



UTC Cambridge Partisan political & Religious Views Policy

Lead member of SLT: Director of Student Progress
UTCC Governor: Safeguarding Lead

Associated documentation

Prevent policy
Equality and Diversity policy
SMSC plan
Safeguarding Policy

DFE Guidance from Statutory Policies for schools, reviewed August 2014

Review frequency: Governing body or proprietor is free to determine.

Approval: Governing body to delegate to a committee member of the governing body, an individual or the Principal.

Legislation & Sources:

The Prevent strategy (2011)

The Education Act 2002

The Ofsted School Inspection Handbook (2014)

DFE Improving the Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural (SMSC) development of pupils (Nov 2013)

Teachers' Standards, guidance for school leaders, school staff and governing bodies (July 2011, updated 2013)

UTC Cambridge Vision

UTC Cambridge: Delivering Future Scientists

UTC Cambridge Mission

Through an innovative curriculum, developed with leading scientists from industry and academia, UTC Cambridge builds bespoke learning solutions delivered in a state of the art science and technology environment that empowers students to manage their academic and career development.

UTC Cambridge Values

We set ourselves challenging goals, are agile and resilient, to achieve our personal best.

By respecting one another we enhance our experience and benefit from different perspectives.

We take individual responsibility, ensuring team delivery.

By respecting our environment, our world, we make a difference.

We celebrate positive contribution and aspire to excellence.

We are morally and ethically responsible in scientific and environmental innovation.

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Review date: July 2017

Aim

Staff members should demonstrate courtesy to colleagues and students at all times and refrain from expression of strong personal, political and religious views. Please note that expression of partisan political and religious views must be avoided in all aspects of teaching. Staff members are courteously requested to ensure personal views are not directly or indirectly imparted through delivery of the curriculum.

Definition of compliance to regulations

This policy is derived from the inspection regulation, brought in to deliver the commitment made in the government's *Prevent* strategy.

- A) The regulation refers to the systematic promotion of partisan views in a way that is likely to exert undue influence on the views of students.
- B) This does not mean that political or religious ideas cannot be discussed. However, for the UTC Cambridge to meet Regulations 5(a) (v) and (vi), students should continue to learn about public institutions and services, including those of a political and religious nature, and be introduced to values that have a political and religious dimension.
- C) In particular, our integrated curriculum and challenge projects cannot be taught effectively without reference to the political and religious context. What is required by this regulation is that students are not indoctrinated or unduly influenced by the promotion of partisan political or religious views.
- D) Part 2 of the Teachers' Standards on personal and professional conduct, specifies that teachers must ensure that their personal beliefs are not expressed in ways which exploit students vulnerability or might lead them to break the law.
- E) The policy aims to prevent the political and religious indoctrination of students through the curriculum. This does not mean to prevent students from being exposed to political or religious views or from discussing political or religious issues within the UTC Cambridge. Students should not, however, be actively encouraged by teachers or others to support particular political and religious viewpoints.
- F) This does not prevent the *presentation* of political or religious views, if for example, as part of SMSC a class is shown Nazi propaganda, or a class is shown a racist film, this is not 'promoting' the views shown, but merely presenting them.
- G) Unlike other parts of the SMSC standard, this part of the standard does not require the UTC to promote positive outcomes. It is about preventing a negative outcome for students.
- H) Concepts such as addressing the moral issues in the development of science, democracy and the historical development of the political process in society cannot be meaningfully taught without reference to political and religious belief and practice and the use of concrete examples is normally helpful in promoting understanding.
- I) However, teaching staff should not exploit students' vulnerability by seeking to convince them that a particular political or religious position is necessarily correct, or by trying to impose their own views on students.

J) Such action may also amount to a breach of Part 2 of the Teachers' Standards on personal and professional conduct, which can be taken into account for the purposes of proceedings under the Teachers' Disciplinary (England) Regulations 2012.

K) It is the responsibility of all teaching staff to be aware of the professional standards applying to them and the requirements of this standard.

L) While this part of the standard does not preclude the presentation of controversial political or religious viewpoints to students, the UTC Cambridge should ensure that views are not promoted which are inconsistent with the requirements of any other part of the standard (for example views which are derogatory of particular ethnic groups or faiths, or which are actively in opposition to the fundamental British values referred to in the standard).

M) All visiting speakers must be vetted by a member of the Senior Management Team (SMT) before they are allowed to address students. If they hold views which are inconsistent with the requirements of any part of the SMSC standard, and if still used, the member of SMT must ensure that the content of their presentation is agreed beforehand.

N) The UTC Cambridge must keep a list of all visiting speakers, giving details of the organisations (if any) that they represent, as well as of any extra-curricular activities organised by or promoted by the UTC Cambridge, where political or religious issues are or might be brought to the attention of students. An up-to-date version of this list must be available to Inspectors at the time of the UTC Cambridge's inspection.

O) The UTC Cambridge will take reasonable practicable steps to ensure that where political and religious issues are brought to the attention of students:

- (i) while they are in attendance at the UTC;
 - (ii) while they are taking part in extra-curricular activities which are provided or organised by or on behalf of the UTC Cambridge; or
 - (iii) in the promotion of the UTC Cambridge, including through the distribution of promotional material, of extra-curricular activities taking place at the UTC Cambridge or elsewhere;
- That students are offered a balanced presentation of opposing views.

P) Staff are expected to take steps, in every aspect of their work, to ensure that when political or religious issues are discussed or arise, students are made aware that there are normally countervailing views and a balance is struck between the opinions and beliefs discussed. This may be during lessons, or when extra-curricular activities within the UTC Cambridge, such as debates take place, or through the use of external speakers. The word balanced means nothing more than 'fair' and 'dispassionate'.

Q) Where a speaker has expressed partisan political or religious views on a subject, the member of SMT in liaison with the Principal, present opposing views on the subject to students, in the course of subsequent class teaching or in a whole college assembly. It would not be necessary to challenge the speaker's views at the time or arrange for a speaker with opposing views to address students at a later date.

R) The above also relates to the use of promotional literature in the UTC Cambridge building for events which are not part of the curriculum, which students might see and as a result wish to attend. Although such events may be political or religious in nature, UTC Cambridge aims to ensure that they are not unbalanced (for example by advertising events held only by one political party or

proponents of one particular view) and that they do not risk breaches of other SMSC standards (for example, by advertising speakers who are promoting anti-democratic beliefs).

The following are definitions of the key terms used in this part of the policy

Partisan

The best synonym for "partisan" is "one-sided".

Political views

Views expressed for a political purpose. A political purpose is either directly or indirectly:

1. to further the interests of a particular political party; or
2. to procure changes to the laws of this or another country; or
3. to procure the reversal of government policy or of particular decisions of governmental authorities in this or another country.

Religious view

A pursuit or interest followed with great devotion.

Appendix I

Declaration form:

Partisan Political and Religious views

I confirm my agreement to the professional standards outlined in this document.

Signed.....Dated.....

Full Name.....

Please provide names of organisational bodies to which you belong, which may cause a conflict of interest, regarding the compliance to the *Prevent* policy and practice above:

Organisational body	Position within the organisational body

Member of SMT: signed.....Dated.....

Full Name.....