

St Mary's Catholic Primary School



No Platform Policy



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NO PLATFORM POLICY



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1. SCHOOL MISSION

At St Mary's Catholic Primary School, our Mission is:

**TO LOVE GOD ABOVE ALL THINGS
BY
LEARNING TOGETHER
LOVING OURSELVES
LOVING EACH OTHER
LOVING ALL PEOPLE
LOVING LIFE ITSELF
AND
CONSTANTLY STRIVING FOR
EXCELLENCE
WORTHY OF OUR GOD GIVEN GIFTS.**

2. INTRODUCTION

All schools have a range of duties in relation to safeguarding children from extremism. The statutory guidance Keeping Children Safe in Education, updated in September 2025, 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. 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 Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015 placed the Government's 'Prevent' Duty 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.

3. AIMS OF POLICY

This "No Platform Policy" aims to ensure that St Mary's 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, disability, gender, marital status, pregnancy or maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, or sexual orientation.

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

4. DEFINITIONS

For this policy:

The Terrorism Act 2000⁴ makes it a criminal offence to:

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

Section 38b of the Terrorism Act 2000 states that an individual has committed an offence if they have 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 they fail to disclose that information to the police as soon as is reasonably possible.

Extremism is defined by the UK Government as:

“the promotion or advancement of an ideology based on violence, hatred or intolerance, that aims to: (1) negate or destroy the fundamental rights and freedoms of others; or (2) undermine, overturn or replace the UK’s system of liberal parliamentary democracy and democratic rights; or (3) intentionally create a permissive environment for others to achieve either of (1) or (2).”

The Equality Act 2010⁵ 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.

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

- Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct prohibited by the Act.

- Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it; and
- Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it.

Council facilities include (by way of example):

- Property, assets, or land owned by the Council, in part or in whole.
- Property, assets, and land leased or licensed by the Council, in part or in whole.
- The provision of services, such as IT services (including copying or printing).

5. PRINCIPLES

The principles on which this policy is based are:

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

6. ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION

St Mary's 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, racial, 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. WRITTEN AND PRINTED COMMUNICATION

St Mary's 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, racial, or political beliefs.

8. 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 Mary's 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 school. In particular, access will be refused if it appears likely that the proposed activity would promote extremist ideological, political, racial, or religious beliefs.

9. 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.

St Mary's 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. We recognise the importance of reducing permissive environments, settings or practices that allow extremist ideologies to flourish unchallenged. We will regularly review use of premises, digital communications, venue hire, and partnerships to ensure that opportunities for dissemination of extremist materials and ideologies are identified and mitigated.

10. REPORTING CONCERNS

School staff have a responsibility to act on concerns. All staff in specified roles will receive training appropriate to their level of Prevent responsibility, including understanding extremist ideologies, spotting signs of radicalisation, risk assessments and referral processes. Training will be refreshed periodically and aligned with Home Office or statutory guidance.

At St Mary's, staff will inform the Headteacher (Louise Yorke) 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 the Governors (Mary Higgins) of their concerns. If a concern needs to be escalated further, then St Mary's 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