



Derrington Village Hall – Policy on Political Bookings

1. Purpose of this Policy

Derrington Village Hall is a registered charity and must remain strictly politically neutral. This policy sets out the hall's position on political bookings to ensure compliance with our Constitution, our Equality Statement, and Charity Commission guidance.

2. Political Neutrality

As a charity, Derrington Village Hall must not be, or be seen to be, aligned with, supportive of, or associated with any political party, political organisation, or political campaign. This includes avoiding any activity that could reasonably create a perception of political endorsement.

3. Prohibited Bookings

To protect our neutrality, the following bookings will **not** be accepted:

- **Meetings, gatherings, or events organised by political parties**
- **Regular or ongoing bookings** by any political organisation
- **Events intended to promote, support, or organise political activity**
- **Events that could reasonably be perceived as political campaigning**
- **Large-scale political meetings**, even if described as “internal” or “private”

This applies equally to all political parties and political groups, regardless of size, views, or affiliation.

4. Permitted Bookings (Limited Circumstances)

The hall may, at the trustees' discretion, permit:

- **Civic, non-party-political events**, such as MP or councillor surgeries
- **Public consultations** where all parties or candidates are invited equally
- **Community information sessions** that are not linked to party politics

These must be open, neutral, and non-promotional.

5. Equality and Inclusion

The hall will not accept any booking from any group whose activities, statements, or materials conflict with our **Equality Statement**, including content that may be discriminatory, inflammatory, or harmful to protected groups.

6. Trustee Discretion

The trustees reserve the right to decline any booking that:

- risks reputational harm
- conflicts with our charitable objects
- compromises our neutrality
- creates a perception of political alignment
- may cause division or discomfort within the community

The trustees' decision is final.

7. Consistency and Fairness

This policy applies **equally** to all political parties and organisations, without exception. No group will be treated more or less favourably than another.

8. Review

This policy will be reviewed annually or sooner if required by changes in Charity Commission guidance or local circumstances.