St. Gerard's Catholic Primary School

No Platform Policy

"With Christ at our side, and St Gerard as our guide, we live, love, learn and pray together."

'Love your neighbour as yourself.' Mark 12:31

Reviewed: July 26

1. Introduction

St. Gerard's Catholic Primary School is committed to fostering an environment where all members of our community—pupils, staff, parents, and visitors—feel safe, respected, and valued. In line with our mission statement: ***"With Christ at our side, and St Gerard as our guide, we live, learn and pray together***", we uphold the principles of equality, respect, and inclusivity. This No Platform Policy outlines our approach to preventing the promotion of extremist views and ensuring that our facilities are used in a manner consistent with our ethos.

This policy is based on the No Platform policy set out by Birmingham city council, but has been amended to suit the needs of our school and to have a specific reference to wraparound care on our site.

2. Definitions

The Terrorism Act 2000 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 belong 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 s/he has 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 s/he fails to disclose that information to the police as soon as is reasonably possible.

Extremism as defined in the Prevent and Counter Extremism Strategy by Government is the:

'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.'

Not every part of this definition must be satisfied for a particular individual or organisation to be regarded as extremist.

The Equality Act 2010 lists the nine protected characteristics which are the grounds upon which discrimination is unlawful. The characteristics are:

- Age
- Disability
- Gender reassignment
- Marriage and civil partnership

- Pregnancy and maternity
- Race – this includes ethnic or national origins, colour or nationality
- Religion or belief – this includes lack of belief
- Sex
- Sexual orientation

3. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to:

- Prevent the promotion of extremist or discriminatory views within the school community.
- Ensure that the school's facilities are not used to promote activities that are incompatible with our values.
- Uphold our commitment to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all pupils.

4. Scope

This policy applies to all individuals and groups seeking to use the school's premises, including:

- External speakers and organisations.
- Parents and carers.
- Community groups.
- Wraparound care.
- Any other third parties.

5. Prohibited Activities

The school will not permit the use of its facilities for activities that:

- Promote extremist views or ideologies.
- Encourage discrimination on the grounds of race, religion, gender, disability, or sexual orientation.
- Glorify terrorism or advocate for violence.
- Contradict the values and ethos of St. Gerard's Catholic Primary School.

6. Vetting of External Speakers and Organisations

Prior to granting permission for external speakers or organisations to use the school's facilities, the following procedures will be followed:

- A risk assessment will be conducted to evaluate the potential impact on community cohesion and pupil welfare.
- Background checks will be carried out to ensure that the individual or organisation does not have links to extremist or discriminatory activities.
- References or endorsements from reputable sources may be requested.
- We will use the "Ask – Check – Decide" model when inviting outside speakers.

7. Use of School Facilities

The school reserves the right to refuse or withdraw permission for the use of its facilities if:

- The proposed activity is deemed to be incompatible with the school's values and ethos.

- There is a risk that the activity could promote extremist or discriminatory views.
- The activity could disrupt the normal functioning of the school or pose a risk to pupil safety.

8. Wraparound Care and School Use

An external provider (The Play Sanctuary) provides wraparound care services on our school site—including breakfast clubs, after-school clubs, and holiday provision—to support the needs of our families and ensure the wellbeing of all children. These services are an extension of the school day and as such, all providers, staff, and activities taking place within wraparound care are expected to uphold the same high standards of behaviour, inclusion, and spiritual integrity as during core school hours.

All external providers of wraparound care must:

- Promote and uphold the Catholic ethos of the school, which includes treating all individuals with dignity and respect, fostering a sense of community, and encouraging moral development based on Gospel values.
- Avoid any activities, resources, or messaging that contradict the teachings of the Catholic Church, particularly in relation to family life, human dignity, and respect for others.
- Ensure prayer and reflection opportunities are respected where appropriate, and that no child is discouraged from participating in the spiritual life of the school while attending wraparound care.
- Work collaboratively with school leadership to address any behavioural, safeguarding, or pastoral concerns that may arise during their sessions.
- Receive safeguarding induction or training aligned with school policies, including awareness of the Prevent duty and procedures for reporting any extremist or discriminatory behaviour.

Use of the school premises outside of school hours must reflect the values and mission of St. Gerard's. Hirers or organisations wishing to use the facilities for events, classes, or meetings must commit in writing to:

- Not promote any view or activity that undermines the Catholic identity of the school.
- Ensure inclusive participation and language, avoiding any content that could marginalise or exclude others.
- Comply with all relevant safeguarding policies, including the school's Staff Handbook and No Platform Policy.

Failure to comply with these requirements will result in immediate review and possible termination of the arrangement.

8.1 Use of Electronics and Communications

The use of electronic devices and communication platforms within St. Gerard's Catholic Primary School—including during wraparound care and by external users of the premises—is governed by our commitment to safeguarding, digital responsibility, and the promotion of respectful and faith-consistent dialogue.

All staff, visitors, volunteers, and external providers must adhere to the following expectations:

- **Appropriate Use**: Electronic devices, including mobile phones, tablets, laptops, and smartwatches, must only be used for educational or operational purposes. Personal use during school activities or wraparound care is not permitted unless authorised by the Headteacher.
- **Safe and Respectful Communication**: All communication—whether digital or in person—must reflect the Gospel values of kindness, honesty, and respect. Inappropriate, discriminatory, inflammatory, or offensive content, whether spoken, written, or shared electronically, is strictly prohibited.

- **Photographs and Recordings**: No photographs, videos, or audio recordings of children or school activities may be taken or shared by external providers or visitors without the explicit prior consent of the school and in accordance with GDPR and safeguarding policies.
- **Internet and Social Media**: Use of the school's internet and Wi-Fi network must comply with our Acceptable Use Policy. Accessing or sharing extremist, harmful, or inappropriate content is strictly forbidden and may result in legal action.
- **Monitoring and Compliance**: The school reserves the right to monitor electronic communications and usage of digital devices on school premises to ensure compliance with safeguarding and policy expectations.

9. Reporting Concerns

Any concerns regarding the promotion of extremist views or discriminatory behaviour should be reported immediately to the Headteacher (Mrs K Bannister) or the Designated Safeguarding Lead (Mr J Wilson). All reports will be taken seriously and investigated promptly.

10. Review and Monitoring

This policy will be reviewed annually by the Governing Body to ensure its effectiveness and relevance. Feedback from staff, pupils, and parents will be considered during the review process.

11. Conclusion

St. Gerard's Catholic Primary School is dedicated to providing a safe and nurturing environment where all members of our community can thrive. By adhering to this No Platform Policy, we reaffirm our commitment to safeguarding our pupils and upholding the values of respect, inclusivity, and community cohesion.