

ENGAGING IN STUDENT POLITICAL ACTIVITY POLICY

- Biddenham International School is committed to internationalism, which is to say promoting pluralism and fostering peace, harmony and understanding across the world.
- It is also committed, through its Essential Life Skills (ELS) programme to raising awareness on political issues and encouraging legitimate forms of political expression.
- In the context of state schooling, however, this must start from a commitment to creating a secure space where, as a pre-requisite for mutual understanding, students feel free from any forms of harassment or duress (this includes religious intolerance, bullying, racism, sexism, homophobia and transgender intolerance).
- With any proposed form of political activity, a fine judgement must be made by the Headteacher about whether a particular form of action is likely to intimidate others in the school and undermine their feelings of security and acceptance.
- Accordingly, because of the potential sensitivities involved, any form of political activity planned in the school must be discussed and agreed with the Headteacher or delegated representatives beforehand.
- Any charitable activity with a political flavour must also be discussed with the Headteacher to ensure it does not cause offence and all the appropriate protocols are in place.

Examples of appropriate forms of political action which should be discussed and agreed:

- Leaflets
- Petitions
- Fundraising activities
- Posters in appropriate places
- Convening meetings.
- Preparations for external demonstrations.

Examples of unacceptable political action:

- Forms of action that intimidate other members of the Biddenham International School community.
- Activities that interfere with learning and teaching.
- Activities that involve intimidation, verbal aggression, threats or vandalism.

Date of Next Review: **March 2022**