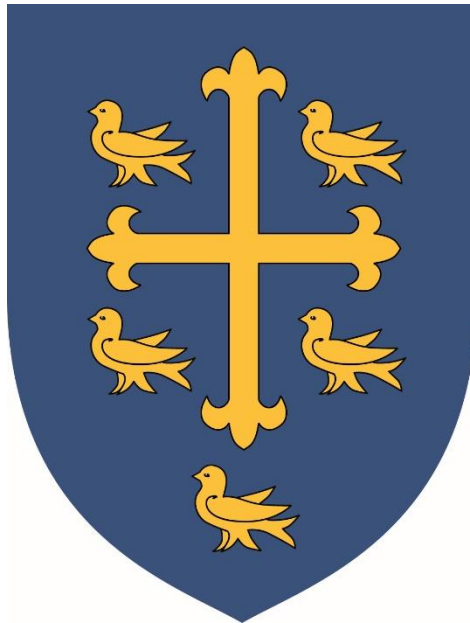


# St. Edward's Catholic Primary School



## 'No Platform' Policy 2026/27

*'Jesus is at the heart of all that we do'*

***At St. Edward's, we are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of the children and adults in our school, and we have the same expectation of our staff and volunteers.***

Policy agreed/Signed by: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

(Mr K Connolly – Chair of Governors)

Agreed on: September 2026

Review date: September 2027

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

**Introduction**

Schools, both state-funded and independent, have a range of duties in relation to safeguarding children from extremism and radicalisation. Keeping Children Safe in Education 2026 (KCSIE), in force from 1 September 2026, is the statutory safeguarding guidance for schools and colleges. It recognises that children may be susceptible to extremist ideology and radicalisation and that protecting children from this risk forms part of the school's safeguarding responsibilities.

The school has due regard to the Prevent duty guidance for specified authorities in England and Wales (2023), which came into force on 31 December 2023, together with the Department for Education's current guidance, The Prevent duty: safeguarding learners susceptible to radicalisation, updated on 24 September 2026.

Section 26 of the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 places a duty on specified authorities, including schools, to have due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism. The school treats concerns about radicalisation as safeguarding concerns and responds in accordance with its Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy.

Radicalisation can take place online and offline. The school remains alert to the ways in which children may encounter extremist ideology or radicalising influences, including through websites, social media, messaging services, online forums and gaming platforms.

## **Aims of Policy**

This 'No Platform' Policy aims to ensure that St. Edward's Catholic Primary School balances freedom of expression with its safeguarding duties and its responsibility to prevent school premises, facilities or resources from being used to promote terrorism, extremist ideology, hatred or unlawful discrimination. The school will have regard to the protected characteristics set out in the Equality Act 2010.

This policy sets out how the school will respond to concerns relating to extremism or radicalisation and how it will undertake proportionate checks and risk assessment in relation to potential external speakers, visitors, groups and organisations.

---

Key guidance: Department for Education, Keeping Children Safe in Education 2026; Home Office, Prevent duty guidance: England and Wales (2023); Department for Education, The Prevent duty: safeguarding learners susceptible to radicalisation (updated 24 September 2026).

## **Definitions for the purpose of the Policy**

For the purpose of this policy:

The Terrorism Act 2000<sup>3</sup> 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).

For this policy, the school uses the terminology and approach in the current Prevent duty guidance. Prevent is concerned with stopping people from becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism. Concerns about extremist ideology or radicalisation will be considered in context, using professional judgement and the school's safeguarding procedures; there is no single profile or indicator of radicalisation.

*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. Also included in the Government's definition of extremism are calls for the death of members of our armed forces, whether in this country or overseas.*

The Equality Act 2010 protects nine protected characteristics: age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, and sexual orientation. The school and its governing body will comply with their duties under the Equality Act 2010 and will not unlawfully discriminate.

In exercising its functions, the school will have due regard to the Public Sector Equality Duty, including the need 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.

For the purposes of this policy, school facilities and resources include, for example:

- School buildings, grounds and other premises used by the school;
- Premises or facilities hired, leased or licensed for school activities;
- School IT systems, websites, communication channels, printing/copying services, equipment and other resources.

## **Principles**

The Principles on which this policy is based are:

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

### **Electronic Communication**

St. Edward's Catholic Primary School will not allow its website, IT systems, networks, devices, social media, messaging services, online forums, gaming platforms or other digital/communication services to be used 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.

### **Written and Printed Communication**

St. Edward's Catholic 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.

### **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. Edward's Catholic 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.

### **Accountability**

The Governing Body of St. Edward's Catholic Primary School has ultimate responsibility for this policy. The implementation of the policy is the responsibility of the Head Teacher.

The school will carry out proportionate due diligence and risk assessment before approving external speakers, visitors, groups or organisations. Checks may include the purpose and proposed content of the visit, publicly available information, consultation with appropriate safeguarding partners, other schools and consideration of risks to pupils, staff and community cohesion. Any safeguarding concern identified through these checks will be referred to the DSL. External speakers and visitors must be approved in advance. The school may set conditions, require appropriate supervision, restrict proposed content or refuse/cancel an event where this is necessary to safeguard children or to prevent school premises and resources from being used to promote terrorism, extremist ideology, hatred or unlawful discrimination.

## **Reporting Concerns**

All staff have a responsibility to act immediately on safeguarding concerns, including concerns that a child may be susceptible to radicalisation. Staff will receive appropriate training so that they understand how to recognise, respond to and report such concerns.

Any concern that a child may be susceptible to radicalisation or being drawn into terrorism must be reported immediately to the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL), or a Deputy DSL in their absence, in accordance with the school's Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy.

The DSL will assess and record the concern, gather relevant information, consider the child's circumstances and any risk or protective factors, and decide what further action is appropriate. This may include internal support, advice from safeguarding partners, monitoring, or a referral to Prevent where the relevant threshold is met. Parents/carers and the child will be involved where appropriate and where doing so would not increase risk.

Staff who raise a concern will be informed, where appropriate and consistent with confidentiality, that the concern has been acted upon.

If a member of staff believes that safeguarding concerns are not being addressed, they should follow the school's safeguarding escalation arrangements and Whistleblowing Policy. Concerns about safeguarding practice must never be ignored.

Where further external advice is required, the DSL will use the current local safeguarding and Prevent referral routes for Birmingham and, where necessary, seek advice from the relevant local authority or police Prevent team.

## **Training**

The school will ensure that all staff and governors receive appropriate safeguarding and Prevent training relevant to their roles. Staff will understand how to identify, respond to and report concerns relating to radicalisation. The DSL and Deputy DSLs will maintain appropriate Prevent knowledge and training and will keep practice under review in line with current national and local guidance.

This policy should be read alongside the school's:

- Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy
- Online Safety Policy
- Equality Policy
- Visitors/External Speakers procedures
- Arrangements for the use or letting of school premises
- Whistleblowing Policy.