



Guest Speaker Policy

St Giles' CE Primary School believes in encouraging the use of guest speakers and external agencies to enrich the learning experience of our pupils. However, we will actively scrutinise speakers and agencies to ensure they do not contradict the ethos of the school or conflict with the legal framework outlined in the government's Prevent duty.

St. Giles' School fully supports freedom of speech and is aware of the broad range of views and ideas that are needed in the course of a pupil's development. We will endeavour to provide pupils with a balance view of events, ideas and beliefs.

Legal Framework

This policy has due regard to the following legislation, including, but not limited to the:

- ☺ Prevent Strategy 2011
- ☺ Children Act 2004
- ☺ Education Act 1996

This policy will also have due regard to the following guidance:

- ☺ DfE (2015) 'Keeping children safe in education'
- ☺ DfE (2013) 'Tackling extremism in the UK: report by the Extremism taskforce'
- ☺ DfE (2013) 'Improving the spiritual, moral, social and cultural (SMSC) development of pupils'

Ethos

- ☺ The school will not tolerate any person who intentionally or unintentionally demeans individuals and groups defined for their ethnicity, race, religion, sexuality, gender, age or lawful working practices.
- ☺ The school will not tolerate any speech that gives rise to an environment where people experience, or could reasonably fear harassment, intimidation or violence.
- ☺ The school will not accept the use of offensive or intolerant language by guest speakers.
- ☺ St. Giles' School values freedom of speech and opinion, but recognises that, in the interest of the whole learning community, this must exist within formal guidelines.
- ☺ St. Giles' School recognises that extremism and exposure to extremist beliefs can lead to poorer outcomes for pupils. We aim to use the power of education to counteract extremism through the promotion of British values, such as tolerance and freedom of speech.
- ☺ St Giles' School is aware that pupils may sometimes express views or ideas that are discriminatory, prejudiced or extremist. All members of staff have been trained to deal with these instances appropriately and proportionally.

Assessing suitability

- ☺ According to the Prevent duty, we have a due regard to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism; this includes violent and non-violent extremism, which can create an atmosphere conducive to terrorism, and can popularise views which terrorists exploit.

- ☺ The school is a safe space where children can understand and discuss sensitive topics, including terrorism and the extremist ideas that are part of terrorist ideologies.
- ☺ Before inviting an external agency or guest speaker, the school will conduct background research into the relevant parties. St. Giles' School will ensure that:
 - Any messages communicated to pupils support British values.
 - Any messages communicated to pupils do not seek to glorify criminal activity or violent extremism.
 - The group or person is not attempting to narrow the views of pupils through extreme or narrow views of faith, religion, culture or ideology.
 - The subject matter being raised are appropriate for the specific age group.
- ☺ All members of staff will actively attempt to strengthen pupils' abilities to engage in informed debate. The school believes the best way to combat extremism and intolerance is to empower pupils to challenge these views in an active and constructive manner.
- ☺ The headteacher will have the final decision on the suitability of any guest speaker or external group.
- ☺ The headteacher has the right to request a transcript from the speaker prior to any speech being made.
- ☺ Other than safeguarding issues, there are a number of other factors that should be considered when evaluating the suitability of a guest speaker or external group. The school will consider whether or not:
 - The visit will add value to pupils' learning experiences.
 - The speaker/group has the expertise in the subject they are delivering.
 - The planned activities meet the health and safety guidelines.
 - The individual or group has the required DBS checks.
 - Relevant references have been provided and checked if required.
- ☺ Before the visit, a full risk assessment will be carried out. Once completed, it will be submitted to the headteacher.

During the visit

- ☺ Guest speakers will be made aware that the speech will be monitored and recorded if necessary.
- ☺ No recordings will be made public unless written permission is granted by the speaker.
- ☺ The headteacher or a senior member of staff will be present during the speech or group activity, to oversee that the relevant guidelines are followed.
- ☺ Intervention will be considered if the member of staff feels it is necessary. Any reason for an intervention should be recorded for future reference.

Balanced presentations

- ☺ Improving the spiritual, moral, social and cultural (SMSC) development at St. Giles' School offers a balanced presentation of opposing views. This is applicable when a guest speaker is expressing overtly political or partisan views.
- ☺ St. Giles' School will ensure a balance approach through:
 - Discussions in class.
 - Presentations by staff.
 - Extra-curricular activities

Assigning homework to pupils.

Other methods deemed appropriate by the headteacher.

- ✎ The final decision as to whether the subsequent learning activities carried out after the visits have been well balanced will be made by the headteacher.
- ✎ 'Partisan views' are defined as a one-sided political viewpoint.
- ✎ Political views are defined as an idea expressed:
 - To further the interests of a particular political party.
 - To procure change to the laws of this or particular decisions of governmental authorities in this or another country.

