



READING BLUE COAT

Vetting Visiting Speakers Policy

The School often invite speakers from our wider community to give talks to enrich our students' experience of school, providing them with information that helps them make decisions at different phases of their education, widening their understanding of world and global issues and providing motivational inspiration through the sharing of a speaker's experience. Both the School and students greatly appreciate the time and effort that Visiting Speakers put into their presentations.

Our responsibility to our students is to ensure that they can critically assess the information they receive as to its value to themselves, and that the information is aligned to the ethos and values of the School and British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs.

The purpose of this policy is to set out the School's legal obligations when using Visiting Speakers and to set out the standards of behaviour expected from Visiting Speakers. This policy was therefore drawn up having had regard to the Government's Prevent Duty guidance and the School's wider safeguarding obligations.

The "Prevent" statutory guidance (*The Prevent Duty: Departmental advice for schools and childcare providers*", DfE, June 2015) requires schools to have clear protocols for ensuring that any visiting speakers whether invited by staff or students, are suitable and appropriately supervised.

This policy should be read in conjunction with the School's *Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy* and *Visitors Policy*.

The protocols are:


- All visiting speakers to have a nominated point of contact at the school (the Organiser) who has arranged that they come in to speak.
- The Organiser carries out research on the person/organisation to establish whether they have demonstrated extreme views/actions. This may be carried out through the internet or by word of mouth.
- This may lead to refusal to allow people/organisations to use the School site if they have links to extreme groups or movements.
- Justification of the School's decision will be provided to the person/organisation in writing if required.
- Maintaining a formal register of all visiting speakers. Any information gathered will be kept in accordance with the School's *Data Protection Policy*.

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- The School will keep a record of the Sixth Form Special Speakers as part of this, as they have regular biweekly talks as part of a lecture series.
- Visiting Speakers will comply fully with the *Visitors Policy*.
- This means ensuring visiting speakers are accompanied at all times and are not left unsupervised with students at any point. In the unlikely event that the talk/presentation does not meet this requirement, Visiting Speakers will be informed that school staff have the right and responsibility to interrupt and/or stop a presentation
- The Organiser will conducting a post-event evaluation of how the visit met the needs of our students.

Related Policies:

1. *Visitors Policy*: please note the requirement to book visitors in at Reception.

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Associated Policies	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Child Protection & Safeguarding Policy• Visitors Policy
Agreed by:	 Pete Thomas (Headmaster)
Date of Agreement:	September 2023