



# Trust-wide Political Impartiality Statement

<b>Policy Code:</b>	
<b>Policy Start Date:</b>	October 2025
<b>Policy Review Date:</b>	October 2028

## 1. Aims of Policy

### 1.1. Purpose

#### **CIT Multi-Academy Trust Statement on Political Impartiality and visiting speakers**

[Political Impartiality Guidance Pamphlet](#)

[Political impartiality in schools - GOV.UK](#)

[Prevent duty guidance: for England and Wales \(accessible\) - GOV.UK](#)

*“As a teacher, your job is not to teach contested facts but to teach secure knowledge based upon evidence and to present a really balanced viewpoint to children.” – Sir Martyn Oliver*

At CIT we are committed to upholding the principles of political impartiality across all our schools. We recognise our legal and ethical duty to ensure that pupils receive a balanced and fair education, particularly when engaging with political issues.

We will ensure that our schools will take a reasonable and proportionate approach to ensuring political impartiality.

Existing statutory requirements on political impartiality cover all schools, regardless of type or funding arrangement.

These legal duties mean schools:

- must prohibit the promotion of partisan political views
- should take steps to ensure the balanced presentation of opposing views on political issues when they are brought to the attention of pupils

For Academies, the legal duties are set out in Part 2 of the [Schedule to the Education \(Independent School Standards\) Regulations 2014](#).

This includes legal requirements under the:

- Equality Act 2010 (including the Public Sector Equality Duty for state-funded schools)
- Human Rights Act 1998
- Prevent duty

### 1.2. Scope of policy

At CIT we will ensure we comply across all our schools by ensuring the following actions are taken:

We believe that teaching about political issues is an essential part of a broad and balanced curriculum. Our aim is to:

- Equip pupils with the skills to **critically evaluate political viewpoints**.

- Encourage **respect for legitimate differences of opinion**.
- Promote **active citizenship** and understanding of democratic processes.

*Schools and further education settings support learners to have the knowledge, skills and values that will prepare them to be citizens in modern Britain. As part of this, in England, they are required to actively promote the fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs. Para 180 [Prevent duty guidance: for England and Wales \(accessible\) - GOV.UK](#)*

All CIT schools will ensure that through ethos, curriculum and policy they will actively teach and promote the fundamental British values of:

- democracy
- the rule of law
- individual liberty
- mutual respect
- tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs

Directors of Education, and headteachers will actively promote staff awareness of the statutory requirements and relevant information, including the guidance from the Government detailed above.

All staff will receive training on PREVENT in line with government and Trust requirements and schools will make clear the expectations on staff to maintain political impartiality – as well as reporting breaches of expectation to the appropriate school or Trust leader.

## **2.0 How this will be implemented:**

**Partisan (one sided) political views will not be promoted** in teaching, extra-curricular activities, or through any school communications.

*What is prohibited in the legal duties is promoting partisan political views to pupils. This means encouraging their support for, or the adoption of, these views. The promotion of partisan political views might be through overtly inappropriate conduct by teachers and staff such as encouraging pupils to support a particular political party or candidate in an election. It could also be by more subtle means such as presenting partisan political views as undisputed factual accounts and failing to explain their contested nature, where this is not obvious to pupils.*

Political Impartiality in Schools Guidance, Gov.Uk updated March 2025

## **2.1 What this looks like:**

This means that no CIT schools can encourage pupils to support or adopt a one-sided view expressed with a political purpose. This covers many of the policies of political parties, as well as some views held by campaign groups, lobbyist, charitable organisations and other external agencies. Under guidance

from school leaders and through carefully planned curriculum provision, teachers and adults in school can teach about partisan political views that do exist both historically and in and explore them with pupils. Where partisan political views – or material which promote these – are covered as part of teaching a broad and balanced curriculum, schools should ensure that these are presented with the appropriate context, which supports a balanced presentation of opposing views. This will be an important part of teaching about many historical and political issues.

Schools can teach about the existence of partisan political views effectively, without breaching their legal duties on political impartiality.

**3.0 Balanced presentation of opposing views** will be provided when political issues are brought to the attention of pupils, in line with Sections 406 and 407 of the Education Act 1996 and the Independent School Standards Regulations 2014.

**3.1** What this looks like:

For example - lessons that cover any examples of political issues will:

- Present multiple sides of a political issue fairly and dispassionately.
- Avoid giving undue weight to one perspective.
- Allow pupils time and opportunities to help pupils them process and evaluate arguments.

**4.0 Teachers and staff will use professional judgement** to ensure that discussions around political topics are age-appropriate, respectful, and inclusive of diverse perspectives.

School leaders are responsible for checking curriculum provision as well as whether the understanding of staff delivering the curriculum is in line with legal and Trust expectations.

**5.0 External agencies and speakers** invited into schools will be vetted to ensure their content aligns with our impartiality standards.

5.1 what **this looks like**: see Appendix 1.

**6.0 Safeguarding and Sensitivity**

All staff at CIT are expected to follow our policies and Code of Conduct.

Safer Recruitment checks will be done before appointment to ensure no concerns are raised around individuals joining the organisation. This will include social media checks. Any checks that raise concerns around radicalisation, worrying political ideologies that breach fundamental British Values will be investigated.

When concerns arise around political impartiality in any of our schools, this will be taken seriously by leaders. The Trust expects that individual school headteachers will:

- Handle concerns from parents, carers, and the wider community with **seriousness and sensitivity**.
- Ensure that **discriminatory or prejudiced views** are challenged and not presented as acceptable.
- Reinforce shared values such as **tolerance, respect, and protection from discrimination**, in accordance with the Equality Act 2010 and the Human Rights Act 1998.

### **7.0 Challenging Misinformation and Prejudice**

We expect all our schools to establish a culture and ethos that supports pupils to feel safe. Therefore, while presenting opposing views, schools must still challenge misinformation, discrimination, and prejudice.

Not all views are treated equally if they conflict with fundamental societal and British Values like tolerance, respect and human rights.

This culture will exist because our school leaders create a climate where the following are promoted:

- **Inclusive Environment:** Promote values of respect, empathy, and curiosity.
- **Student Voice:** Encourage pupils to speak out against prejudice and misinformation through student councils or peer mentoring. Listen to what pupils are telling us about hidden values that conflict with this culture.
- **Celebrating Diversity:** Ensure the curriculum and wider opportunities celebrate different cultures, identities, and perspectives in line with fundamental British Values.

### **8.0 Governance and Oversight**

Trust leaders, Trustees, Local School Board and individual school senior leadership teams are responsible for ensuring compliance with political impartiality duties. Regular reviews and training as part of the School Review and Safeguarding Culture Check process will be conducted to support staff in understanding and applying these principles effectively.

## **Appendix 1:**

Trust approach to Visiting Speakers in our schools:

The Protocol for Visiting Speakers The “Prevent” statutory guidance (2023) requires schools to have :

### **Clear Protocols in Place**

All CIT schools are required to have **clear procedures** to ensure that any visiting speakers—whether invited by staff or pupils—are:

- **Suitable** for the educational setting – age and stage of the pupils in the school.
- **Appropriately supervised** during their visit.

### **Safeguarding and Suitability Checks**

All visiting speakers to have a nominated point of contact at the school (the organiser).

The organiser must seek approval from the headteacher prior to the booking of a visiting speaker.

Organisers must **vet speakers** and any organisation they represent, to ensure they do not promote extremist views or undermine **fundamental British values** (democracy, rule of law, individual liberty, mutual respect, and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs). Leaders must check to ensure this has been done.

This may include:

- Internet searches.
- Contacting other schools where the speaker has previously presented.
- Ensuring there is a summary of what is being presented so they can review presentation materials in advance.

### **Supervision and Monitoring**

Leaders **MUST** ensure that:

- Speakers must be **supervised at all times** and not left alone with pupils.
- A member of staff should be present during the presentation and have the authority to **terminate the session** if the content is deemed inappropriate.

### **Political Impartiality**

- Schools must **prohibit political indoctrination** and ensure a **balanced treatment of political issues**, including in extra-curricular activities.

## **Documentation and Evaluation**

- The visiting speaker should complete a Visiting Speaker Agreement Form prior to entering the main school building; The speaker must provide detailed information regarding the content of the presentation, including copies of physical resources if requested, to the organiser prior to the presentation taking place.
- The school will ensure that all **visiting speakers** are met at the door, required to sign in and receive literature acknowledging the school's values and safeguarding expectations. They will have to wear a visitors' badge and be accompanied on school premises at all times. Regular visitors i.e. faith speakers who attend more than once per year will be kept on the SCR with the correct checks done on them.
- The visiting speaker must provide; photographic identification, professional identification/verification of booking, and DBS certificate. If they represent an organisation, the letter of assurance that the appropriate employment checks have been done must be received from the organisation prior to visit.
- The member of staff responsible for booking the speaker (the organiser) must ensure the Visiting Agreement Form is read fully, signed and dated. This must be completed and returned to the school before the presentation can take place. The form indicates a commitment to the following:
  - The speaker must not spread intolerance in the community and thus aid in disrupting social and community cohesion;
  - The speaker must not incite hatred, violence or call for breaking of the law.
  - The speaker must not encourage or promote racist, homophobic, sexist, ageist or extremist views or promote any acts of terrorism.
  - The speaker must seek to avoid insulting any faith or groups within a framework of positive debate and challenge.
  - The speaker must adhere to the school's equal opportunities and safeguarding policies.
  - Presentations must not contain any shock tactics or emotionally manipulative content and must not glamorise risky behaviours.
- After the presentation, the speaker should be accompanied to reception in order to sign out and return the visitors' badge.
- A **risk assessment** and **post-event evaluation** are part of the process for key speaker events. The organiser will always conduct a post-event evaluation of how the visit met the needs of our pupils.
- The visiting speaker is not permitted to raise or gather funds for any external organisation or cause without permission from the headteacher.
- In the unlikely event that the talk/presentation does not meet the requirements of the visiting speaker agreement, the senior leadership team have the right and responsibility to interrupt and/or stop a presentation.

Community Inclusive Trust – **Political Impartiality Statement**

- If any concerns arise during the presentation, these should be reported immediately to the designated safeguarding lead and/or the headteacher depending on the nature of the concern.

**Appendix 2: Visiting Speakers Agreement** – to read and sign to say this has been agreed and understood.

At \_\_\_\_\_ Academy we understand the importance of visiting speakers and external agencies to enrich the experience of our students.

In order to safeguard our pupils, we expect all our visiting speakers to read our Political Impartiality and Visiting Speakers Statement and to adhere to the statements below:

- Any messages communicated to students must support fundamental British values and our school values. The fundamental British Values are democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs.
- Any messages communicated to pupils must not seek to glorify criminal activity or violent extremism or seek to radicalise pupils through extreme or narrow views of faith, religion, culture or other ideologies.
- Should a member of staff feel the message being given out does not align with the school's values, they will report this to a member of the senior leadership team who will interrupt and could end the presentation/performance.
- Visiting speakers should not have phones or cameras out whilst in the presence of pupils and should not take any photos or videos of pupils.
- Visiting speakers should not have any social media contact with pupils through personal emails, personal mobile phones and social media.
- No gifts, including money, should be given out to pupils, unless agreed beforehand with the headteacher.
- Should visiting speakers wish to hand out any cards or leaflets to pupils, these should be checked by the organiser beforehand.
- Appropriate language and behaviour will be used at all times.
- Visiting speakers must adhere to the school's child protection and safeguarding policies.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_

