



## Visiting Speakers Policy

### Document Status

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### Policy Statement

The schools within Yorkshire Endeavour Academy Trust welcome many visitors to various events to support our approach to a broad and balanced curriculum throughout the year. Visitors make a positive contribution to the life and learning of the school and the experience and opportunities they bring are encouraged and appreciated. It is the school’s responsibility to ensure that security and welfare of the whole school community is not compromised at any time. It is our aim to make sure that each school is protecting pupils and staff, during school time and in extracurricular activities (including after-school Lettings) and to ensure that visitors comply with the Visitors and Visiting Speaker’s agreement (see Appendix 2).

This Policy should be read with the following policies:

- School safeguarding policy
- Keeping Children Safe in Education

It is our objective to establish a clear protocol and procedure for admittance of external visitors to school, which is understood by all staff, governors, visitors and parents and conforms to child protection guidelines and The Prevent Duty 2023.

### External speakers / Visitors

“External speaker”/ “Visitor” is used to describe any individual who is not a pupil or staff member of our school. This includes any individual who is a pupil or staff member from another school. All sessions organised with external speakers in and outside of our school building are still within the responsibility (and liability) of our school. This includes Lettings to external community groups. Where an external group have requested a Letting, the School reserve the right for a member of senior staff to monitor the activity during the period of the Letting.

At Yorkshire Endeavour Academy Trust, we encourage the use of external agencies or speakers to enrich the experiences of our pupils; however, we will positively vet those external agencies, individuals or speakers, to ensure that we do not unwittingly use agencies that contradict or are in opposition with the school's values and ethos.

Our school will assess the suitability and effectiveness of input from external agencies or individuals to ensure that:

- Any messages communicated to pupils support fundamental British Values and our school values.
  - democracy
  - the rule of law
  - individual liberty
  - mutual respect
  - tolerance of those with different faiths or beliefs
- Any messages communicated to pupils are consistent with the ethos of the school and do not marginalise any communities, groups or individuals.
- Any messages communicated to pupils do not seek to glorify criminal activity or violent extremism or seek to radicalise pupils through extreme or narrow views of faith, religion or culture or other beliefs and ideologies (must not incite hatred, violence or call for the breaking of the law).
- Activities are properly embedded in the curriculum and clearly mapped to schemes of work to avoid contradictory messages or duplication.
- Activities are matched to the needs of pupils.

We recognise, however, that the ethos of our school is to encourage pupils to understand opposing views and ideologies, appropriate to their age, understanding and abilities, and to be able to actively engage with them in informed debate, and we may use external agencies or speakers to facilitate and support this.

### Organising an event/ lesson with a visiting speaker

Permission should be granted (via a completed Request Form – Appendix 1) by the Headteacher/ SLT before any visitor is asked to come into school. The Headteacher and/or members of the Senior Leadership Team should be given a clear explanation as to the relevance and purpose of the visit and intended date and time for the visit. Our School reserves the right to cancel, prohibit or delay any event with an external speaker if this policy is not followed or if health, safety and security criteria cannot be met.

The member of staff (organiser) who has invited the visitor to contribute in school is responsible for the activities that take place within their lessons/ events. The organiser must ensure that all speakers/ visitors are made aware of their responsibility in line with the school's safeguarding policy and by reading the Visiting Speaker's agreement (See Appendix 2). The organiser will ensure that the visitor is fully briefed.

No event involving any external speakers may be publicised or considered confirmed until the speaker has been cleared through the procedure detailed in this policy.

When organising an event or visit from an external speaker, the organiser will be asked for the following details:

- brief description
- details of the exact purpose of the visit
- name and contact details of the visitor
- start and end time of the event
- brief biography of the visitor

Any failure to disclose the full details of an external speaker may result in cancellation. The school will check all speakers' details, group links and other connections (on the first three pages of a search on the internet, using a suitable search engine, and any web link provided).

A request for a visit from an external speaker must be made no later than 14 days before the date of the event. Any request made outside of this timeframe may be rejected.

### **Procedure for Organising an Event with an External Speaker**

- The organiser will notify the external speaker/ visitor of the Visiting Speaker's Policy and Agreement (Appendix 2).
- The organiser will ensure required details for organising a visit are collated.
- The organiser will complete the Visitor/External Speaker Booking Form.
- The organiser will carry out agreed checks on the external speaker.

### **Procedure for Researching a Speaker**

The organiser will conduct a short check into all potential speakers using an open source check: searching the speaker and any organisation the speaker is affiliated with, on a suitable Search Engine and look at the first three pages of results. They will then repeat the search with 'controversy' added to the search terms.

If the speaker has a history of, or has in the past been accused of:

- Inciting hatred, violence or calling for the breaking of the law;
- Insulting or making derogatory remarks to other faiths or groups;
- Using threatening, abusive or insulting words or behaviour;

Then the details for the booking will to be sent to the school's Designated Safeguarding Lead, for further investigation and guidance.

The event will not go ahead as planned. For reference, the DSL in each YEAT school is the headteacher. In their absence, the Deputy DSL assumes responsibility for this. If no issues are identified, then the event confirmation will be given by the organiser.

Reasons for details to be shared with DSL may include but are not limited to any of the following:

- any person or group on/or linked to the UK Government list of proscribed terrorist organisations
- talks by organisations generally considered to be extremist by the Home Office, police and related organisations
- a speaker who is known to have spoken previously at another institution on a topic that has caused fear or intimidation of pupils or staff
- a speaker accepted in mainstream as being highly controversial
- a speaker known to/or likely to cause harm to a specific group of staff or pupils
- a link or links, to any person or group that has, in those Google listings, been connected with any controversy of a negative or positive nature
- a speaker who has significant profile and attracts a following that could create crowd control and health and safety issues.

A booking form will be emailed to external speakers or completed by the organiser (Appendix 2).

### **Relevant Legislation and Guidance:**

- Terrorism Act 2006
- The Education (No. 2) Act 1986 S43 [The Education Act 2011]
- Education Reform Act 1988 – Academic Freedom
- The Human Rights Act 1998

- Equality Act 2010 (s.10 relates to religion & belief as a protected characteristic)
- Discrimination Law – religion and belief
- Public Order Act 1986 – Violent, Threatening or Abusive Conduct and Speech
- Working Together to Safeguard Children
- Keeping Children Safe in Education
- Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015 [2019]

## APPENDIX 1 – EXTERNAL SPEAKERS REQUEST FORM

This form should be completed by any member of staff, pupil or representative of any community group who have an agreed letting with the school wishing to bring an external speaker into school. It is not to stop such a person coming to speak. It is instead to ensure that the correct arrangements can be put in place to allow such an event to take place safely.

All forms must be submitted by email (see the school website for contact details) or in person 14 days prior to the planned date of the event, and one form must be submitted for each speaker wishing to attend.

Name of Activity/ Group:.....

Name of Organiser: .....

Contact Email: .....

Contact Telephone Number:.....

Event details – please see attached Policy Notes

Name of Speaker: .....

Date, time and duration of Event:.....

Title of Event: .....

Planned Event Venue:.....

Speaker details:

Please give as much detail as possible. Please include information about the speaker’s position and organisations they’re affiliated with, the subject they will be speaking about and any other information you think we need to be aware of.

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The organiser should ensure that the School’s guidance notes, attached to this booking form, are passed to the speaker and that they fully understand the implications contained therein.

### Office Use Only

Authorised By: ..... (Name) ..... (Role)

Signed: ..... Date: .....

**APPENDIX 2 – EXTERNAL SPEAKERS AGREEMENT FORM**

Thank you for agreeing to come and visit our school, whether as part of a school-arranged visit or via a community group Lettings agreement. We very much appreciate the contribution you make.

At Yorkshire Endeavour Academy Trust, we understand the importance of visitors, community groups and other external agencies in enriching the experiences of our pupils and other community users of the school premises.

In order to safeguard children and the reputation of our schools, we expect all visiting speakers to read and adhere to the statements below. Please read these statements and tick to indicate that you agree to adhere to them:

- Any messages communicated to children and/or adults are consistent with the ethos of the school and do not marginalise any communities, faiths, beliefs, groups or individuals.
- Any messages communicated to children and/or adults do not seek to glorify criminal activity or violent extremism or seek to radicalise children and/or adults through extreme or narrow views of faith, relation, culture or other ideologies.
- Activities (where appropriate) are properly embedded in the curriculum and clearly mapped to schemes of work to avoid contradictory messages or duplication.
- Activities (where appropriate) are matched to the needs of the children.
- Visitors during school time will be accompanied by a member of Yorkshire Endeavour Academy Trust staff at all times.
- Any messages communicated to children and/or adults support fundamental British values and our own school values and ethos.

Please note any concerns you may have had during your time in our school:

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Signed: ..... Date: .....

Print name: .....