



Freedom of Speech Policy

The Education Act 1986 imposes a duty on all educational establishments to ensure that freedom of speech is secured for all students and staff. These freedoms are central to the development of free thinking, new ideas and understanding.

The principle of free speech is important as it enables us to consider a wide range of views and beliefs, theories and opinions and allows us to challenge the perceived norms.

Members, students and staff of Matrix must conduct themselves so as to ensure that freedom of speech within the law is secured for members, students and staff of the College.

Matrix acknowledges that the right to free speech is not unlimited. There are restrictions, for example, imposed by laws that exist to protect national security and public safety, for the prevention of crime, for the protection of the reputation and rights of others, and to prevent the disclosure of information received in confidence.

Matrix will:

- protect the right to freedom of speech.
- seek to ensure that staff, students and members are able to express their opinions and beliefs
- ensure that academic staff are able to question and test received wisdom, put forward new ideas and controversial opinions without placing themselves in jeopardy of losing their jobs.
- ensure every member of upholds the right of others to freedom of speech

Matrix expects all visitors to respect the values set out in this Policy and to be sensitive to its diverse and inclusive community and to maintain an environment free from unlawful intimidation, harassment or abuse. Where necessary visitors will be advised of the policy before they visit and reminded of the policy if the circumstances warrant this by their Matrix host.

Developed by: Management team
Reviewed: FP BB & Student Review Panel June 2020
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