



FREEDOM OF SPEECH POLICY

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Equality Impact Assessment	Yes
Student Friendly Version	Yes

Revision history

Version	Type (e.g. replacement, revision etc...)	Date	History (reason for changes)
1	Revision	May 2020	Annual Revision – re-write
1.1	Update	June 2023	Clarification on Language. Updates on Acts

Monitoring and review

This policy will be reviewed by SLT and approved by the Corporation every 3 years.

Freedom of Speech Policy

Purpose of the Policy

The College's freedom of speech policy adheres to the Article 10 of the Human Rights Act 1998, "everyone has the right to **freedom of expression**" in the **UK**. This policy ensures that that any freedom of speech meets the appropriate formalities, conditions, restrictions or penalties and does not act unknowingly or wilfully against the colleges values and behaviours.

The College will:

- promote a culture of vigorous and fearless debate within the law built on the principle of tolerance of different views and beliefs.
- Enforce the necessary action when that freedom has been breached
- Ensure that the college adheres to the stipulations laid out in law and associated FE and HE regulations relating to action required to uphold the rights to freedom of speech
- Ensure that expressions of hatred toward someone on account of that person's colour, race, disability, nationality (including citizenship), ethnic or national origin, religion, gender identity, or sexual orientation is not allowed
- Ensure that all staff, students and visitors confirm that they will not wilfully engage in conduct which prevents, obstructs or disrupts the holding or orderly conduct of any meeting or other lawful assembly on College premises.

Linked policies:

- Student Disciplinary Policy
- Staff Disciplinary Policy
- Student Behaviour Policy

Linked procedures and guidelines:

- Article 10 of the Human Rights Act 1998
- Section 43 of the Education (No 2) Act 1986
- Higher Education (Freedom of Speech) Act 2023