

## ST STEPHEN'S HOUSE

### FREEDOM OF SPEECH POLICY

1. This document sets out the framework within which members of the Hall, staff and visitors enjoy the right to freedom of speech.
2. The freedom protected by this policy is confined to the exercise of freedom of speech within the law.
3. This Policy covers all events taking place on Hall premises; or events held elsewhere which are Hall funded, affiliated or branded.

### POLICY

4. The House Council of the Hall will ensure it is understood by the Hall community as a whole that principles of free expression, academic freedom, autonomy, confidentiality, privacy and equality of rights according to law provide the overarching context within which the Hall's *Prevent* duty will be considered. The *Prevent* duty strategy will be implemented in a manner that is proportionate and positively secures and protects these rights.
5. Members, students, and employees of the Hall are required at all times to conduct themselves so as to ensure that freedom of speech within the law is secured for members, students, and employees of the Hall and for visiting speakers.
6. The Hall 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. Only criminal speech is proscribed
7. Whilst there is no legal prohibition on offending others, the Hall expects speakers and those taking part in meetings and other events to respect its values, to be sensitive to the diversity of its community and to show respect to all sections of that community. Speakers and audience alike should be reminded of their responsibilities to observe the relevant Hall's policies on harassment and to conduct civil academic discussions at all times.
8. Any significant infringements of the provisions of this policy may render those responsible liable to disciplinary action under the Hall's disciplinary procedures.
9. In any case where the Hall is proposing to grant permission to an outside organisation or group to hold a meeting or event on Hall premises, the provisions of this policy will apply.

26<sup>th</sup> July 2016

Robin Ward, Principal