

LEARNER RELATED POLICY: MULTI FAITH ROOM POLICY

This policy is biennially reviewed to ensure compliance with current regulations

Approved/reviewed by	
Approved by: Exec. Director: Business, Innovation & Partnerships	
Reviewed by: International Manager	
Date of next review	March 2023

This policy and procedure is subject to The Equality Act 2010 which recognises the following categories of individual as Protected Characteristics: Age, Gender Reassignment, Marriage and Civil Partnership, Pregnancy and Maternity, Race, Religion and Belief, Sex (gender), Sexual orientation, Disability, Socioeconomic Disadvantage

1. Document Control

1.1. Document Details

Title	Multi Faith Room Policy
Author	Adrian Humphreys / Tammy Doughty
Version	1.1
Date	May 2022
Status	Published

1.2. Revision History

Version	Date	Author	Comments
1.0	March 2021	Claire Foster / Tammy Doughty	Definitive Release
1.1	May 2022	Adrian Humphreys / Tammy Doughty	Reviewed with HOR Working Group

1.3. Distribution

Name	Email	Organisation
All Staff	Uploaded to SharePoint	Boston College

INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Under the Equality Act 2010, employees, visitors, and service users enjoy protection from discrimination and harassment because of their religion or belief, including nonbelief.
- 1.2 Boston College is committed to creating an environment where learners, customers, staff, governors, and other stakeholders celebrate equality and diversity in all activities. It welcomes and supports the Equality Act 2010.
- 1.3 Boston College is committed to creating a place where everyone, whatever their circumstances and/or background:
 - Is fully respected
 - Is listened to and encouraged to give their views
 - Feels welcome
 - Is treated in a friendly way
 - Is treated in an equal way
 - Has equality of opportunity
 - Has full access to all activities wherever possible

Boston College is committed to treating people of 'all faiths and none' fairly and to enable employees, learners and visitors to have access to prayer and worship facilities, or quiet contemplation, where practicable.

Accordingly, a Multi-Faith Prayer and Quiet Room is available at Mullens Flat 1, Hall of Residence, Rochford Campus as 'quiet' space which can be used by people of all faith groups, beliefs and for those whom religion has no particular significance in their lives. The room may equally be used as a quiet space for people to sit and contemplate, to pray, to take a few moments to de-stress from a busy day, or to recover from a traumatic life event, such as bereavement. The room provided is small, only capable of being used by one or two people at a time.

USING THE MULTI-FAITH PRAYER AND QUIET ROOM

2.1 Location and opening times

The Multi-Faith Prayer and Quiet Room is located in Mullens Flat 1 (Room 7), Halls of Residence, Skirbeck Road. The room is available from 9:00am – 4:00pm Monday to Friday. It is accessible to people with disabilities.

2.2 To use the Multi-Faith Prayer and Quiet Room

All requests to use the Multi-Faith Prayer and Quiet Room must be made through Tammy Doughty, International Office Manager, International Office, Halls of Residence. Telephone (01205) 365701 ext 3225 or e-mail enquiry@boston.ac.uk. All room users will be required to sign visitors' book and key log.

Who can use the room?

The room offers a designated sacred space for spiritual/religious activities (individual and very small group), designated prayer, as well as a space for peace, quiet and reflection.

The room is available for use by any member of staff or learner.

2.4 Vacating the room

It is important that when users vacate the room that any items and furniture used are packed away, so other users find the room left clean and tidy.

2.5 Physical set up of the room

The room has been set up to make it possible for people of all faith groups to use. There are washing facilities available within the room.

Users of the room will need to bring their own religious texts if they use them.

GUIDELINES REGARDING THE USE OF THE ROOM

3.1 Use of the room

Staff or learners may wish to use the room for silent prayer, meditation, to de-stress from their busy lives, or as a place of calm after a traumatic life event.

The room should be a safe space for all users. This means that everyone has a duty to respect other users and to ensure the environment remains welcoming to people of all faiths, beliefs and for those whom religion has no particular significance in their lives. It is therefore of the utmost importance that all users of the Multi-Faith Prayer and Quiet Room behave reasonably and considerately towards others who use the room.

If physical activity plays a part in the individual act of worship or contemplation, as is the case for Muslim prayer and for those practicing meditative yoga, then individuals are permitted to use the room for such activity.

3.2 Noise

The Multi-Faith Prayer and Quiet Room may be used for quiet contemplation, designated prayer, reflection, and meditation. Unless group prayer is taking place, individuals using the room must keep noise to a level that does not disturb others. It should be noted, however, that the room will only accommodate a maximum of 2-3 people.

It is permitted to use the room for devotional song, chanting or hymn singing if participants are engaged in an act of group worship, contemplation, or meditation, and have thus reserved the room for their use in accordance with the room booking system.

If a room is required for a larger number, then another room in College must be booked via the central room booking service.

Display of objects

During the course of a session, a group is permitted to display religious materials. At the end of prayer, meditation, or contemplation all these items must be removed from the room. This is so all users feel equally free and comfortable to use the room.

The Multi-Faith Prayer and Quiet Room will remain neutral and therefore it is not permitted to permanently display imagery, statues, or written materials in the rooms, or just outside the room. All users must be sensitive to others who may also wish to use the room after them.

Anyone using the room should make sure that sufficient time is calculated within the room booking to enable any specific material to be put away and for the room to be left clean and tidy for other users.

3.4 Notices, posters, leaflets

Notices, posters, leaflets, or advertisements for forthcoming events must not be left in the Multi-Faith Prayer and Quiet Room.

3.5 Use of equipment in the room

Mobile phones, kindles, tablets, laptops, or amplifying equipment are not permitted in the room.

3.6 Security and valuables in the room

No charity box, monies, or valuables are permitted to be kept within the room. You are responsible for looking after your own personal belongings.

3.7 Fire regulations and evacuation procedures

The College's no smoking policy also applies to this facility. The lighting of candles and burning of incense in the rooms is also not permitted.

The College's emergency evacuation procedures also apply to the room. Upon activation of the alarm, users should proceed immediately to their usual place when a fire alarm sounds. Visitors should assemble on the grassed area outside the Sixth Building.

3.8 Food and drink

No food and drink should be consumed unless this forms part of worship requirements. The room must be left clean and tidy and free of any food, drink or rubbish.

3.9 General

The Multi-Faith Prayer and Quiet Room should be respected for the purpose that is intended and is not treated as an additional meeting room or facilities that will provide additional storage space.

Where staff or learners request time out to observe religious or cultural festivals and customs, curriculum areas should be sympathetic to their needs and requirements.

Contact for any enquiries

Any concerns or complaints regarding the use of Multi-Faith Prayer and Quiet Room should be reported to the International Office Manager or the Quality Improvement Manager.

International Office 25.03.2021

