Paul, St Gregory, St John Fisher, St Patrick, Cardinal Wiseman, Shared Services Team.**
- ii **'Romero Catholic Academy'** means the Company responsible for the management of the Academy and, for all purposes, means the employer of staff at the Company.
- iii **'Board'** means the Board of Directors of the Romero Catholic Academy.
- iv **'Chair'** means the Chair of the Board or the Chair of the Local Governing Body of the Academy appointed from time to time, as appropriate.
- v **'Governance Professional'** means the Governance Professional to the Board or the Governance Professional to the Local Governing Body of the Academy appointed from time to time, as appropriate.
- vi **'Chief Education Office (CEO)'** means the person responsible for performance of all Academies and Staff within the Multi Academy Company and is accountable to the Board of Directors.
- vii **'Diocesan Schools Commission'** means the education service provided by the diocese, which may also be known, or referred to, as the Birmingham Diocesan Education Service.
- viii **'Local Governing Body'** means the governing body of the School.
- ix **'Governing Body Representatives'** means the governors appointed and elected to the Local Governing Body of the School, from time to time.
- x **'Principal'** means the substantive Principal, who is the person with overall responsibility for the day to day management of the school.
- xi **'School'** means the school or college within The Romero Catholic Academy and includes all sites upon which the school undertaking is, from time to time, being carried out.
- xii **'Shared Services Team'** means the staff who work in the central team across the Company (e.g. HR/ Finance)
- xiii **'Vice-Chair'** means the Vice-Chair of the Governing Body elected from time to time.
- xiv **'CES'** means Catholic Education Service in London
- xv **'BDES'** means the education service provided by the diocese, which may also be known, or referred to, as the Birmingham Diocesan Education Service.

1. Introduction

This **“No Platform Policy”** aims to ensure that The Romero Catholic Academy balances the right of freedom of speech against the potential use of its facilities for the promotion of extremist ideological, religious or political beliefs.

As an integral part of its educational vision or the holistic formation of children and young people, the Catholic Church expects all schools to promote and uphold high standards throughout their activities and this includes any external speakers that are used in curriculum, enrichment or lettings of the buildings.

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. This policy also draws upon the CES document **‘Checklist for External Speakers to Schools’** with a checklist included in Appendix 1. The checklist is to be completed by the appropriate Senior leader in the school prior to welcoming (and establishing collaborative relationships with) external speakers (and any organisation they represent) to ensure that the Catholic character of any Academy within Romero, is preserved and developed in the external speaker’s communication with pupils, parents and carers, or anyone using the site in any letting arrangement.

This can be found here <https://www.catholiceducation.org.uk/guidance-for-schools/governance>

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 at - https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/322142/20140620-List_of_Proscribed_organisations_WEBSITE.pdf

3. Principles

The Principles on which this policy is based are;

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

4. Electronic Communication

The Romero Catholic Academy 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.
- Promotes anything that could be perceived incompatible with the teachings of the Catholic church

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.

5. Written and Printed Communication

The Romero Catholic Academy 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
- Promotes anything that could be perceived incompatible with the teachings of the Catholic church

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 The Romero Catholic Academy 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 as a Catholic organisation. 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 Board has ultimate responsibility for this policy. The implementation of the policy is the responsibility of the Principal.

The Romero Catholic Academy will use the **CES External Speaker document** 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.

8. 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 The Romero Catholic Academy staff will inform the Principal or CEO, 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 the Chair of the Local Governing Body or the Board of Directors their concerns. If a concern needs to be escalated further then The Romero Catholic Academy's Whistle Blowing Policy is to be used.

9. Training

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

10. Links to other policies

- Letting Policy

11. Monitoring and Review

The Board of Directors delegate the implementation of this policy to the Local Governing Body. This policy will be reviewed by CC3 Quality Provision, Performance and Standards.

Appendix 1

Name of speaker:		
Question	Answer	Actions needed or comment
Will the Speaker be supervised at all times during the visit?	Yes No	
Have you carried out appropriate safeguarding checks for the Speaker? Please refer to CES guidance on DBS checks and disqualification unless your own system is robust.	Yes No	
Has the Speaker understood and confirmed that their communications in the school will: • <i>Be respectful towards Catholic teachings</i> • <i>Not be prejudicial or detrimental to the Catholic character of the school</i> • <i>Will not lead to promotion of extremist ideological, religious or political beliefs.</i>	Yes No	
Have you reviewed the resources/ training materials that will be used by the speaker?	Yes No	
Have you reviewed other resources produced by the Speaker (and by any organisation the speaker represents) even if they will not form part of the speaker's activities at the school?	Yes No	
Have you conducted a general internet search using the Speaker's name (e.g. a google search)? If parents or children and young people conducted a similar search are any concerns likely to arise?	Yes No	
Can you confirm that the political views espoused by the speaker/speaker's organisation are in compliance with British values and do not involve taking an extreme political position?	Yes No	
Have school policies and procedures applicable to the speaker been explained and understood by the Speaker?	Yes No	
Are there any other outstanding issues or concerns with the Speaker and/ or their suitability?	Yes No	
Will the Speaker deliver content of a high quality that is appropriate to the age and maturity of the children or young people in the audience?	Yes No	

If you have any concerns regarding the suitability of this Speaker, you should contact BDES to seek further clarification

Signed _____

Role _____

Date _____