

# Policy External Speakers

Policy – External Speakers			
<b>Current Status</b>	Operational	<b>Last Review:</b>	New combined Strategy
<b>Responsibility for Review:</b>	Group Head of Welfare and Safeguarding	<b>Next Review:</b>	July 2025
<b>Approved by:</b>	SET	<b>Originated:</b>	WSC POLICY 2010 Sat Appendix to safeguarding policy 2021

## 1. Introduction

### COLLEGE AIM, MISSION AND VALUES

Putting students and their success at the heart of everything we do.

**Our mission** is to provide outstanding education for students throughout our community in order for them to become both fulfilled and play their part in being drivers of our region's economy.

**Our vision** is to be the centre of a hub of outstanding education and training in East Anglia by working in a wide collaborative network, creating coherent provision across the region.

**Three pillars** support our ideas: we aim to enable all students to gain not just the right qualifications and the best grades, but also the connections with business and character strengths they need to succeed.

### PURPOSE

To clarify what arrangements are in place for external speakers delivering talks on our college sites.

### INTRODUCTION

Eastern Colleges Group is committed to creating an environment where everyone is treated with dignity and respect and where diversity is valued. This policy clarifies the procedures relating to the use of external speakers at college events regardless of who is organising them.

External Speakers are:

- Visiting lecturers
- Conference delegates
- Anybody not on a fixed term or hourly paid or permanent contract
- Anybody who volunteers or is paid by invoice

## **AIMS**

It is ECG policy:

- To provide an environment where freedom of expression and speech are protected, balanced with the need to ensure that our community is free from harm and that incitement to hatred is never acceptable.
- To provide a supportive, inclusive and safe space for students.
- To provide clearly defined and effective procedures to ensure that the law is upheld.
- To collaborate with others to reach sound, evidenced judgements about proposed external speakers ensuring that the college can meet its legal obligations.
- To encourage and provide a balance of opinion at any academic discussion or debate.
- To communicate to all members, volunteers, staff and visitors, that it is our mutual responsibility to comply with anti-discrimination, anti-bullying or anti-harassment legislation and that college and the individual can be held liable if they contravene the law.
- To challenge behaviour and change practice that directly or indirectly result in discrimination. This includes actions taken while on our site as well as inappropriate speech.

## **FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION**

Freedom of expression and speech are basic human rights that are protected by law. Freedom of speech and freedom of expression are not absolute freedoms but freedoms within the law. 'Academic freedom' is a term used to describe the law that allows for open and honest debate in an academic context.

ECG has a legal duty (Education Act (no. 2) 1986 sec 43) to secure the development of students' ideas and understanding in the form of academic freedom.

Student safety and welfare is at the heart of ECG 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 students, staff and external speakers to be safe and without risk to the reputation of the college, through compliance with our [Equality and Diversity policy](#)

## **PROCEDURE FOR DUE DILIGENCE**

Lecturers are responsible for checking any websites, social media and media publications of external speakers ahead of any college talks to check for radicalised views.

This check of due diligence must be documented. This is recorded via our external visitors booking system, where the member of staff making the booking is asked to confirm that due diligence has been carried out.

There is a list of Prescribed terrorist groups or organisations. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/proscribed-terror-groups-or-organisations--2/proscribed-terrorist-groups-or-organisations-accessible-version> We also recognise our duty to inform the Home Office Prevent Co-Ordinator should we be approached by Extinction Rebellion

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**Revision History – Policy name**

<b>Revision date</b>	<b>Reason for revision</b>	<b>Section number</b>	<b>Changes made</b>
Enter date	Enter reason	Enter section number	Enter details