

Security protocols for IATEFL Conference 2026

Background

IATEFL intends this event, as with all other IATEFL events, to be a positive experience for all participants (delegates, exhibitors, sponsors, stewards, IATEFL staff and venue staff). In order to support this, IATEFL has developed a clear plan of security protocols intended to prevent and/or deal with any issues which might arise.

The terms and conditions for delegates state that:

- a. *By booking for this event the participant is agreeing to abide by IATEFL's Code of Conduct. IATEFL reserves the right to request your removal from the conference, without refund of fees, if IATEFL considers your presence and/or behaviour to create a disruption or to hinder the conference and/or the enjoyment of the conference by other attendees including for example (but not limited to) concerns regarding health and safety, security, drugs and alcohol misuse.*

Avoidance of problems

1. Delegates will be reminded of the ethos of the conference, of IATEFL events and of the IATEFL Code of Conduct pre-conference through the delegate booking confirmation email they will receive a couple of days before the conference. This message will be reiterated on digital signage around the venue throughout the conference.
2. No large bags will be allowed around the conference venue and should be left at the cloakroom (if permitted by the venue) or outside the venue.
3. The venue may choose to undertake bag searches, at their discretion, at entrances to the venue.
4. Head Office staff and trustees will be asked to report any knowledge of planned events, with as many details as possible, in order to be aware of these, and consider appropriate actions in accordance with this plan.

See digital signage message:



Wishing *everyone* a great conference!

Each year the IATEFL conference is an opportunity to share, to discover, to network, to discuss and to learn.

Delegates are asked to follow the IATEFL ethos of respectful exchange, of focusing on topics related to English language teaching, and of being an inclusive and supportive community.

Thank you for helping to ensure the IATEFL Conference continues to be a valuable and positive event for all.

BRIGHTON 2026
International English language teaching conference
#iatefl2026

You are welcome and respected!

If a situation arises

Step 1

1. Venue stewards, IATEFL stewards or IATEFL Head Office staff will make the CEO (Jon Burton) or DCE (Louise Atkins) aware as quickly as possible.
2. The CEO or DCE will assess if the situation is acceptable, requires monitoring, or requires action.
3. If the situation requires actions, pass to Step 2.

Step 2

- An IATEFL staff member will ask them to desist in a calm and patient manner. They will be reminded of the ethos of the event and IATEFL's Code of Conduct.
- If relevant to the situation AV will be disabled in order to reduce the opportunity for the protestor to make their point.
- They will be informed that if they do not desist then Brighton Centre security will be called.

Step 3

- Brighton Centre security will ask the individual(s) to desist. If they comply there will be no further action.

Step 4

- Brighton Centre security will ask the individual(s) to leave the venue. If they refuse to leave then Brighton Centre security will remove the individual(s) from the venue. Such individual(s) will not be entitled to reenter the venue without clearance from both the IATEFL CEO or DCE and the conference venue. Such individuals will not be entitled to a refund of their conference fee or any other related costs.
- Subsequent to the conference IATEFL will enact its complaints procedure where relevant, and reserves the right to cancel a person's membership and/or ability to attend future IATEFL events.

Step 5

- If a criminal offence has occurred, or a breach of the peace is believed to be imminent, the police will be called to attend.

Definitions

This is not a definitive list, but intended to also be representative of the general scope of what should be regarded as acceptable and unacceptable.

What is acceptable

- Demonstrating peacefully outside of the conference venue.
- The mentioning of specific global issues and their impact on learners and teachers of English when there is a connection with the theme of a session, but without making political statements.
- Wearing of clothing or items which might be representative of a country or region.

What is unacceptable

- Harassment, intimidation or bullying of other persons - as defined in IATEFL Code of Conduct Appendix 1.
- Wearing clothing or holding banners with provocative statements which would contravene IATEFL's Code of Conduct.

- Heckling a speaker, or interrupting a session and/or going to the front of the session room to gain attention.
- Making statements, raising points, or asking questions which are intended to provoke and which contravene IATEFL's Code of Conduct.
- Drunken or abusive behaviour, or drug misuse.
- Behaviour which threatens the health and safety of delegates including the person(s) involved.
- Bringing items into the venue which staff members of the venue and/or IATEFL feel may be inappropriate or potentially might bring risk to the person concerned and/or other attendees.

Associated documents

- [IATEFL Code of Conduct](#)
- [IATEFL Conference 2026 delegate terms and conditions](#)

Review and updates

These procedures were last reviewed 10 February 2026.

IATEFL reserves the right to review, amend, add to or alter these procedures at any time in order to effectively achieve the aims of the procedures in having a safe, enjoyable, valuable experience for all.