

# No Platform for Extremism

Model policy based on BCC



*Where children develop independence and confidence; learning through curiosity, play and enquiring*

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# MODEL POLICY FOR SCHOOLS

## NO PLATFORM FOR EXTREMISM

**Responding to speakers promoting messages of hatred and intolerance.**

### 1 Introduction

Schools, both state-funded and independent, have a range of duties in relation to safeguarding children from extremism. The statutory guidance Keeping Children Safe in Education, most recently updated in September 2021, is the key document for schools, colleges and their staff as part of the wider safeguarding system for children.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/keeping-children-safe-in-education--2>

It provides an overview of their duties regarding preventing the radicalisation of children. It recognises that children are vulnerable to extremist ideology and radicalisation and that protecting children from this risk should be part of a schools' safeguarding approach. The Government published an overview of the duties on schools in its policy paper

Preventing Extremism in **The Education and Children's Services Sectors** on 1 September 2015 and Prevent Duty guidance April 2019.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/preventing-extremism-in-schools-and-childrens-services/preventing-extremism-in-the-education-and-childrens-services-sectors>

In recent times the Government has taken further action to strengthen the duties on schools, in particular with the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015, which placed the Government's 'Prevent' Counter-Extremism strategy on a statutory footing, and placed duties on schools to have due regard to the need to prevent children being drawn into terrorism.

The Government has also sought to strengthen a schools' abilities to address a wide range of potential concerns relating to radicalisation, such as the potential for children to be groomed through several mediums and be drawn into extremist narratives.

### 2 Aims of Policy

This "No Platform Policy" aims to ensure that Dame Ellen Pinsent 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 on the grounds of political opinion, age, colour, disability, ethnic or national origin, gender, marital status, race, religion or sexual orientation.

This policy provides guidelines on how schools can respond to extremist concerns and conduct research into the background of potential speakers.

### 3 Definitions for the purpose of the Policy

For the purpose of this policy:

3.1 The Terrorism Act 20003 makes it a criminal offence to:

3.1.1 Belong, or profess to belong, to a proscribed organisation (section 11 of the Act);

3.1.2 Invite support for a proscribed organisation (and the support is not, or is not restricted to the provision of money or other property) (section 12(1));

3.1.3 Arrange, manage or assist in arranging or managing a meeting in the knowledge that the meeting is to support or further the activities of a proscribed organisation, or is to be addressed by a person who belongs or professes to belong to a proscribed organisation (section 12(2)); or to address a meeting if the purpose of the address is to encourage support for, or further the activities of, a proscribed organisation (section 12(3)); and

3.1.4 Wear clothing or carry or display articles in public in such a way or in such circumstances as to arouse reasonable suspicion that an individual is a member or supporter of the proscribed organisation (section 13).

3.2 Section 38b of the Terrorism Act 2000 states that an individual has committed an offence if s/he has information which is known or believes might be of material assistance in preventing another person from committing an act of terrorism or securing apprehension, prosecution or conviction of another person for an offence involving the commission, preparation or instigation of an act of terrorism and s/he fails to disclose that information to the police as soon as is reasonably possible.  
<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2000/11/contents>

3.3 Extremism as defined in the Prevent and Counter Extremism Strategy by Government Is the: 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. Also included in the Government's definition of extremism are calls for the death of members of our armed forces, whether in this country or overseas.

3.4 Not every part of this definition must be satisfied for a particular individual or organisation to be regarded as extremist.

3.5 The Equality Act 2010<sup>4</sup> protects nine individual characteristics set out in Appendix 2. All members and employees of the Council have a duty to not unlawfully discriminate against anyone based on any of these characteristics.

3.6 The Equality Act 2010 also requires the Council to have due regard to:

2.6.1 Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct prohibited by the Act;

2.6.2 Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it; and

2.6.3 Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it.

3.7 Council facilities includes (by way of example):

2.7.1 Property and land owned by the Council, in part or in whole;

2.7.2 Property and land leased or licensed by the Council, in part or in whole;

2.7.3 The provision of services, such as IT services (including copying or printing);

## 4. Principles

The Principles on which this policy is based are -

- No person may use the facilities of DAME ELLEN PINSENT to express or promote extremist ideological, religious or political views.

- No person may use the facilities of DAME ELLEN PINSENT to express or promote discriminatory views in relation to the protected characteristics listed in the Equality Act 2010.
- DAME ELLEN PINSENT will not allow the use of its facilities by any group or organisation that is proscribed by HM Government.

## 5. Electronic Communication

DAME ELLEN PINSENT 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.

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.

## 6. Written and Printed Communication

DAME ELLEN PINSENT 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.

## 7. Use of Buildings, Facilities and Property

In deciding whether to allow any group or organisation to make use of its buildings, facilities and property DAME ELLEN PINSENT 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.

## 8. Accountability

The statutory body of the school (Governing Body) has ultimate responsibility for this policy. The implementation of the policy is the responsibility of the Head Teacher.

DAME ELLEN PINSENT 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.

## 9. 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 DAME ELLEN PINSENT staff will inform the DSL Donna Cater or other DSL's Denise Fountain (HT), Kerry Parker (AHT) Kate Gray (AHT) and Aimee Whittaker (Pastoral Lead) 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 Governors, Andy Punch of their concerns. If a concern needs to be escalated further, then DAME ELLEN PINSENT SCHOOL Whistle Blowing Policy is to be used.

## **10. Training**

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

## **No Platform Policy – Undesirable Bookings**

### **Advice and Good Practice for Venue Bookings**

Follow the steps below to mitigate the risks of undesirable books. This document is not a definitive list and should be used in conjunction with other checking mechanisms.

#### **ASK**

What's planned and who's planning it?

1. Who is the individual or organisation booking the event?
  - Ask for their name and associated names they operate under
  - Ask for their address and phone number
  - Get details of the individual or the organisations website and associated websites.
2. Do they implement a policy that promotes equality and diversity and challenges all forms of discrimination? Or will they agree to their event subscribing to your equality and diversity policy?
3. Ask for details of the event, including: theme; title; agenda; content; speakers; expected audience, numbers and demographics; details of how the event will be promoted (ask for copies of flyers/posters etc); is the event open to the public or a ticket only event?

#### **CHECK**

Undertake due diligence to confirm what you've been told and find out more.

1. Run a check on the individual/organisation/speakers by:
  - Viewing their website, articles or speeches
  - Consider what other people are saying about them (articles/blogs etc.)
2. Ask for a reference from a venue provider previously used by the individual/organisation. 3. If the booking is for a charity, check the charity number of the organisation with the charity commission at the [charity.commission.gov.uk](http://charity.commission.gov.uk)

#### **DECIDE**

##### **Do you let the event go ahead? Or take action to reduce risk?**

Use the information collected to inform your decision.

#### **TOP TIPS when taking bookings**

- If the booking is being arranged by an event management or another company, make sure you know who their client is
- Be wary of individuals only giving out mobile numbers
- If the enquiries are about internet use and bandwidth, investigate whether any speakers will partake remotely
- Be wary of individuals/organisations making large cash payments
- Ensure that in the event of reputational risk you can withdraw from the contract TOP TIPS when researching individuals/organisations online
- Complete a thorough investigation on the individual/organisation by: - Viewing their website(s) - Looking at what other people are saying about them (article/blogs etc.)
- Complete a thorough check on any speakers by looking at what other people are saying about them (article/blogs etc.)
- When you are looking at a website, check that it is being kept up to date
- If you are unsure about an organisation, check it has a landline number and a business address
- Where possible use primary evidence – an organisations manifesto or a person speaking on YouTube

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

List of Terrorist Organisations banned under U.K Law

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/proscribed-terror-groups-or-organisations->

The Charity Commission

[charity.commission.gov.uk](http://charity.commission.gov.uk)

If you still have a concern about the booking, you can contact your Local Authority

[noplatform@birmingham.gov.uk](mailto:noplatform@birmingham.gov.uk)

In case of an Emergency dial 999

If you have any information about suspicious activity or behaviour contact Counter Terrorist Police  
via: [Gov.uk/ACT](http://Gov.uk/ACT) or call 0800 789 321

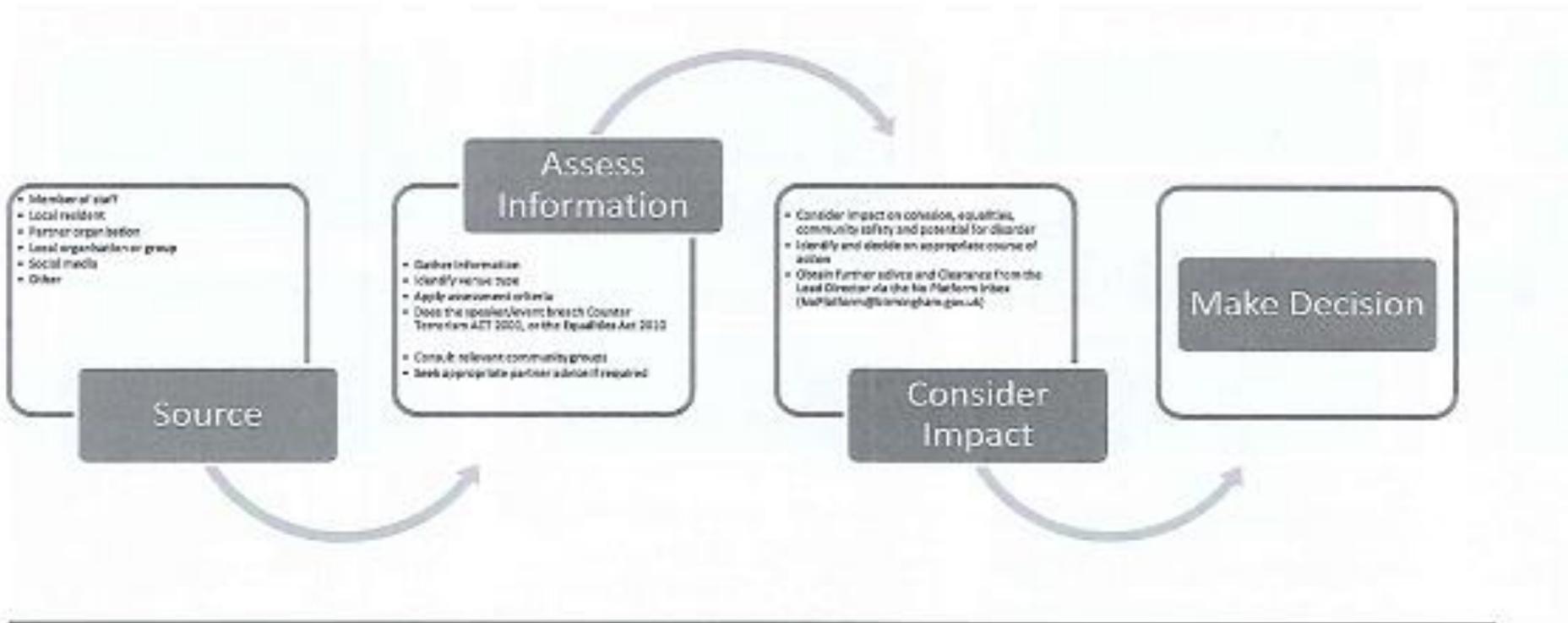
## Appendix 1 - Applying the Framework

The following diagrams set out the processes for information gathering and decision-making for the local authority in implementing the No Platform policy.

### Decision-Making Authority According to Venue Type



## Advice and Decision-Making Process





## **Assessment Criteria for Managing Extremist Events or Speakers**

In assessing the risks posed by an individual event or speaker, Birmingham City Council will work with relevant stakeholders including West Midlands Police and base our judgment on research that is:

**Primary** – caution will be exercised when information about individuals is derived from secondary sources without any supporting primary evidence.

**Attributable** – evidence from official, personal websites or videos, remove any doubt as to what an individual said and therefore present a stronger case.

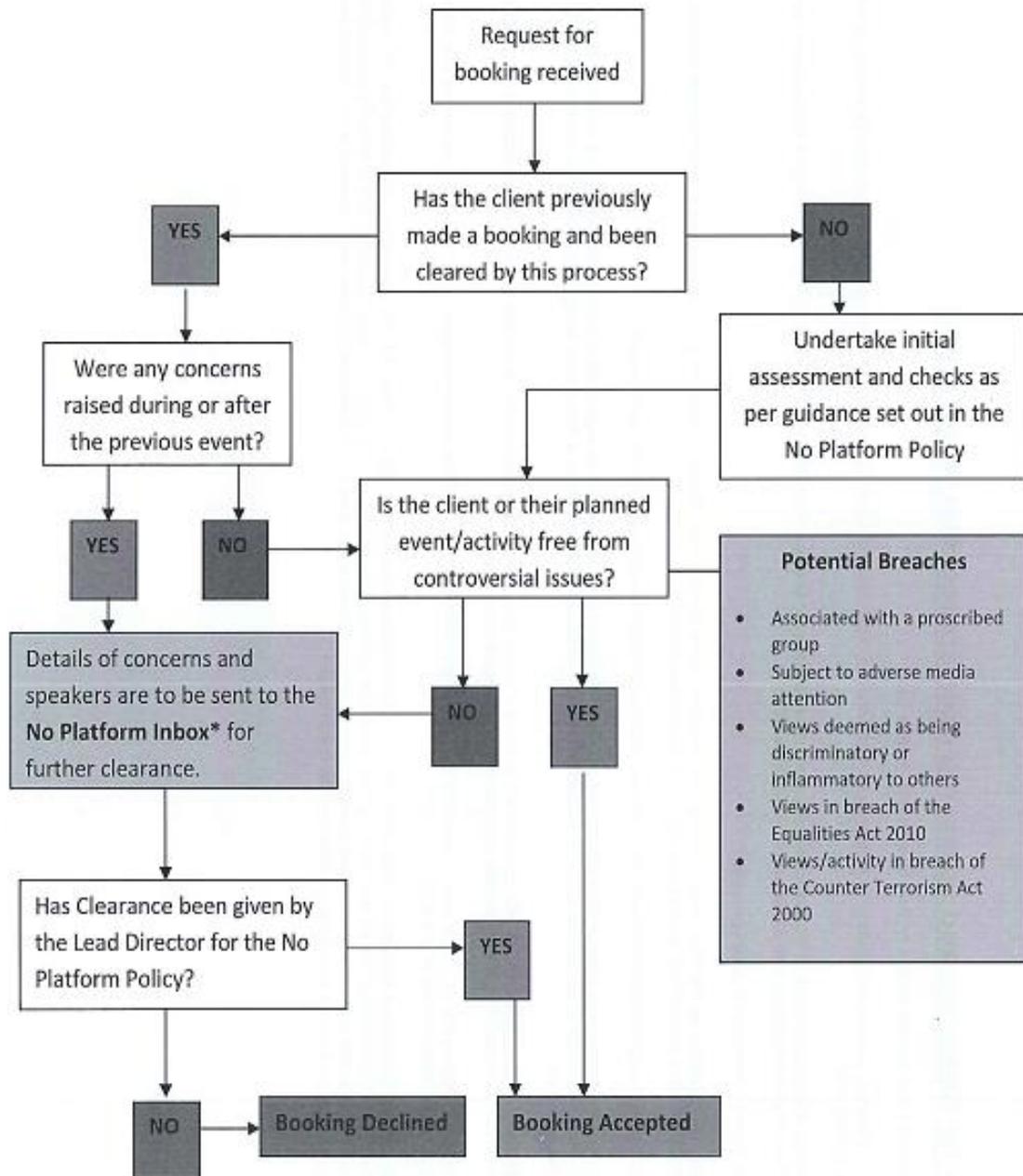
**Objective** – statements or actions will be seen within context. What is the intended audience? Is it part of a wider speech/video? What is the manner in which it is said? Do they appear to be condoning the views they are expressing, or repeating comments in historical or religious texts? Statements or actions that provide opposite or positive evidence, or evidence of the individual recanting, clarifying or apologising for previous views will also be considered (as should how consistent and public these clarifications have been).

**Reviewed** – research should be periodically reviewed to ensure that it reflects current positions

The Council recognises the need to ensure that all information/research collated for the purpose of sensitive decision-making is gathered from as many sources as possible and reserves the right where necessary, to consult partner organisations including West Midlands Police and the Home Office for further advice and guidance.

As part of the information gathering process, appropriate weight will be allocated dependent upon the type of source material; primary evidence will be sought where possible. When assessing information gathered from online sources the Council will exercise caution of allocating too much weight to information contained within blog sites and for example, of quotes that may have been taken out of context.

## No Platform Policy – Due Diligence Process for Venue Bookings



\*No Platform Inbox – [noplatform@birmingham.gov.uk](mailto:noplatform@birmingham.gov.uk)