

Freedom of Speech

1. Emmanuel College is required by law to outline principles of free speech. In so doing the College has considered its specific legal responsibilities, as set out in Section 43 of the Education (No 2) Act 1986, the Equality Act 2010 and the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015.
2. These principles of free speech apply to all members of the College, staff or students connected to the University or another College, and visiting speakers (i.e. speakers who are not members of the University of Cambridge or one of the Colleges).
3. The College is strongly committed to the principle of freedom of speech and expression. It fosters an environment where all of its members can participate fully in the life of the College, and where each member feels confident and able to research, question and test received wisdom, and to express new ideas and controversial or unpopular opinions, without fear of isolation, marginalisation or discrimination. Equally, the College expects its members to receive and respond to intellectual and ideological challenges in a constructive and peaceable way. The College also acknowledges its statutory duties in protecting its members and other people from “radicalisation”, which in this context means being drawn in by others to support terrorism, or to commit acts of terrorism.
4. Subject to paragraph 3 above, no premises of the College will be denied to any member or body of members by reason of the beliefs or views of that individual or of that body or the policy or objectives of that body.
5. In holding to these key principles, the College will take into account its obligations regarding freedom of speech, the management of the health and safety of its members and the general public, the promotion of equal opportunities and prevention of discrimination on the grounds of belief, race, gender or sexual orientation or other legally-protected characteristics, and its duties associated with preventing people from being drawn into terrorism or the promotion of terrorist activities. For example, the College reserves the right to refuse access to its premises if it is of the opinion that a visiting speaker or the purpose of a meeting is likely to give rise to the incitement of crime and/or is likely to cause a breach of the peace.
6. In determining the likelihood of risk of harm to members of the College and/or the general public, or members of the College being drawn into terrorism, or otherwise promoting any violent or illegal action, the College has policies and/or procedures which set out and manage:
 - a) the behavioural expectations of students and student unions
 - b) the management of College events at which controversial views may be expressed (whether or not they are held at the College); and
 - c) the management and conduct of visiting speakers at meetings held within the College.

The Code of Conduct Relating to Harassment; The College Regulations; The Code of Practice on Meetings on College Premises; and the External Events and External Speakers Code of Practice are all available on the Official Documents page of the College website.