

St Thomas of Canterbury Church of England Primary School

“Let all that you do be done in love.” 1 Corinthians 16:14



VISITING SPEAKERS' POLICY

Ratified by the Governing Body: **March 2024**

Review Date: **September 2027**

St Thomas of Canterbury Church of England Primary School

Visiting Speakers' Policy

Visitors Policy and Visiting speakers' agreement

This policy should be read with the following policies:

- Safeguarding & Child Protection Policy
- Collective worship policy
- PREVENT Strategy HM Gov 2015
- Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE)

I. Introduction

Visitors are welcome to St Thomas of Canterbury Church of England Primary School. They make a valuable contribution to the life and work of the school in many different ways. The learning opportunities and experience they bring are encouraged and appreciated. It is the school's responsibility, however, to ensure that the security and welfare of its pupils is not compromised at any time. The school is equally responsible to the whole school community for ensuring that visitors comply with the guidelines.

It is our aim to safeguard all children under this school's responsibility both during school time and in extra-curricular activities which are arranged by the school. The ultimate aim is to ensure the pupils of St Thomas of Canterbury Church of England Primary School can learn and enjoy extra-curricular experiences, in an environment where they are safe from harm.

It is our objective to establish a clear protocol and procedure for the admittance of external visitors to the school which is understood by all staff, governors, visitors and parents/carers and conforms to child protection guidelines.

The school is deemed to have control and responsibility for its pupils anywhere on the school site, during normal school hours, during after school activities and on school organised (and supervised) off-site activities. The policy applies to:

- All teaching and non-teaching staff employed by the school
- All external visitors entering the school site during the school day or after school activities (including peripatetic tutors, sport coaches, and topic related visitors e.g. business people, authors, artists etc.)
- All governors of the school
- All parents/carers
- All pupils
- Education personnel (Local Authority staff, Inspectors)
- Building and Maintenance Contractors

This policy applies to all visitors invited to St Thomas of Canterbury Church of England Primary School.

2. Visitors Invited to the School

Where possible permission should be granted by the Headteacher before any visitor is asked to come into school. The Headteacher and/or members of the Senior Leadership Team should be given a clear explanation as to the relevance and purpose of the visit and intended date and time for the visit.

- All visitors must report to the School Office first - they must not enter the school via any other entrance.
- At reception, all visitors must state the purpose of their visit and who has invited them. They should be ready to produce formal identification where appropriate.
- All visitors will be asked to sign in using the school's signing in procedure.
- All visitors will be required to wear a label/badge.
- Visitors will then be escorted to the point of contact or their point of contact will be asked to come to reception to receive the visitor. The contact will then be responsible for them while they are on site.
- At no point should a visitor be left on their own with children (if the visitor is meeting a member of staff).
- In the event of a fire alarm/drill, the visitor should be accompanied to the assembly point in the playground.
- On departing the school, visitors should leave via the School Office, sign out using the school's procedures and return their identification label/badge to reception.

Visitors whose purpose is to work with children in some capacity:

- Visitors may work with children in a variety of capacities, for example, to deliver a lesson (normally supervised by a member of staff), to meet with small groups of pupils or individuals or, alternatively, they may be working with a child on a one to one basis (e.g. Children's Services or health professionals.)
- Staff should ensure all normal visitor policy requirements are followed.
- Any visitor who is not DBS checked must not be alone with children at any point. This includes whole class or small group teaching or one to one interviews of children or escorting by children around the building.

If a visitor has DBS clearance they may work with children unaccompanied by another member of staff. At times this might be teaching a class or a one to one interview. This must be agreed in advance.

- Regular visitors to the school must have DBS clearance.
- Any visitor delivering a lesson or collective worship must comply with the requirements of the visiting speakers' policy.

3. Use of External Agencies and Speakers

At St Thomas of Canterbury Church of England Primary School we encourage the use of external agencies or speakers to enrich the experiences of our children; however we will positively vet those external agencies, individuals or speakers who we engage to provide such learning opportunities or experiences for our pupils.

We ensure that we do not unwittingly use agencies that contradict each other with their messages or that are inconsistent with, or are in complete opposition to, the school's values and Christian ethos. We must be aware that in some instances the work of external agencies may not directly be connected with the rest of the school curriculum so we need to ensure that this work is of benefit to our children.

All External Agencies and Speakers must read and accept the Visiting Speakers agreement. (Appendix 1)

Our school will assess the suitability and effectiveness of input from external agencies or individuals to ensure that:

- Any messages communicated to children support fundamental British Values our school values and Christian ethos.

- Any messages communicated to children are consistent with the ethos of the school and do not marginalise any communities, groups or individuals
- Any messages communicated to children do not seek to glorify criminal activity or violent extremism or seek to radicalise children through extreme or narrow views of faith, religion or culture or other ideologies
- Activities are properly embedded in the curriculum and clearly mapped to schemes of work to avoid contradictory messages or duplication.
- Activities are matched to the needs of children

We recognise, however, that the ethos of our school is to encourage children to understand opposing views and ideologies, appropriate to their age, understanding and abilities, and to be able to actively engage with them in informed debate, and we may use external agencies or speakers to facilitate and support this. Therefore by delivering a broad and balanced curriculum, augmented by the use of external sources where appropriate, we will strive to ensure our children recognise risk and build resilience to manage any such risk themselves where appropriate to their age and ability but also to help children develop the critical thinking skills needed to engage in informed debate.

4. Unknown/uninvited Visitors to the School

- Any visitor to the school site who is not wearing an identity badge should be challenged politely to enquire who they are and their business on the school site.
- They should then be escorted to the School Office to sign in and be issued with an identity label/badge.
- In the event that the visitor refuses to comply, they should be asked to leave the site immediately and the Headteacher should be informed immediately.
- The Headteacher and/or members of the Senior Leadership Team will consider the situation and decide if it is necessary to inform the police.
- If an unknown/uninvited visitor becomes abusive or aggressive, they will be asked to leave the site immediately and warned that if they fail to leave the school grounds, police assistance will be called for.

5. Governors

- All governors have DBS clearance.
- Governors should wear an ID badge at all times.
- Governors should sign in and out using the signing in system.
- New governors will be made aware of the policy and familiar with its procedures as part of their induction.

6. Staff Development

As part of their induction, new staff will be made aware of this policy and will be asked to ensure compliance with its procedures at all times.

Appendix I

St Thomas of Canterbury Church of England Primary School Visiting Speakers Agreement

At St Thomas of Canterbury Church of England Primary School we understand the importance of visitors and external agencies to enrich the experiences of our students.

In order to safeguard our children we expect all visiting speakers to read and adhere to the statements below.

- Any messages communicated to children support fundamental British Values our school values and Christian ethos.
- Any messages communicated to children are consistent with the ethos of the school and do not marginalise any communities, groups or individuals
- Any messages communicated to children do not seek to glorify criminal activity or violent extremism or seek to radicalise children through extreme or narrow views of faith, religion or culture or other ideologies
- Activities are properly embedded in the curriculum and clearly mapped to schemes of work to avoid contradictory messages or duplication.
- Activities are matched to the needs of children
- Visitors will also be accompanied by a member of staff at all times