

## Freedom of Expression in Brief – for students

*Below is the College Freedom of Expression Statement. This statement means that:*

- *We want all students to study in an environment where it is safe to debate, share and discuss differing views and ideas across a range of subjects*
- *We know that this is essential to learning along with development of social skills and broadens thinking*
- *When those opinions become offensive and disrespectful to others it will not be tolerated by the college.*
- *If those opinions break the law by calling for violence, spreading hatred or other illegal activity (incitement) the college will report to the necessary authorities and remove those involved from the college.*

*The college has a duty to protect the safety and wellbeing of everyone, which includes protection from links to individuals and organisations that may cause offence or be potentially harmful.*

## FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION STATEMENT

Barnet and Southgate College is an inclusive and supportive learning community. We encourage all members of our community to adopt a critical and questioning approach and to engage in mutually respectful dialogue with others to broaden thinking, views and learning. Our College values are shaped by a fundamental belief in the British values of the rule of law and democratic action, respect for others and humility toward people of all cultural backgrounds, the presence and promotion of harmony between different traditions and the use of knowledge to develop self confidence, self-esteem and civic pride. This work is reflected in the Student and Staff Code of Conduct that everyone at College signs up to and also through the College equality objectives, which ensures that our community is pro-actively involved in equality and diversity initiatives. Our Students and Staff have a duty to behave responsibly; respecting others rights, beliefs and freedoms.

Barnet and Southgate College is committed to freedom of expression within English and EU law. The College also has a duty to develop the spiritual, moral, social and cultural rights of staff and students and also to protect the welfare and character of other people to prevent disorder or crime. This means that we may place restrictions on speakers and organisations who wish to visit Barnet and Southgate College. The College will not provide a venue for any speaker or group that we consider is likely to advocate violence, religious hatred, or racist, sexist or homophobic views, which are contrary to our inclusivity, equality and diversity ethos and likely to be unlawful. We take our duty to protect the safety and wellbeing of our community seriously, which includes protecting all from activities and links with organisations that may cause offence or endanger people.