# No Platform Policy

Approved: September 2024
To be reviewed: September 2025

# GUIDANCE FOR RADDLEBARN PRIMARY SCHOOL

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

## 7.0 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 2024, is the key document for schools, colleges and their staff as part of the wider safeguarding system for children. It provides an overview of their duties regarding preventing the radicalisation of children[5]. 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[6] and Prevent Duty guidance April 2019.

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.

## 7.1 Aims of Policy

This "No Platform Policy" aims to ensure that Raddlebarn 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 orientation.

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

[5] Department for Education, Keeping Children Safe in Education, September 2020

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

## 7.3. Definitions

These can be found in section 2.0 in BCC complete No Platform Policy
file:///C:/Users/clare/Downloads/bcc_no_platform_policy___december_2020.pdf

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## 7.4. Principles

The Principles on which this policy is based are:

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

## 7.5. Electronic Communication

Raddlebarn 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.

## 7.6 Written and Printed Communication

Raddlebarn 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.

## 7.7 Use of Buildings, Facilities and Property

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

## 7.8 Accountability

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

Raddlebarn Primary School 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.

## 7.9 Reporting Concerns

School staff has 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 Raddlebarn Primary School staff will inform one of the DSLs 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 Charlotte Stubbs (Chair of IEB) of their concerns. If a concern needs to be escalated further, then Raddlebarn Primary School Whistle Blowing Policy is to be used.

In addition to in-school safeguarding mechanisms if someone is concerned about someone using school premises to promote extremism, then further advice can be sought by writing to noplatform@birmingham.gov.uk

## 7.10 Training

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