VISITING SPEAKER POLICY

Date Reviewed: September 2026

Date for Policy Review: September 2027

THE RAISE ACADEMY'S ETHOS AND VISION

At Raise we recognise that whilst all children are different, each student deserves the same opportunities in life and therefore in order to achieve true equality and deliver an equitable experience in education, the answer is not in ensuring that all students have exactly the same, rather that all students have what they need to succeed. Through the ability to offer an individualised and personalised, engaging curriculum, delivered by specialists, we have the chance to make a real difference and affect change in a special group of young people, their families and the wider local community 'Raise' represents far more than just a name for a school. It neatly summarises our vision for the Academy, and expresses the ethos for education we strive to provide; an ethos focused on positive achievement and success at every stage.

All members of staff have a commitment and passion to deliver the best possible educational experiences, encouraging all students to dream big and empowering them to lead successful and fulfilling lives, in a safe and protected, well-supported atmosphere. Our aim is to reignite that love for learning that may have been lost at some point, through inspirational teaching and provision of opportunity.

As with all schools in the YES Trust, The Raise Academy will be underpinned by the following **Trust values:**

The YES Trust is committed to providing **child centred** education, by developing **authentic relationships**, and being **adaptive & sensitive** to each pupil's individual needs. The mission of the Trust is to **transform lives**.

'Raise' represents far more than just a name for a school. It neatly summarises our vision for the Academy, and expresses the ethos for education we strive to provide; an ethos focused on positive achievement and success at every stage.

Raise – **Self-Esteem: Student-centred education.**

Raise – **Ambitions: Specialist curriculum; engages, inspires and achieves.**

Raise – **Self-Belief: Individual support plans engendering emotional resilience.**

Raise – **Outcomes: Successful learning; leads to positive destinations at post-16**

Ultimately, we plan to raise all learners to a level they can sustain achievement, contribute to local communities and wider society, be proud of their outcomes and strive or better life destinations.

INTRODUCTION

The Raise Academy understands that it is very much part of a global community. Occasionally, we have speakers from that wider community who enrich our students'

experience of school, providing them with information that helps them make decisions at different phases of their education, widening their understanding of world and global issues and providing motivational inspiration through the sharing of a speaker's experience.

PURPOSE

The Visiting Speakers Policy provides the framework for procedures that all schools should follow when having an external speaker visit their school to speak to their students. Visiting speakers are very important to enrich the student's experience of school. Our responsibility is to ensure that any information the students receive is done within a safe environment and that care must be exercised to respect the diverse views and values of all students in our school community. Any information delivered to students at their school must be aligned to and promote the values of the Trust.

The policy is for The Raise Academy and includes internal training sessions as well as speakers being invited to talk to students and/or parents and carers.

This policy should be read in conjunction with The Raise Academy's Personal Development Policy, The Raise Academy's Statement of British Values, as well as The Raise Academy's Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy

PROCEDURES

The member of staff responsible for booking the speaker must ensure the Visiting Speaker Agreement Form is read fully, signed and dated. This needs to be completed and returned to the school before the presentation can take place. The form indicates a commitment to the following:

- The speaker must not spread intolerance in the community and thus aid in disrupting social and community cohesion.
- The speaker must not incite hatred, violence or call for the breaking of the law.
- The speaker must not encourage or promote racist, homophobic, sexist, ageist or extremist views or promote any acts of terrorism.
- The speaker must seek to avoid insulting any faiths or groups within a framework of positive debate and challenge.
- The speaker must adhere to the school's equal opportunities and safeguarding policies.
- The speaker must send a copy of the presentation / speaking notes to the member of staff prior to the presentation taking place.
- The visiting speaker is not permitted to raise or gather funds for any external organisation or cause without permission from the Headteacher.

On the day of the visit the procedure should be as follows:

- The visitor should be met at reception, signed in and be issued with a visitors' badge which they must wear at all times.
- A copy of the signed Visiting Speaker Agreement Form should be available at reception and double checked by the member of staff responsible for the visit.
- A staff member should remain with the visitor during the time they are in the school.

- During any presentation at least one member of school staff should be present at all times.
- After the presentation, the speaker should be accompanied to reception in order to sign out and leave the visitors' badge.
- In the unlikely event that the talk/presentation does not meet with the requirements of the visiting speaker agreement, school staff have the right and responsibility to interrupt and/or stop a presentation
- If any concerns arising during the presentation, these should be reported immediately to a member of the school's safeguarding team and/or the Headteacher depending on the nature of the concerns.

APPENDIX ONE

VISITING SPEAKER AGREEMENT FORM

NAME:……

COMPANY:……..

STAFF CONTACT:……

As a visiting speaker to The Raise Academy I understand that I must adhere to the following:

- The speaker must not spread intolerance in the community and thus aid in disrupting social and community cohesion.
- The speaker must not incite hatred, violence or call for the breaking of the law.
- The speaker must not encourage or promote racist, homophobic, sexist, ageist or extremist views or promote any acts of terrorism.
- The speaker must seek to avoid insulting any faiths or groups within a framework of positive debate and challenge.
- The speaker must adhere to the school's equal opportunities and safeguarding policies.
- The speaker must send a copy of the presentation / speaking notes to the member of staff prior to the presentation taking place.
- The visiting speaker is not permitted to raise or gather funds for any external organisation or cause without permission from the Headteacher.

SIGNATURE OF VISITOR……

I confirm I have sent a copy of my presentation and planned topic of discussion to the organiser and this has been deemed as appropriate ☐ (Please tick box to confirm)

I agree to adhere to the schools Safeguarding Policy and prior to my visit I have read, understood and agree to adhere to Keeping Children Safe in Education (Part 1)

☐

(Please tick box to confirm)