Extremism
(No Platform) Policy

St Thomas CE Primary School

Approved by:	Local Academy Board	Date: June 2024

| **Last reviewed:** | June 2024 |

| **Next review due by:** | June 2026 |

Contents

Children are at the heart of everything we do. Through Christian values, relationship, living and learning together we celebrate the uniqueness and diversity of everyone in our family. We nurture a sense of self belief, mutual respect and belonging to build the foundations for happy and successful lives.

Faith

Trust

Love

Friendship

1. Introduction

This Extremism (No Platform) Policy aims to ensure that St Thomas Church of England 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. In this context, beliefs are 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 is based on the **No Platform Policy of Birmingham City Council**.

2. Definitions

Extremism is the promotion or advancement of an ideology based on violence, hatred or intolerance, that aims to:

- negate or destroy the fundamental rights and freedoms of others; or

- undermine, overturn or replace the UK's system of liberal parliamentary democracy and democratic rights; or

- intentionally create a permissive environment for others to achieve the results in either of the above.

(New definition of Extremism 2024 - [New definition of extremism (2024) - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)](https://www.gov.uk)

The Equality Act 2010 prohibits discrimination, harassment or victimisation based on the "protected characteristics". These are:

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

The Terrorism Act 2000 establishes a list of "proscribed organisations". These are organisations that the Home Secretary believes are concerned with 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/publications/proscribed-terror-groups-or-organisations-2/proscribed-terrorist-groups-or-organisations-accessible-version

3. Principles

The principles on which this policy is based are:

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

4. Electronic communication

St Thomas CE Primary School does 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.

St Thomas CE Primary School has the right to exercise control over all activities on its IT facilities, including electronic communications associated with the name of the schools and use of schools' equipment to access external resources. This includes the right to monitor the use of schools' resources.

5. Written and printed communication

St Thomas CE 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.

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, St Thomas CE Primary School will consider 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 schools. Access will be refused if it appears likely that the proposed activity would promote extremist ideological, political or religious beliefs.

Staff organising visitors into school are required to seek permission from one of our DSLs who will follow our Visitors in School procedures. For clubs run by outside agencies the school follows the guidance of Keeping Children Safe in Education.

[After-school clubs, community activities, and tuition - safeguarding guidance for providers (publishing.service.gov.uk)](publishing.service.gov.uk)

7. Accountability

The Local Academy Board has ultimate responsibility for this policy. The implementation of the policy is the responsibility of the Senior Leadership Team and DSLs.

St Thomas CE Primary School uses 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.

8. Reporting concerns

School staff have a responsibility to act on concerns. Staff have training on how to recognise a potential issue with the promotion of extremism in school.

Staff should report concerns to one of the DSLs (Mrs Ward Lewis, Miss Cheema, Miss Williams and Mr Moss).

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 Academy Board of their concerns. If a concern needs to be escalated still further, then the schools Whistleblowing Policy is to be used.

9. Training

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

Workshop to Raise Awareness of Prevent (WRAP) takes place annually in September.

10. Indicators

Knowing the indicators that a child is at risk of or is being radicalised could give a voice to children and prevent acts of extremist violence taking place. Anybody can be radicalised, but being more impressionable makes children and young people more vulnerable.

Children and young people at risk of radicalisation may:

- Have low self-esteem.
- Be confused about their faith, sense of belonging, or identity.
- Be victims of bullying or discrimination.
- Feel isolated or lonely.
- Be experiencing stress or depression.

- Be going through a transitional period in their life.
- Be angry at other people or the government.
- Feel angry about how they are treated or seen by society.

It is very difficult to know at what stage certain views can become dangerous, or if a child or young person is being exploited and manipulated into becoming a part of an extremist group. Signs aren't always obvious, but indicators that a child or young person is being radicalised may include:

- Withdrawal from family and friends or changing circle of friends.
- Hostility towards others.
- Talking as if from a script.
- Being unwilling to discuss their views.
- Increased levels of anger.
- Being secretive, particularly around what they are doing on the internet.
- Using extremist terms to exclude people or incite violence.
- Expressing the values of extremist or terrorist organisations (including political or religious based grievances).
- Supporting violence and terrorism towards other cultures, nationalities, or religions.
- Writing or creating artwork that promotes extremist values.
- Talking about being a 'martyr'.
- Possession of extremist literature or other material or trying to access extremist websites.
- Possession of any material about weapons, explosives, or military training.

These signs don't necessarily mean that a child is being radicalised. Sometimes this can be normal teenage behaviour, or an indicator that something else is going on.

11. Procedures and referrals

Channel is a Multi-Agency Process, which provides support to those who may be vulnerable to being drawn into terrorism. Channel uses existing collaboration between partners to support individuals and protect them from being drawn into terrorism or supporting terrorism. Channel is a statutory duty placed on the local authority and there is a 'Duty to Co-operate' on all partners of a panel – as far as it is compatible with the partner's legal responsibilities in respect of their function.

Accepting support from Channel is voluntary. If you think that someone may be vulnerable to radicalisation you can make a referral using the Prevent National Referral Form.

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