



**Cheshire College
South & West**

IHRA (International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance) Working Definition of Anti-Semitism Statement

| Key Information | |
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| Policy Reference Number | CCSW - IHRA |
| ELT Post Responsible for Update and Monitoring | Vice Principal - Innovation, Curriculum & Quality |
| Published on Website | Yes |
| Date approved by ELT | 08 July 2025 |
| Date Approved by Governor's Committee (if applicable) | N/A |
| Date of Next Review | 21 August 2026 |

IHRA Statement

1. Cheshire College South and West is fully committed to promoting, maintaining and supporting equality and diversity in all aspects of its work. The College aims to create an environment where all individuals have an opportunity to achieve their full potential and gain a feeling of self-esteem and respect for and from all others. The College expresses its opposition to all forms of inequality and discrimination.
2. The College formally adopts the [International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance's \(IHRA\)](#) working definition on antisemitism in line with the UK government and recommendations from the United Nations.
3. According to IHRA, antisemitism is: *"a certain perception of Jews, which may be expressed as hatred toward Jews. Rhetorical and physical manifestations of antisemitism are directed toward Jewish or non-Jewish individuals and/or their property, toward Jewish community institutions and religious facilities"*.
4. It is important to recognise that this approach does not prevent criticism of Israel or the actions of the Israeli government, just as all other nation states and government can be the subject of critical discussion. For example, as set out by the [Home Affairs Committee in 2016](#):
 - 4.1. It is not anti-Semitic to criticise the government of Israel, without additional evidence to suggest anti-Semitic intent.
 - 4.2. It is not anti-Semitic to hold the Israeli government to the same standards as other liberal democracies or to take a particular interest in the Israeli government's policies or actions, without additional evidence to suggest anti-Semitic intent.
5. The College acknowledges that, while adopting the IHRA working definition of antisemitism, it remains fully committed to freedom of speech and academic freedom. Criticism of any nation's government, including Israel, is not inherently antisemitic and is protected under our Freedom of Speech and Academic Expression policies.
6. The College also opposes all forms of racism, including Islamophobia and anti-Palestinian discrimination, and recognises the importance of creating a learning environment where complex and sensitive geopolitical issues can be discussed openly, respectfully, and without fear of reprisal.