

The Bosco Centre	
Policy:	Interim external speakers policy based on prevent government guidelines
Applies to:	College, Independent school, Nursery and Youth clubs
Reviewed:	October 2018
Next Review:	October 2019

Introduction

This External Speakers Policy makes sure that we, under our 'duty of care', are protecting both students and the reputation of The Bosco College whilst following the legislation that we are responsible for upholding by law.

Freedom of expression

Freedom of expression and speech are basic human rights that are protected by law. 'Academic freedom' is a term used to describe the law that allows for open and honest debate in an academic context. The Bosco College has a legal duty to secure the development of students' ideas and understanding in the form of academic freedom in College.

Student safety and welfare is at the heart of our Bosco policies and practices. The freedom to express views needs to be balanced with the need to secure freedom from harm for students and communities. We want all of our activities to be:

- Safe
- Without risk to the reputation of the Bosco Centre
- Within the law

Sometimes an external speaker or their topic of discussion has the potential to go against what we may regard as acceptable content. We're committed to working with the external speakers and their Organisations to make sure that we reach a judgement that is reasonable, informed and within the law.

External speakers

An external speaker is used to describe any individual or organisation who is not a student or staff member of The Bosco College. All speakers will be made aware of their responsibility to abide by the law and the Bosco Centre's policies, including that they:

- Must not incite hatred, violence, expound political preferences, or call for the breaking of the law
- Are not permitted to encourage, glorify or promote any acts of terrorism including individuals, groups or organisations that support such acts
- Must not spread hatred and intolerance in the community and thus aid in disrupting social and community harmony
- Must seek to avoid insulting other faiths or groups, within a framework of positive debate and challenge
- Are not permitted to raise or gather funds for any external organisation or cause without express permission of the trustees

Our procedure

The Bosco Centre reserves the right to cancel, prohibit or delay any event with an external speaker if our policy is not followed or if health, safety and security criteria cannot be met.

The Bosco Centre will carry out checks into all Organisations or Individuals who are invited in to speak to our students.

Any failure to disclose the full details of an external speaker may result in a lesson being cancelled. The Bosco Centre always has its own Tutors in attendance when there is an external speaker. The Bosco Centre will check all speakers' details, group links and other connections (on the first three pages of Google results and any web link provided). If there is cause for a referral then the details for the booking need to be sent to the Principal, for further investigation and guidance. Reasons for a referral are 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.
- A speaker who is known to have spoken previously at another institution on a topic that has caused fear or intimidation of students 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 students
 - 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.

Useful references

More information on the law relevant to freedom of speech and freedom from harm can be found within the following:

- Terrorism Act 2000
- The Education (No. 2) Act 1986 S43
- 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