

# St James's Primary School



## No Platform (visiting speakers) policy

Fulfilment: "Take courage. It is I. Do not be afraid."(Matthew 14:27)

In a safe and nurturing environment, we support each child to reach their full, God given potential.

School's Vision 2019

**Responsibility for monitoring this policy: Head teacher/Chair of Governors**

**Review Annually**

**(or in response to changes in legislation)**

**Updated: September 2021**

**Review date: September 2022**

Proposed by Headteacher .....Mrs L.Mason

*L Mason*

Approved by Governing Body ..... Mr A. Millichip (Chair of Governors)

*A. Millichip*

This policy should be read with the following policies and guidance;

- Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy 2021
- PREVENT Strategy - HM Government 2015
- Keeping Children Safe in Education - DFE September 2021

### **Introduction**

Visitors are welcome to St James's Primary School and make a contribution to the life and work of the school in many different ways. The learning opportunities and experiences they bring are encouraged and appreciated. It is the school's responsibility, however, to ensure that the security and welfare of the pupils is not compromised at any time. The school is equally responsible to the whole school community for ensuring that visitors comply with the guidelines.

It is our aim to safeguard all children whether it be during school time or extra-curricular activities which are arranged by the school. We aim to ensure all pupils at St James's Primary can learn and enjoy extra-curricular experiences, in an environment where they are safe from harm.

It is our objective to establish a clear protocol and procedure for the admittance of external visitors to the school which is understood by all staff, proprietors, visitors and parents and conform to child protection guidelines.

The school is deemed to have control and responsibility for its pupils anywhere on the school site, during normal school hours, during after school activities and on school organised (and supervised) off-site activities.

This policy applies to;

All teaching and non-teaching staff employed by the school

All external visitors entering the school site during the school day or after school activities (including peripatetic tutors, mentors, counsellors, sport coaches, and topic related visitors e.g. business people, authors, artists etc.)

All proprietors of the school

All parents/carers

All pupils

Educational personnel (Local Authority Staff, Inspectors)

Building and Maintenance Contractors

This policy applies to all visitors invited to St James's Primary School.

### **Visitors Invited to School**

Where possible permission should be granted by the Headteacher before any visitor is asked to come into school.

All visitors must enter the building via the front reception office on arrival and must not enter via any other entrance.

At the front door, all visitors must state the purpose of their visit and who has invited them.

**They should be ready to show formal identification where appropriate.**

All visitors will be introduced to the school office staff and will be signed in by them. They will be directed to read the visitor protocol relating to Covid-19.

The school office staff will issue each visitor with a visitors' badge and inform them of the procedures to follow in the event of a fire alarm/drill and if they feel unwell.

The school office staff will share this No Platform Policy with the visitor.

The school office staff will show the visitor where the toilet facilities are.

Visitors will then be escorted to their point of contact or their point of contact will be asked to come to reception to receive the visitor. The contact will then be responsible for them while they are on site. At no point should a visitor be left on their own with children (if the visitor is meeting a member of staff). On departing the school, visitors should leave via the school office, where the office staff will sign them out. (If out of office hours, the point of contact will be responsible for signing out visitor.)

### **Visitors whose purpose is to work with pupils in some capacity:**

Visitors may work with pupils in a variety of capacities, for example, to deliver a lesson (normally supervised by a member of staff), to meet with small groups of pupils or individuals or alternatively they may be working with a pupil on a one to one basis (e.g. Children's services or health professionals.)

Staff should ensure that all normal visitor policy requirements are followed.

Any visitor who is not DBS checked must **not** be left alone with pupils at any point. This includes whole class or small group teaching or one to one interviews of pupils or escorting pupils around the building.

If a visitor has DBS clearance/and safer recruitment checks are clear, they may work with pupils unaccompanied by another member of staff. At times this may be teaching a class or a one to one interview. This must be agreed in advance.

Regular visitors to the school must have DBS clearance / vetting checks completed.

Any visitor delivering a lesson or assembly must comply with the requirements of the No Platform agreement.

### **Use of External Agencies and Speakers**

At St James's Primary School we encourage the use of external agencies or speakers to enrich the experiences of our pupils; however, we will positively vet those external agencies, individuals and speakers who we engage to provide such learning opportunities or experiences for our pupils.

The Headteacher is in charge of coordinating and vetting the booking of all visiting speakers and staff members should seek permission giving a clear explanation as to the relevance and purpose of any visit and intended date and time.

Appropriate checks will be carried out on the suitability of the visiting speaker which may include internet searches and/or contacting other schools where the person has spoken previously.

Although not always possible, we try to invite speakers from an established company, charity or other groups whose aims are well documented.

We ensure that we do not unwittingly use agencies that contradict each other with their messages or that are inconsistent with, or are in complete opposition to, the school's values and ethos. We must be aware that in some instances the work of external agencies may not be directly connected with the rest of the school curriculum so we need to ensure that this work is of benefit to our pupils.

All external agencies and speakers will be expected to talk with the staff member in charge of coordinating events about the content of the presentation before the event and the visiting speaker must also read and agree to adhere to the school's 'Visiting Speakers Agreement' (see appendix 1).

All information about the visiting speaker and the booking process will be recorded on the 'Risk Assessment for Visiting Speaker/Event form' (see appendix 2).

Our school will assess the suitability and effectiveness of input from external agencies or individuals to ensure that:

Any messages communicated to pupils support fundamental British Values and our school values.

Any messages communicated to pupils are consistent with the ethos of the school and do not marginalise any communities, groups or individuals.

Any messages communicated to pupils do not seek to glorify criminal activity or violent extremism or seek to radicalise pupils through extreme or narrow views of faith, religion or culture or other ideologies.

Activities are properly embedded in the curriculum and are clearly mapped to schemes of work to avoid contradictory messages or duplication.

Activities are matched to the needs of pupils.

We recognise, however, that the ethos of our school is to encourage pupils to understand opposing views and ideologies, appropriate to their age, understanding and abilities, and to be able to actively engage with them in informed debate, and we may use external agencies or speakers to facilitate or support this. Therefore, by delivering a broad and balanced curriculum, augmented by the use of external sources where appropriate, we will strive to ensure our pupils recognise risk and build resilience to manage risk themselves where appropriate to their age and ability but also to help pupils develop critical thinking skills needed to engage in informed debate.

Visiting speakers will be made aware that their presentation will be brought to an early end, if the content proves unsuitable.

### **Unknown/uninvited visitors to school**

Any visitor to the school site who is not wearing a visitors' badge should be challenged politely to enquire who they are and their business on the school site.

They should then be escorted to the school office to sign in.

In the event that the visitor refuses to comply, they should be asked to leave the site immediately and the Headteacher should be informed immediately.

The Headteacher and/or members of the senior management team will consider the situation and decide if necessary to inform the police.

If an unknown/uninvited visitor becomes abusive or aggressive, they will be asked to leave the site immediately and warned that if they fail to leave the school grounds, police assistance will be called for.

Responding to speakers promoting messages of hatred and intolerance.

This "No Platform Policy" aims to ensure that St James's Primary 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 orientations.

#### 1. 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](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/322142/20140620-List_of_Proscribed_organisations_WEBSITE.pdf)

## 2. Principles

The Principles on which this policy is based are –

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

## 3. Electronic Communication

St James’s Primary School 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.

## 4. Written and Printed Communication

St James’s Primary School 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.

## 5. Use of Buildings, Facilities and Property

In deciding whether to allow any group or organisation to make use of its buildings, facilities and property St James’s Primary School 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.

## 6. Accountability

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

St James's Primary School may research into the background of potential speakers, consulting otherschools, other organisations, using search engines, assessing the reliability of information found, identifying risks to community cohesion etc.

## 7. 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 St James's Primary School staff will inform Lindsay Mason, Head Teacher, 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 Alan Millichip, Safeguarding Governor, of their concerns.

If a concern needs to be escalated further, then St James's Primary School's Whistle Blowing Policy isto be used.

## 8. Training

As part of their induction, new staff will be made aware of this policy and will be asked to ensure compliance with its procedures at all times.

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

**Visiting Speakers Agreement At St James's Primary School**

We understand the importance of visitors and external agencies to enrich the experiences of our pupils.

In order to safeguard our children we expect all visiting speakers to read and adhere to the statements below.

Any messages communicated to pupils support fundamental British Values and our school values.

Any messages communicated to pupils are consistent with the ethos of the school and do not marginalise any communities, groups or individuals.

Any messages communicated to pupils do not seek to glorify criminal activity or violent extremism or seek to radicalise pupils through extreme or narrow views of faith, religion or culture or other ideologies.

Activities are properly embedded in the curriculum and clearly mapped to schemes of work to avoid contradictory messages or duplication.

Activities are matched to the needs of pupils.

Visitors will also be accompanied by a member of staff at all times.

Name: .....

Signed: .....

Date: .....

**ST JAMES'S PRIMARY SCHOOL**  
**Risk Assessment for Visiting Speaker/Event**

Name of the Event and Speaker
Date of the Event
Nature of Event (talk, demonstration to the children, interactive learning etc)
Outline of the Content of the Event
Point of Contact (member of staff organising the event)
Sign and date to confirm that research has been carried out on the Speaker and the organisation they are affiliated to
Sign and date to confirm that the Speaker has signed the Visiting Speakers Agreement
Sign and date to confirm that the Office has been informed of the Speaker in order that they can be added to the School diary
Sign and date to confirm that you agree to ensure that the Speaker is accompanied at all times, whilst on the premises
Agreed by the Headteacher