# FREEDOM OF SPEECH AND THE RIGHT OF LAWFUL ASSEMBLY

1. In order to ensure compliance with Section 41 of the Education Act 1986 and to uphold the principle of freedom of speech and lawful assembly, the Governors of UWE Bristol have endorsed a Code of Practice. The full text of the Code of Practice is available from the Clerk to the Governors.
2. The following principles shall apply to the use of University premises in connection with meetings and other activities covered by the Code:
3. The maintenance of freedom of thought and lawful expression shall be a cardinal policy of the University. Every vigilance shall be exercised to prevent the expression of points of view that constitute an incitement to riot, insurrection, racial hatred, sexual harassment or unlawful activities generally.
4. Accordingly, the articulation of particular viewpoints shall not be prevented only because they are deemed ‘unacceptable’ by some of the University community.
5. The suppression or attempted suppression of such points of view by violence or intimidation is contrary to the nature of this and other institutions dedicated to learning.
6. While peaceful demonstration is a legitimate means of drawing attention to an issue or to a counter-viewpoint, any act or demonstration which endangers the safety of individuals or property, or that seeks to deny a fair hearing, is condemned. There is an expectation going beyond this that visiting speakers will be received and treated with courtesy.
7. These principles shall apply to activities, including meetings, arranged by any member or group of members of the Governing Body, the Staff or the Student Body. Similarly, observance of the principles will be required of any other persons, groups or organisations permitted to hire or otherwise use University premises for events arranged or sponsored by them.