



# Rickmansworth School

## Multi Faith Room Policy

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# Multi Faith Room Policy

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## **Multi Faith Room Policy**

### **PART 1. OVERVIEW**

#### **Intent**

This policy governs the conduct of Multi Faith Room in the school

A reference copy of this policy is kept on the shared drive and it will be brought to the attention of all members of staff;

#### **Statutory Framework**

Rickmansworth School is aware of its responsibilities under The Equality Act 2010 and the inclusion of Religion and Belief as a protected characteristic. This is reflected in our Equality Action Plan. Rickmansworth School is committed to providing opportunities for staff and students to balance their faith requirements with the competing demands of work and study.

From September 2015, education providers were required to comply with the updated statutory 'Prevent' duty guidance.

The 'Prevent' duty requires providers to have:

- appropriate policies and procedures in place for the management of external speakers and events
- active engagement with partners, including the police
- a risk assessment that assesses where and how learners are at risk of being drawn into terrorism, and an action plan designed to reduce such risks
- appropriate training and development for principals, governors, leaders and staff
- welfare and pastoral/chaplaincy support, including widely available policies for the use of prayer rooms and other faith-related facilities
- IT policies that make specific reference to the 'Prevent' duty and relate to the use of IT equipment.

#### **Review Process**

This policy statement and the accompanying organisation and arrangements will be reviewed every **three years** or on the introduction of new or amended relevant legislation

#### **Associated Policies:**

Anti-Bullying Policy; Anti-Radicalisation Policy; Capability Policy; Behaviour for Learning Policy; Whistleblowing Policy.



**TONY WALKER**  
**CHAIR OF GOVERNORS**



**MATT FLETCHER**  
**HEADTEACHER**

## **Multi Faith Room Policy**

### **1. Introduction**

Rickmansworth School recognises that staff and student attending the school will follow many different faiths or none and come from a wide variety of cultural and religious backgrounds.

The school on no account will permit any form of discrimination against, or harassment of, students on religious or cultural grounds. Whilst we fully endorse the right of students and staff to freedom of expression, we will not permit students or staff at the school to make any unwelcome attempt to convert another person to a particular religious faith or ideological view, or to act against another because of differences of view.

Rickmansworth School wishes to encourage the promotion of integration, understanding and mutual respect in school life for all students and staff and we will seek to provide opportunities and facilities for those who wish to reflect on the relevance of their religious faith, practices and beliefs to their educational or working experience.

### **2. Multi Faith Room**

The school has dedicated multi faith rooms which are located in the main building of the school on the Mathematics corridor, Rooms ML107 (males) and ML108) (females). The rooms can be used by staff and students and offers a quiet space for prayer and reflection.

We have a duty to foster good relations between people of all faiths and none.

Users of this room should show consideration towards people with other beliefs and use the room in a manner which is least restrictive to other users

### **3. Gaining access to Multi Faith Rooms**

The room is operated on a basis that you are only allowed entry if you have a 'Multi Faith Room Pass'. Students that would like to have access to the Multi Faith Rooms are asked to collect a pass from Student Reception that they will keep for this academic year. This pass will allow students to use the multi-faith prayer rooms as frequently or as infrequently as they would like during the school year. On the pass students and their parents/carers will be expected to sign to agree to the rules of the Multi Faith Room. All staff will have access to the rooms via their teacher cards and will not need to have a 'Multi Faith Room Pass'.

### **4. Hours**

The Multi Faith rooms are available to use Monday to Friday during lunchtime. At this point the rooms are dedicated to being a faith room and students can gain access if display their pass.

### **5. Usage**

Use of the school's Multi Faith Room must be lawful, for example, this must comply with the school's Prevent duty under the Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015. Any issues or concerns around possible inappropriate use of the Multi-Faith Room should

## **Multi Faith Room Policy**

be reported promptly to the Designated Safeguarding Lead/Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead or the member of staff on lunchtime duty.

### **6. The standard of conduct expected**

The room should be a safe space for all users and the environment must be free of discrimination and harassment.

All allegations of bullying and harassment will be promptly and thoroughly investigated (through the school's Behavioural for Learning Policy). Any student failing to meet the expected stand of conduct will have their Multi Faith Room pass withdrawn.

The room will be monitored by duty staff at lunchtime to ensure appropriate use.

### **7. Fire safety**

It is not permitted to light candles or burn incense in the room.

### **8. Food and drink**

Food and drink are only permitted in the room if they are a specific compulsory part of religious worship. It is not permitted to use the room to eat lunch or have a snack.

### **9. Use of objects**

People of some faiths cannot pray in a room where images, signs, icons or written materials from other religions are displayed.

You may take hand held objects into the room such as prayer beads, prayer or meditation cards and hand held books but no items larger than this. You must take these with you when you leave. However, prayer mats may be used and stored away neatly after use.

No charity box, monies or valuables may be left in this room. Mobile phones, computers or amplifying equipment may not be used in this room.

### **10. Notices, posters, leaflets and advertisements**

Notices, posters, leaflets or advertisements for events must not be displayed or left in this room. Any printed material left in the room may be removed and thrown away.

### **11. Who to contact**

Use of the space is controlled by the Assistant Head Teacher responsible for lunchtime provision and will be supervised by a member of the lunch duty team.

If you want to give feedback on the space or have any concerns or questions over its use, please contact Assistant Head Teacher responsible for Duties.