Visiting speaker protocol

At Frogmore Infant School, we believe use guest speakers and external agencies to enrich the learning experiences of our children. In order to meet our safeguarding and Prevent responsibilities, we scrutinize all visitors to ensure they are suitable and do not contradict the ethos of the school or conflict with the legal framework outlines in the Prevent duty and the school's safeguarding duties.

At Frogmore Infant School, we:

- Do not tolerate any person who intentionally or unintentionally demeans individuals and groups defined by their ethnicity, race, religion or belief, sexuality, gender, disability, age or lawful working practices.
- Will not tolerate any speech that gives rise to an environment where people experience, or could reasonably fear, harassment, intimidation or violence.
- Do not accept the use of offensive or intolerant language by guest speakers.
- Value freedom of speech and opinion, but recognise that, in the interest of the whole learning community, this must exist within formal guidelines.
- Recognise that extremism and exposure to extremist beliefs can lead to poorer outcomes for pupils.
- Aim to use the power of education to counteract extremism through the promotion of fundamental British values, such as tolerance and freedom of speech.
- Are sensitive to the fact that pupils may sometimes express views or ideas that are discriminatory, prejudiced or extremist. All members of staff are trained to deal with these instances appropriately and proportionally.

Assessing suitability

According to the Prevent duty, schools have a responsibility to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism; this includes violent and non-violent extremism, which can create an atmosphere conducive to terrorism, and can popularise views which terrorists exploit. Our school is a safe space where children can understand and discuss sensitive topics in an age appropriate manner. Before inviting an external agency or guest speaker, we will conduct background research into the relevant parties, ensuring that:

- Any messages communicated to pupils support fundamental British values.
- Any messages communicated to pupils do not seek to glorify criminal activity or violent extremism and are not shared by terrorist groups.
- The group or person is not attempting to narrow the views of pupils through extreme or narrow views of faith, religion, culture or ideology.
- The subject matters being raised are appropriate for the specific age group. All members of staff will actively attempt to strengthen pupils' abilities to engage in informed debate.

Careful consideration is given to the suitability of an external speaker or external organisation to enrich pupil's education, and the headteacher will make the final decision as to the suitability of any guest speaker or external organisation. The speaker will be briefed before the visit on the school, its ethos, the nature of its cohort, how many people will be present for the visit and any issues which should be avoided. The headteacher will reserve the right to request a transcript from the speaker

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prior to any speech being made. Any technical arrangements necessary for the speaker will be arranged in advance.

Other than safeguarding issues, there will be several other factors that are considered when evaluating the suitability of a guest speaker or external group. School will consider whether:

- The visit adds value to the pupils' learning experiences and education.
- The age-appropriateness of the speaker and what is going to be delivered.
- The speaker or group has the expertise in the subject they are delivering.
- The planned activities meet the health and safety guidelines.
- The individual or group has the required DBS checks.

Before the visit, a full risk assessment will be carried out and submitted to the headteacher.

During a visit

The ID of external speakers will be checked upon arrival and the school will ensure that the visitor has had the appropriate DBS check or received confirmation that the appropriate checks have been conducted from the speaker's employer, where appropriate. The headteacher will use their professional judgement to determine the need for external speakers to be supervised or escorted on school premises. The headteacher or a senior member of staff will be present during the speech or group activity, to oversee that the relevant guidelines are followed. Intervention will be considered if the member of staff feels it is necessary. Any reasons for intervention will be recorded for future reference. There is a back up plan to ensure pupils' education is not disrupted in the event a speaker cancels on the day of the visit or fails to attend for any reason.