

## **Freedom of Speech Policy**

### **1. Introduction**

- 1.1. The AECC is committed to the principles of freedom of speech and expression, as well as academic freedom. In accordance with the Education Act 1986, the College will take all reasonable steps to ensure that freedom of speech and expression within the law is both preserved and exercisable at the College.
- 1.2. The College is committed both to protecting freedom of speech and academic freedom and to protecting and safeguarding its students from the risk of being drawn into terrorism. The College discharges its Prevent duty in partnership with other agencies, including the Police, Local Authorities and the network of regional Prevent Co-ordinators.
- 1.3. The College expects students, staff, governors, the Students' Union and visitors to ensure freedom of speech within the law is assured. The College has regard to the need to ensure that students and staff have freedom to question, test and put forward new ideas and controversial or unpopular opinions without placing themselves at risk.
- 1.4. The College believes that discussion that is open and honest can take place only if offensive or provocative action and language is avoided. Students, staff, governors, the Students' Union and visiting speakers are therefore required to demonstrate sensitivity to the diversity of the College community. They are required to show respect and tolerance towards expression of views, opinions and beliefs of others even though those views, opinions or beliefs may run contrary to their own personal views, opinions or beliefs.

### **2. Controversial Events**

- 2.1. Where a student, member of staff, governor or the Students' Union wishes to hold an event within the College which is considered to be a controversial event, the organiser will be required to complete and submit a Freedom of Speech Application Form (Enc. A). The organiser must submit the completed application form to the Academic Registrar as soon as possible and, in any event, no fewer than 15 working days before the date scheduled for the Event. The organiser must ensure that nothing is done to advertise, publicise or promote the event until permission is granted. The completed application form will be considered by the Academic Registrar who, after discussion with the Principal, will decide whether or not permission should be granted.

### **3. No Platform Policy**

- 3.1. The College will offer no platform to those who are intolerant of the free speech of others; who advocate or engage in violence in the furtherance of their political, religious, philosophical or other beliefs; who hold and disseminate views which are opposed to the maintenance of liberty under the rule of law in the UK.

### **4. General**

- 4.1. It is the responsibility of students, staff, governors and the Students' Union to assist the College in upholding the rights of freedom of speech as set out in this Policy. Where a breach of this policy occurs, the College will take all reasonable steps to identify the person(s) involved in that breach; such breaches may be considered under the Disciplinary Procedures of the College where applicable.

# AECC

<b>Version:</b>	1
<b>Approved by:</b>	SMG
<b>Originator / Author</b>	Executive Director of Administration
<b>Owner</b>	Academic Registrar
<b>Reference source</b>	HEI Exemplars
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<b>Review date</b>	October 2018
<b>Target</b>	Staff and Students
<b>Policy location</b>	SIP and Moodle
<b>Equality analysis</b>	This Policy has been developed with due regard to the College's general equality duty

## Freedom of Speech Application Form

Please send the completed form to the Executive Director of Administration and Human Resources at least 15 working days before the date of the proposed event.

1	Event title:	
2	Date:	
3	Time:	
4	Venue:	
5	Principal Organiser's full name:	
6	Principal Organiser's contact details: (organisation/address/email/tel. no.)	
7	Speaker's full name:  If there is more than one speaker, please complete a form for each speaker	
8	Speaker's organisation: (Title of organisation and website url)	
9	Speaker's contact details: (address/email/tel. no.)	
10	Speaker's time of arrival:	
11	Speaker's time of departure:	
12	Name of appointed Chair:	
13	Subject matter of event:	
14	Does the event have any controversial subjects? If yes, please provide details:	Yes/No*
15	How will the event be advertised and in what language?	
16	Is the event being sponsored and, if so, who by:	
17	Who is expected to attend the event (e.g. staff, students, named guests, general public):	

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18	What conditions will apply to entry to the event (e.g. ticketed, open to the general public):	
19	Number of individuals expected to attend the event:	
20	Is there an intention to segregate the event: If yes, please provide further details:	Yes/No*
21	What publications or materials will be available to attendees:	
22	Has the speaker spoken at the College before? If so, please provide date(s):	Yes/No*
23	Has the speaker been refused to speak publicly or at any other educational establishment before? If yes, please provide details:	Yes/No*
24	If the event is approved, is there a likelihood of media interest?	Yes/No*
25	Please provide any other details about the event that should be noted:	
26	(a) Have you made the speaker and Chair aware of the College's: - Code of Practice on Freedom of Speech, - Dignity, Diversity and Equality Policy (b) Have the speaker and Chair agreed in writing to comply with the above Codes and Policies?	(a) Yes/No*  (b) Yes/No*
	Principal Organiser's signature:	
	Date of signature:	

Please email this form to the Executive Director of Administration and Human Resources for consideration

\*Delete as appropriate