

# VISITING SPEAKER POLICY AND PROCEDURE

Updated November 2022

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## Policy

Shrewsbury High School welcomes the contribution and expertise of high-quality visiting speakers in enhancing curriculum and wider learning opportunities for students. UK schools now put a great deal of effort into ensuring all visitors onsite who interact with pupils, are aware of best practice and how to conform to national initiatives which prevent prejudice, discrimination, extremism for example. What follows is our guidance in accordance with this to ensure the safety and wellbeing of our students and staff.

All visiting speakers must abide by the Shrewsbury High School equality commitments and to ensure that they make no statements which could undermine these commitments, cause offence to others or otherwise undermine tolerance of other faiths and/or beliefs. In addition, no extremist material must be shared or included in the presentation of any visiting speaker. Where possible invited speakers will have an established 'track record' and will be part of a company, charity, or other group whose aims are appropriate and well-documented. Furthermore, the speaker is made aware that the content must preclude the promotion of partisan political views and where political issues are brought to the attention of students, that they are also offered a balanced presentation of opposing views.

Any prejudice, discrimination, or extremist views, including derogatory language, displayed by students, staff, visitors or parents will always be challenged and addressed. The school will work with other agencies, including Social Care, The Teacher Regulation Agency and the Police as necessary and appropriate.

All aspects of the school's work are underpinned by the fundamental British values of:

- Democracy
- The rule of law
- Individual liberty
- Mutual respect and tolerance

**Radicalisation** is defined as causing someone to become an advocate of radical political or social reform by supporting terrorism and violent extremism. Radicalisation of children and young people may include encouraging them to undertake violent activities on the grounds of religious belief.

Shrewsbury High School **defines extremism** as 'vocal or active opposition to our fundamental British Values. This also includes calls for the death of members of our armed forces, whether in this country or overseas' and Terrorism as the 'use of serious violence or threat of violence to coerce, influence or intimidate government or the public to advance political, religious or ideological objectives.'

Children and young people may be exposed to messages about terrorism through a family member or friend, a religious group, through social media or the Internet. This creates risk of a child or young person being drawn into criminal activity and exposure to significant harm. At all times, the welfare of the child is paramount and Shrewsbury High School will use appropriate safeguarding procedures to resolve any safeguarding concern including any relating to radicalisation.



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## Prevent Duty Guidance in England and Wales HM Government July 2015

“Specified authorities will need robust safeguarding policies in place to identify children at risk...These policies should set out clear protocols for ensuring that any visiting speakers – whether invited by staff or by children themselves – are suitable and appropriately supervised.”

### Procedure

- The member of staff organising the talk should check that the work of the agency or visitor is known to them and be considered suitable (in respect of child protection see Children’s Act 1989). An internet search and/or informal reference should be taken wherever possible or practicable e.g., contacting other schools where the person has spoken previously. Preliminary results should be shown to the Deputy Head at Seniors or Head teacher Juniors for the visit to be agreed.
- The member of staff organising the event is expected to talk with the speaker ahead of the event itself about the content and must allow sufficient time for this. At this point, the speaker should be made aware of the schools’ commitment to equality and be told that there must be no statements which might cause offence to others, otherwise undermine tolerance of other faiths or beliefs and to confirm that there must be no extremist material.
- The visiting speaker should be provided with information on the appropriate key stage, the age of the pupils, the approximate number of the pupils in the group, any special needs requirements of the pupils, the venue where the session will take place as well as any resources that may be required.
- Talks and presentations will not be used to raise funds, without the prior written permission of the Head.
- The speaker should be made aware of any relevant school policies in advance of their arrival in school.
- Visiting speakers must arrive at reception in good time to book in and must bring suitable identification. Although viewing DBS certificates may be appropriate, most visiting speakers will not be in ‘regulated activity’ and so will not necessarily have a DBS certificate to present.
- Visitors must wear an appropriate visitor badge, be always supervised by a named member of staff, not left alone with students, and escorted to the Front Office exit when leaving.
- Visiting speakers must be informed by the supervising member of staff that they will bring the presentation to an early end if the content proves unsuitable.
- Conducting a post-event evaluation of how the visit met the needs of our students should there be any concerns so that these are logged.
- All arrangements must be shared with the Deputy Head Seniors and Head teacher at Juniors, plus the front office along with contact details should the visit need to be cancelled for any reason.

This policy should be read in conjunction with the Safeguarding & Child Protection Policy and Visiting Speakers checklist.



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