

External Speakers & Freedom of Speech Policy

Introduction

At Busy Bees Education and Training (BBET) we recognise that our excellent people with outstanding skills form the strong foundations needed to deliver an exceptional service and continue the success of the company. With this in mind, we are passionate about learning and development and give all our employees and learners the opportunities to develop the skills and confidence needed to reach their full potential and succeed.

Mission, Vision and Values

Mission

Progressing lives through pioneering education.

Vision

Empowering people to unlock their full potential and achieve lasting success.

Values

Care

Expertise

Innovation

Accountability

Rationale and scope

Busy Bees Education and Training (BBET) wholeheartedly accepts that it must manage freedom of speech in line with its Safeguarding Policy, specifically with regard to Prevent and in-line with the Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015

BBET affirms its commitment to freedom of speech and to its legal obligation to take such steps as is reasonably practicable to ensure that freedom of speech within the law is secured for learners, employees and visiting speakers.

BBET has a legal duty to ensure that a speaker exercising their right to freedom of speech does not commit an offence under current legislation, for example by inciting an audience to violence, breach of the peace or racial hatred.

The requirements of this policy apply to BBET staff and learners.

Principles

Busy Bees Education & Training believes that a culture of free, open and robust discussion can be achieved only if all concerned avoid needlessly offensive or provocative action and language.

BBET expects all individuals to be sensitive to the diversity of its community and to show respect for individual values and beliefs.

Any activity which is likely to give rise to an environment in which people could experience fear, harassment, intimidation, verbal abuse or violence, particularly because of their ethnicity, race, nationality, religion or belief, sexual orientation, gender, disability or age, is contrary to Busy Bees Education & Training's values.

We regard people of all faiths, races and cultures with respect and tolerance.

We want learners to understand that while different people may hold different views about what is 'right' and 'wrong', all people living in England are subject to its law.

BBET promotes the fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs.

Actively promoting the values means challenging opinions or behaviours that are contrary to fundamental British Values.

BBET will work with its staff to:

- Enable learners to develop their knowledge, self-esteem and self-confidence
- Enable learners to distinguish right from wrong and to respect the civil and criminal law of England
- Encourage learners to accept responsibility for their behaviour, show initiative, and to understand how they can contribute positively to the lives and working in the locality of the school and to society more widely
- Enable learners to acquire a broad knowledge of and respect for public institutions and services in England
- Promote tolerance and harmony between different cultural traditions by enabling learners to gain an appreciation of and respect for their own and other cultures
- Encourage respect for democracy and democratic processes, including respect for the law

The list below describes BBETs expectations of its staff and sub-contractors in developing learners' understanding and knowledge in British Values:

- An understanding of how citizens can influence decision-making through the democratic process
- An appreciation that living under the rule of law protects individual citizens and is essential for their wellbeing and safety
- An understanding that the freedom to choose and hold faiths and beliefs is protected in law
- An acceptance that other people having different faiths or beliefs to oneself, or having none, should be accepted and tolerated and should not be the cause of prejudicial or discriminatory behaviour
- An understanding of the importance of identifying and combating discrimination

Events

The purpose of including events within this policy is to identify specific requirements with regard to external visitors and speakers.

Before hosting an event with visiting speakers, the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) or a Designated Safeguarding Officer (DSO) will ensure that visiting speakers understand and accept BBET's expectations with regard to freedom of speech and British Values. Furthermore, the DSO will ensure that the event

- will not in any way work against the promotion of knowledge and freedom of choice will recognise the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion
- will raise the profile of BBET in educating the community about its services, facilities and/or its curriculum offer

This policy will be reviewed annually.
